

# Religion adds \$67.5 billion to Canadian economy every year

*New research suggests religion produces measurable economic contributions to the common good*

OTTAWA, ON, CANADA, September 21, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A \$67.5-BILLION ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

New research suggests religion produces measurable economic contributions to the common good

This study provides the first documented quantitative national estimates of the economic value of religion to Canadian society. The study was conducted for [Cardus](#) by the veteran father-daughter research team, Brian J. Grim, Ph.D., and Melissa E. Grim, JD, of the [Religious Freedom & Business Foundation](#).



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*Brian Dijkema, vice president of external relations at Cardus*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amid pandemic-related job loss and economic worries, new research suggests there is a sector of Canadian society that plays an important, but often unrecognized, economic role: religion. [The Hidden Economy: How Faith Helps Fuel Canada's GDP](#), a new report from think tank Cardus, finds that religion's annual contribution to Canadian society is worth an estimated \$67.5 billion. That's large enough to be the ninth biggest enterprise in the country – ahead of the Bank of Montreal.

The \$67.5 billion figure is the mid-range estimate in [The Hidden Economy: How Faith Helps Fuel Canada's GDP](#). More than half of the \$67.5 billion figure comes from the activities of tens of

thousands of religious congregations (churches, temples, mosques, and synagogues) in Canada. Nationwide, they have a \$35-billion “halo effect” – the value congregations provide to their surrounding communities.

## Canadian Religious Congregations’ Halo Effect

The halo effect of religious congregations is a well-studied phenomenon. For more information on the halo effect in Canada, including municipality-specific calculations, please visit [haloproject.ca](http://haloproject.ca). Also see related research on the United States here.

The balance of religion’s estimated \$67.5 billion contribution to Canadian society comes through activities related to schooling, health care systems, charities, media, lives saved through congregational substance abuse support programs, as well as kosher and halal food sales.

“Religion is an active force in the public, professional, and private lives of many Canadians and contributes to the common good of all, including those who are not religious,” said Brian Dijkema, vice president of external relations at Cardus. “If religious activity is hindered—through zoning, regulation, taxation, or even intolerance—there are massive economic spill-over effects that negatively affect Canadians as a whole. We all benefit economically when religious life thrives.”

The Hidden Economy: How Faith Fuels Canada’s GDP is freely available online.

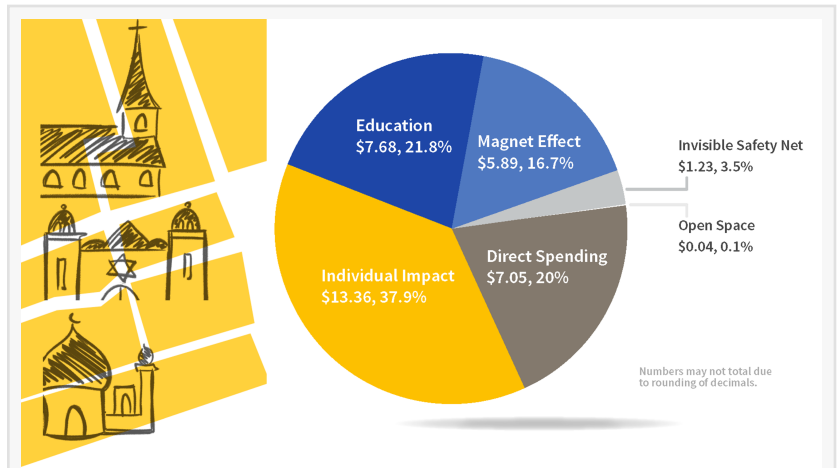
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## MEDIA INQUIRIES

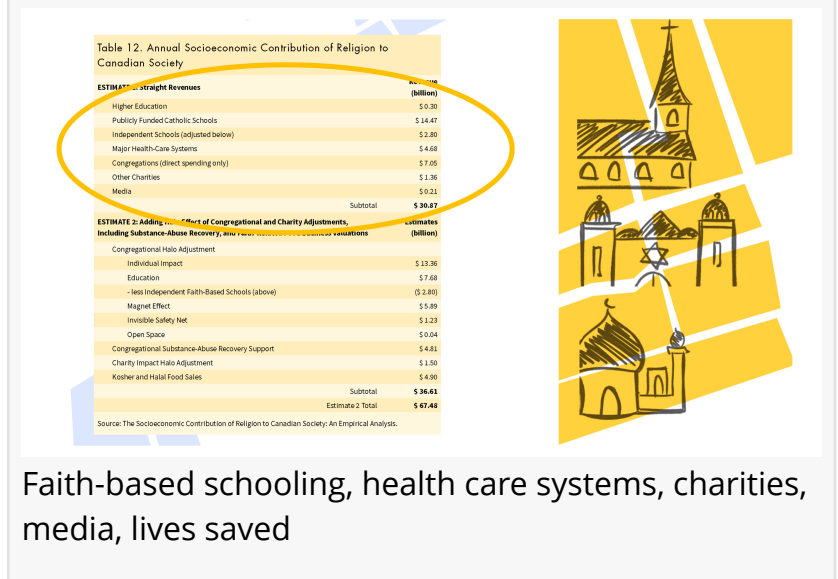
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Canadian Religious Congregations’ Halo Effect



Faith-based schooling, health care systems, charities, media, lives saved

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#### About Cardus

Cardus is a non-partisan, faith-based think tank and registered charity dedicated to promoting a flourishing society through independent research, robust public dialogue, and thought-provoking commentary. To learn more, visit their website, follow them on Twitter, and like them on Facebook.

#### About RFBF

The Religious Freedom & Business Foundation (RFBF) is the preeminent organization dedicated to educating the global business community, policymakers, non-government organizations and consumers about the positive power faith — and religious freedom for all — has on business and the economy. To learn more, visit us at the links below.

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