

Contributions of Religions for the Citizenship Education in Canada: A Christian religious educator's perspective.

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Religion is fundamental to personal and communal identity. Citizenship as a social signifier of belonging is also an important element that shapes that identity. This presentation attempts to make the connection between these two crucial factors. Limiting its scope to Canadian contexts, it, first, describes the past and current reality of Canada, critically analysing its official policy of multiculturalism. From this context it raises issues of identity, belonging, and migration, as it examines issues of "orientalizing" representation as it leads to exclusion, discrimination and minoritization. It deploys postcolonial and border crossing theories to further deepen its analysis. The presentation concludes by suggesting ways in which religion, Christian faith and practice in particular, can make positive contributions to the understanding of citizenship education. It will end with posing critical questions of citizenship itself.