



# PRIVATE BUSINESS, PUBLIC FAITH

ELO FORUM  
NOVEMBER 14, 2019 – VANCOUVER

RAY PENNINGS  
*Executive Vice President*

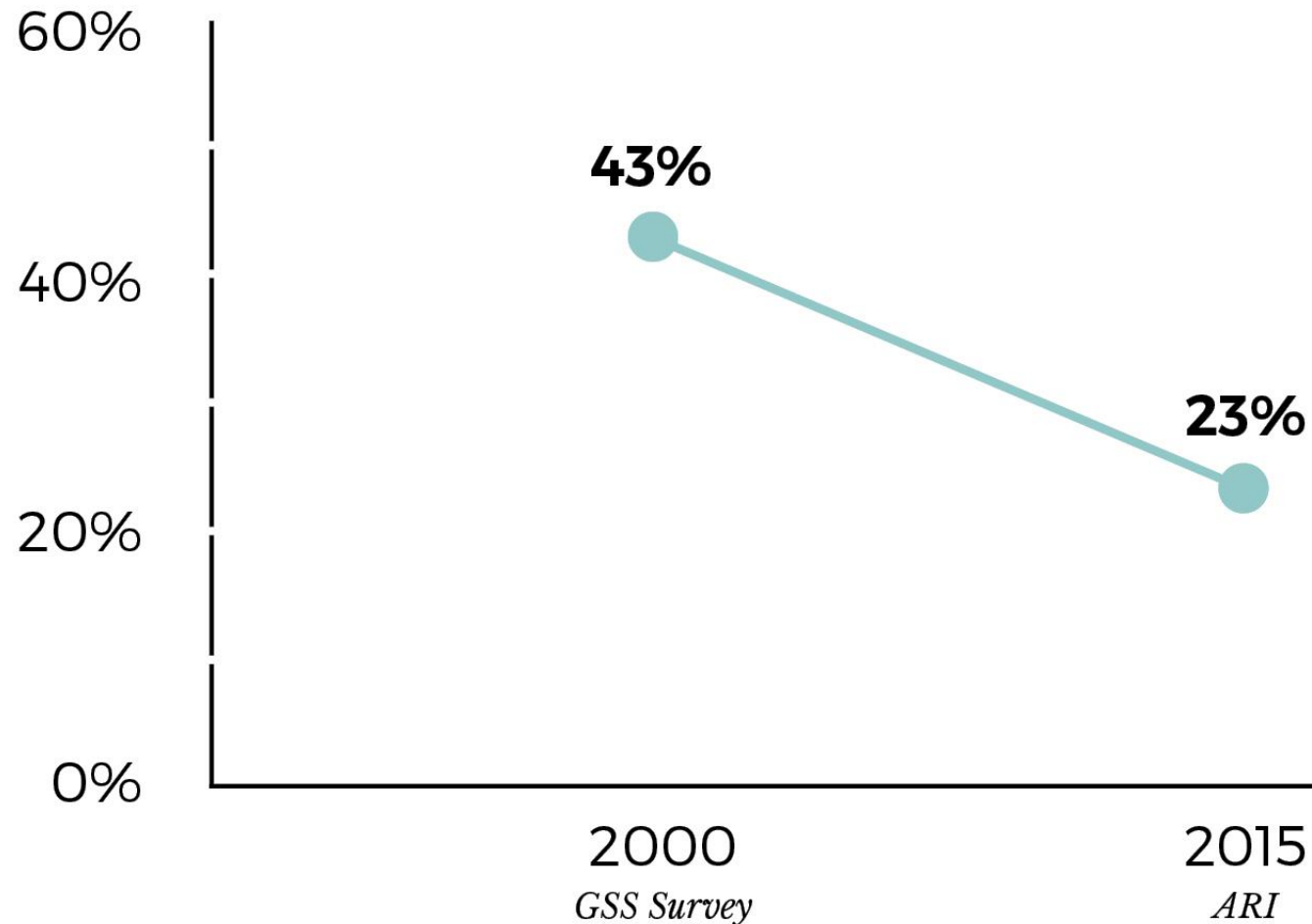
CARDUS



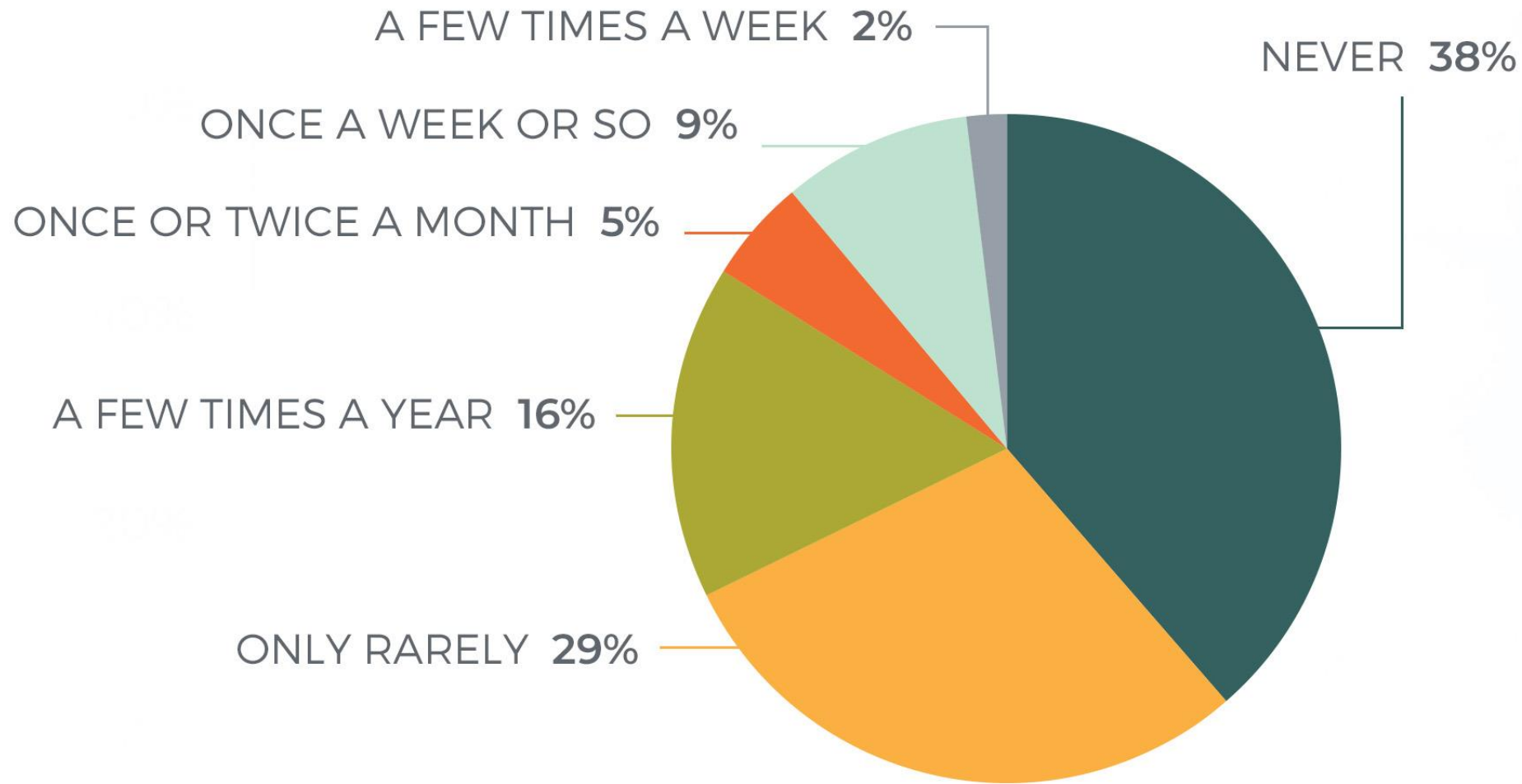
**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
Bring your *whole self!*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
Keep your faith *at home.*

# PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS WHO SAY THEY **ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES** AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH



# HOW OFTEN, IF AT ALL, DO YOU ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES? (OTHER THAN WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS)



Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019

\* AT LEAST MONTHLY: 16% YES, 38% NO/NEVER





*“One hundred years from  
my day **there will not be a  
Bible in the earth** except one  
that is looked upon by an  
antiquarian curiosity seeker.”*

– VOLTAIRE (1694 – 1778)

*“Religion is an **illusion of childhood**, outgrown under proper education.”*

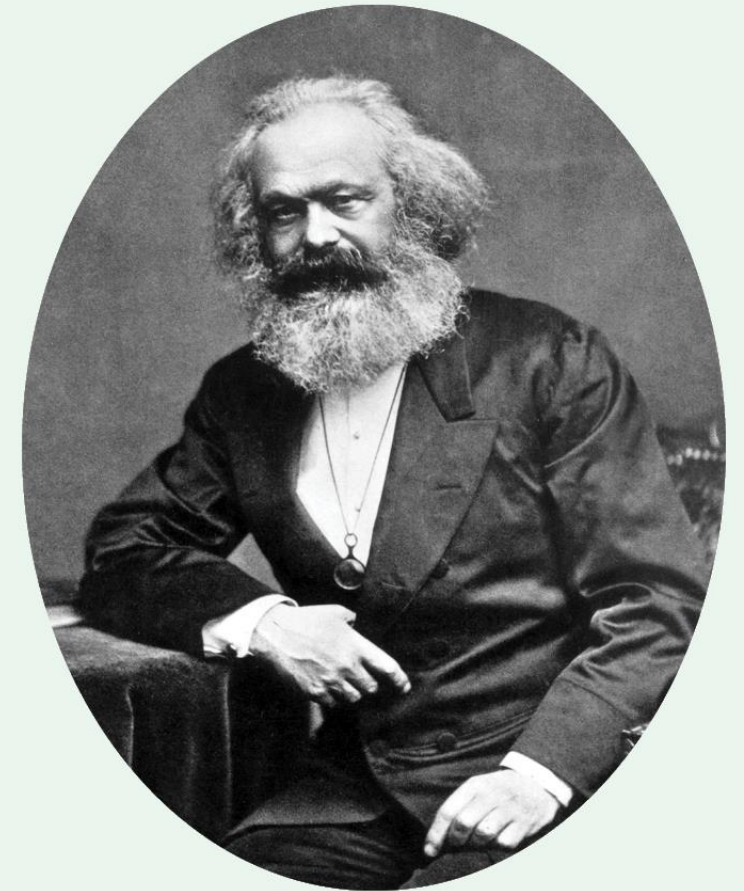
– AUGUSTE COMTE (1798 – 1857)

*It is inadmissible that systems of ideas like religions, which have held so considerable a place in history... should be **made up of a tissue of illusions**.*

– ÉMILE DURKHEIM (1858 – 1917)

*“Religion is an illusion and it derives its strength from the fact that it **falls in with our instinctual desires**.”*

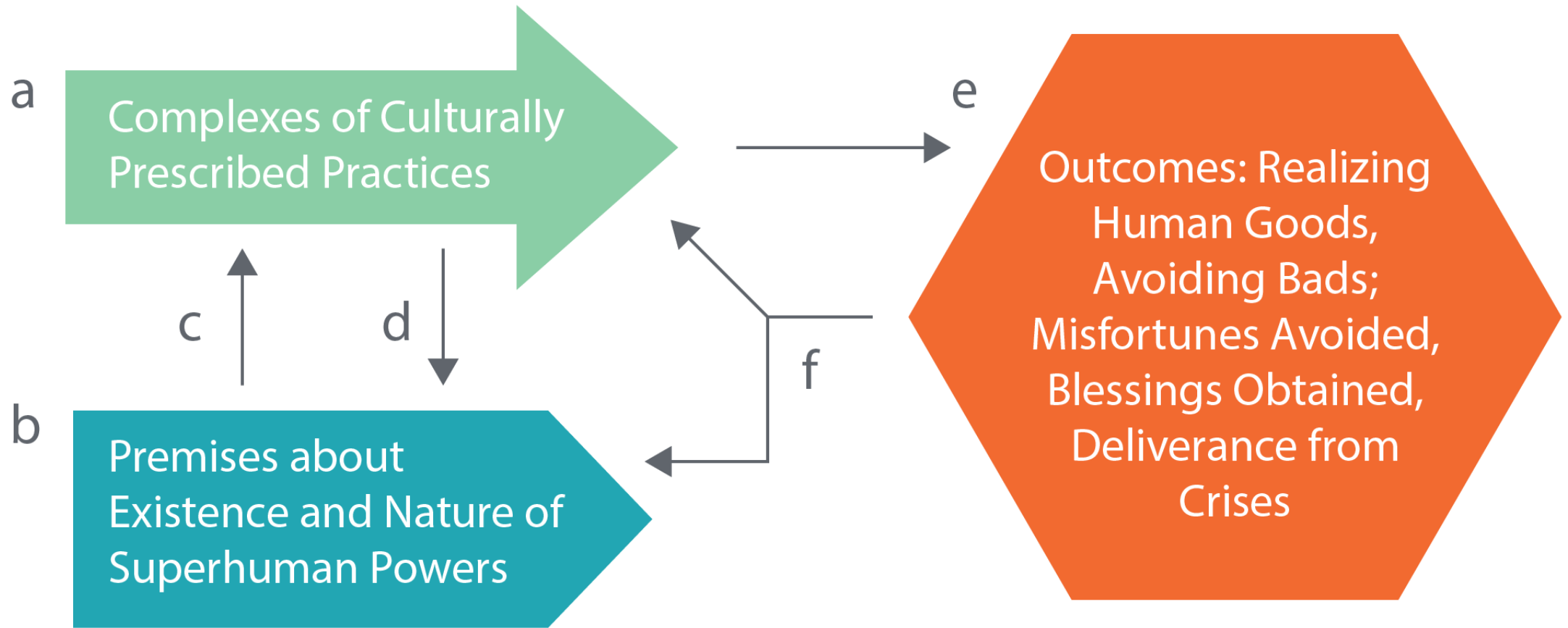
– SIGMUND FREUD (1856 – 1939)



*“Religion... is the **opiate of the masses**.”*

– KARL MARX (1818 – 1883)

# WHAT IS RELIGION?



*Processes Operating Across Time...*

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Do you believe that God exists?	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Do you believe in life after death?	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Do you pray?	<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Do you attend religious services?*	<b>16%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Do you experience God's presence?	<b>29%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Do you read a sacred text?	<b>14%</b>	<b>53%</b>
Do you teach your children about your faith?	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>



# HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF WHEN IT COMES TO THE WHOLE AREA OF **PERSONAL FAITH**?\*



NO FAITH FEELINGS

OCCASIONAL  
REGULAR

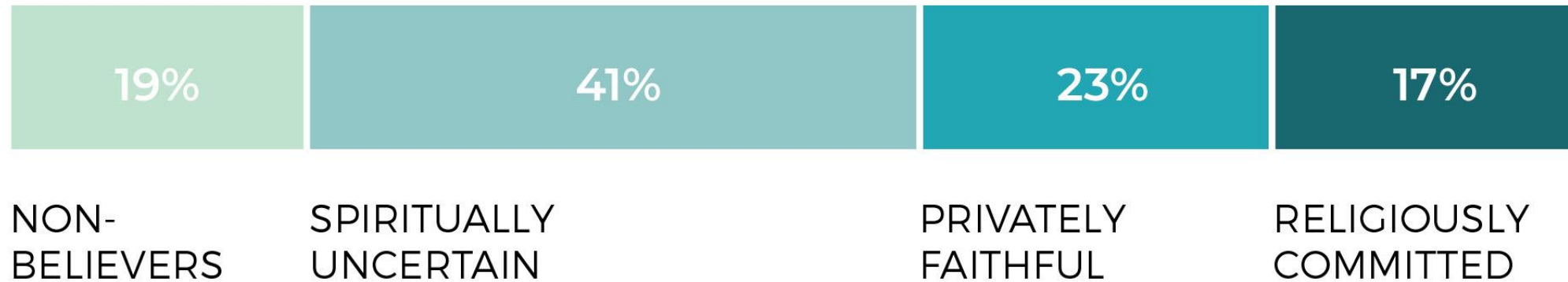
I'M A BELIEVER

Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019

\* 2055 Canadians polled on April 18, 2019



# CANADIANS' MINDSET ON RELIGION (2019)



Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019



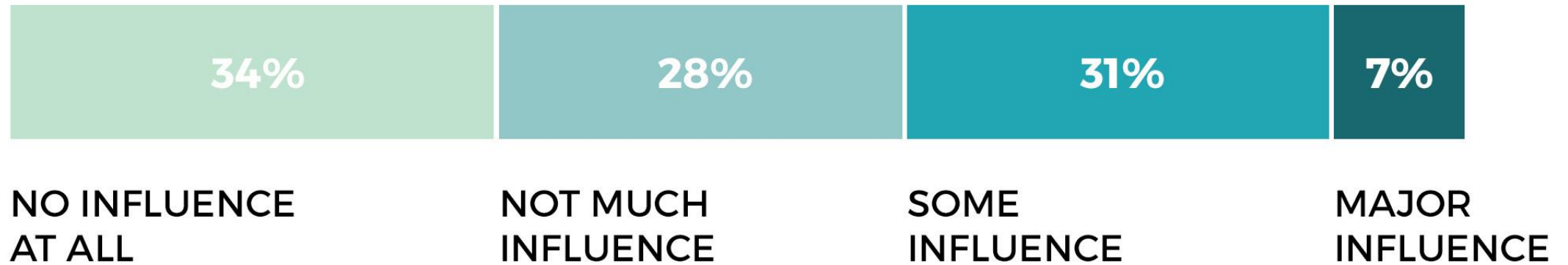
WHAT MOST OF US THOUGHT WAS  
HAPPENING ISN'T HAPPENING.

**RELIGION IS NOT GOING AWAY.**

– Reginald W. Bibby, PhD, Board of Governors  
Research Chair in Sociology at the University of Lethbridge



# IN **CANADIAN PUBLIC LIFE**, RELIGIOUS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES SHOULD HAVE:



Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019



ASKED WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE,  
THE 21 PER CENT OF CANADIANS WHO ARE  
RELIGIOUSLY COMMITTED ARE MOST LIKELY  
TO PRIORITIZE **FAMILY LIFE, HONESTY,** AND  
**CONCERN FOR OTHERS.**



# 83%

OF THE RELIGIOUSLY COMMITTED REPORT  
SOME OR HEAVY **INVOLVEMENT WITH  
THEIR COMMUNITY**



REGULARLY  
VOLUNTEER

NON-  
BELIEVERS

SPIRITUALLY  
UNCERTAIN

PRIVATELY  
FAITHFUL

RELIGIOUSLY  
COMMITTED



# CANADIANS WHO TRY TO **DONATE** TO WHATEVER CHARITIES THEY CAN



NON-BELIEVERS

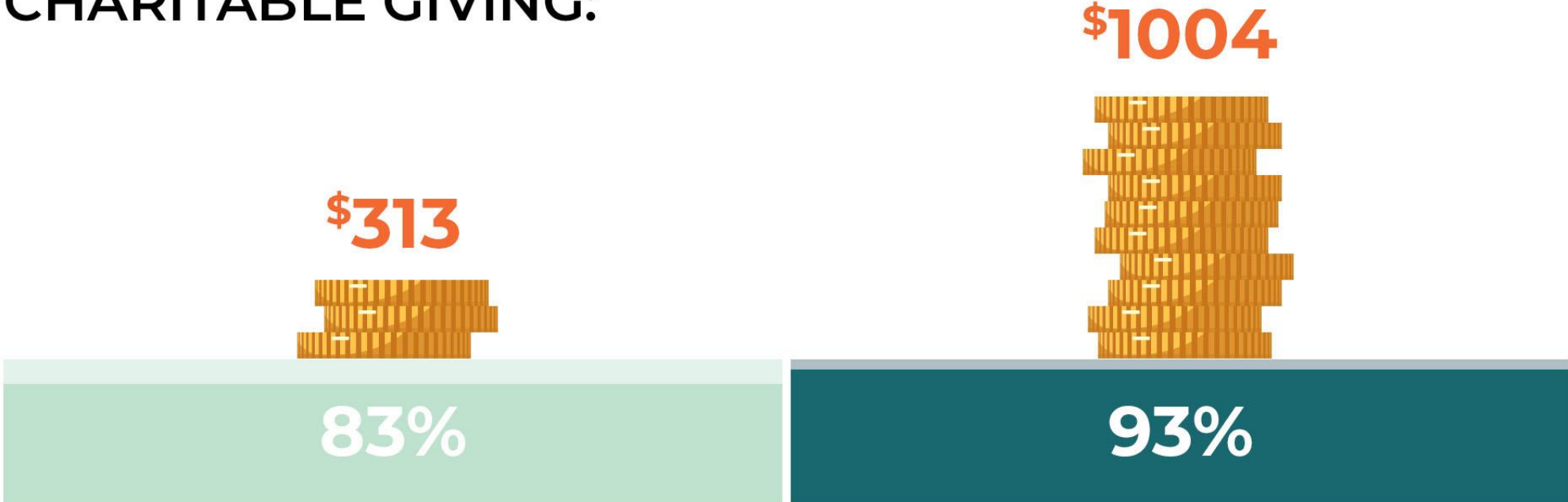
SPIRITUALLY UNCERTAIN

PRIVATELY FAITHFUL

RELIGIOUSLY COMMITTED



# CHARITABLE GIVING:



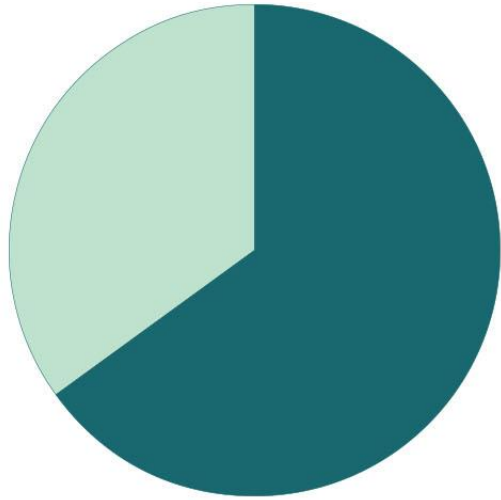
LESS RELIGIOUSLY ACTIVE

MORE RELIGIOUSLY ACTIVE

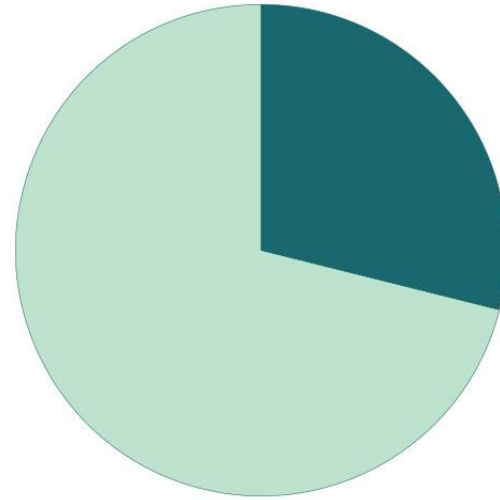




# **REFUGEES** IN CANADA WHO REPORTED USING FOOD BANKS

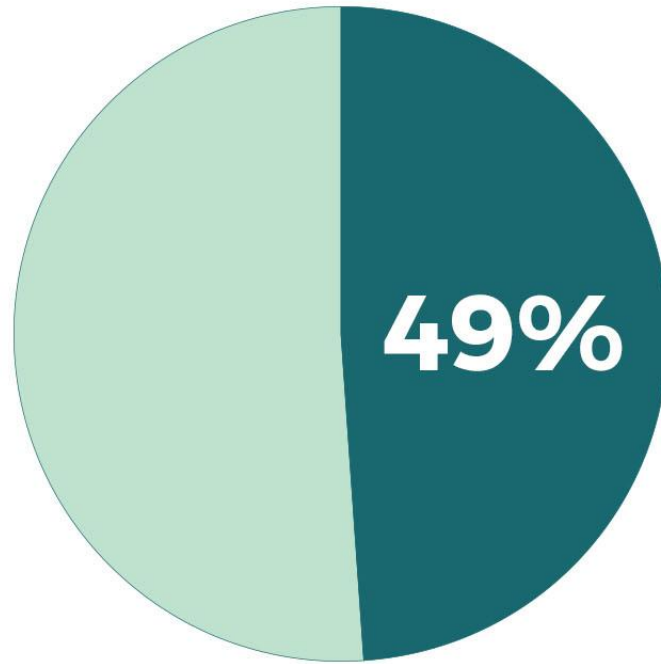


GOVERNMENT-  
ASSISTED



PRIVATELY  
SPONSORED





IMMIGRANTS WHO SAY RELIGIOUS OR FAITH COMMUNITIES WERE INVOLVED IN HELPING THEM FIND A **JOB**, A PLACE TO **LIVE**, AND/OR **LANGUAGE** TRAINING.

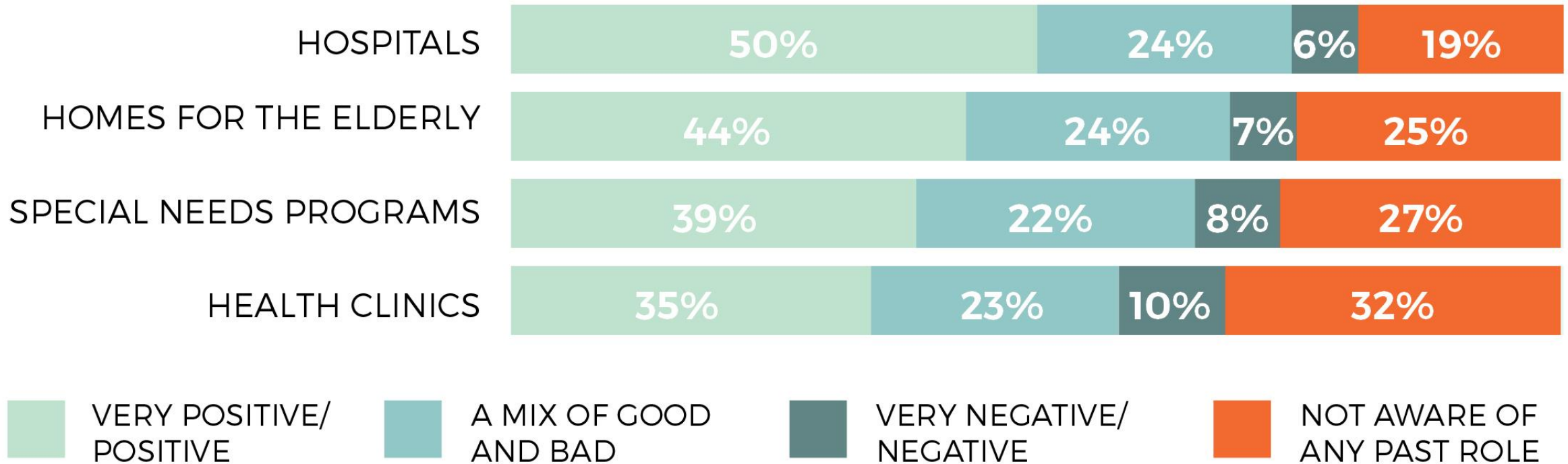


*Overcoming*

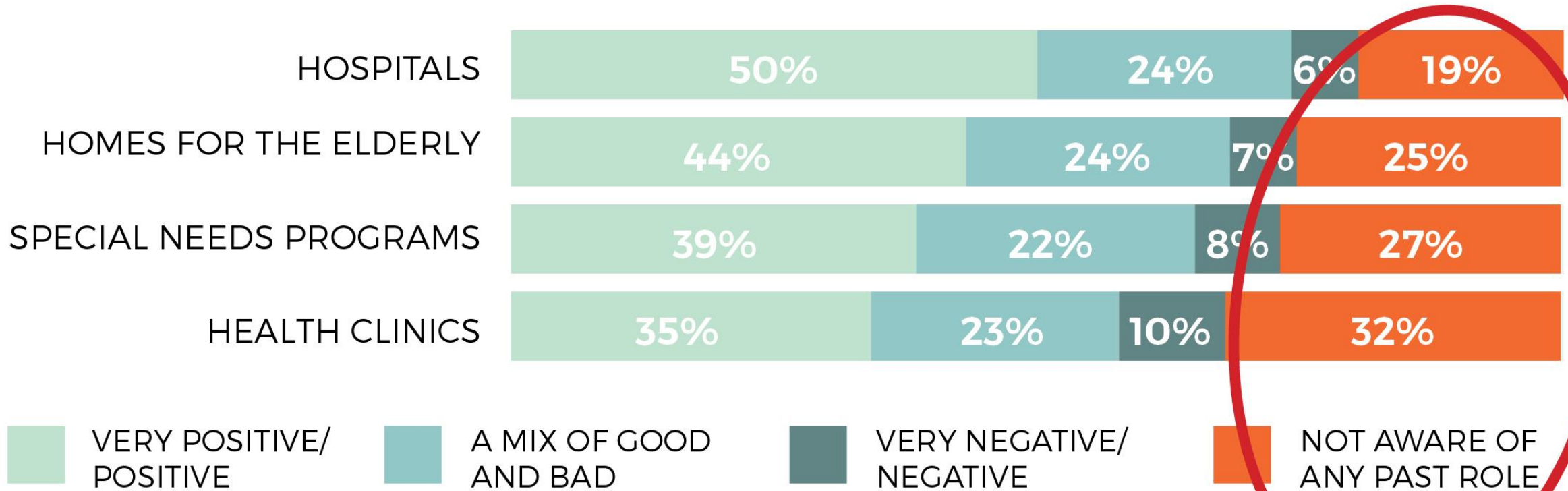
**AMNESIA & ANTAGONISM**



# HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE **ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES** IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOLLOWING?



# HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE **ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES** IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOLLOWING?



# SECULARISM:

*From*

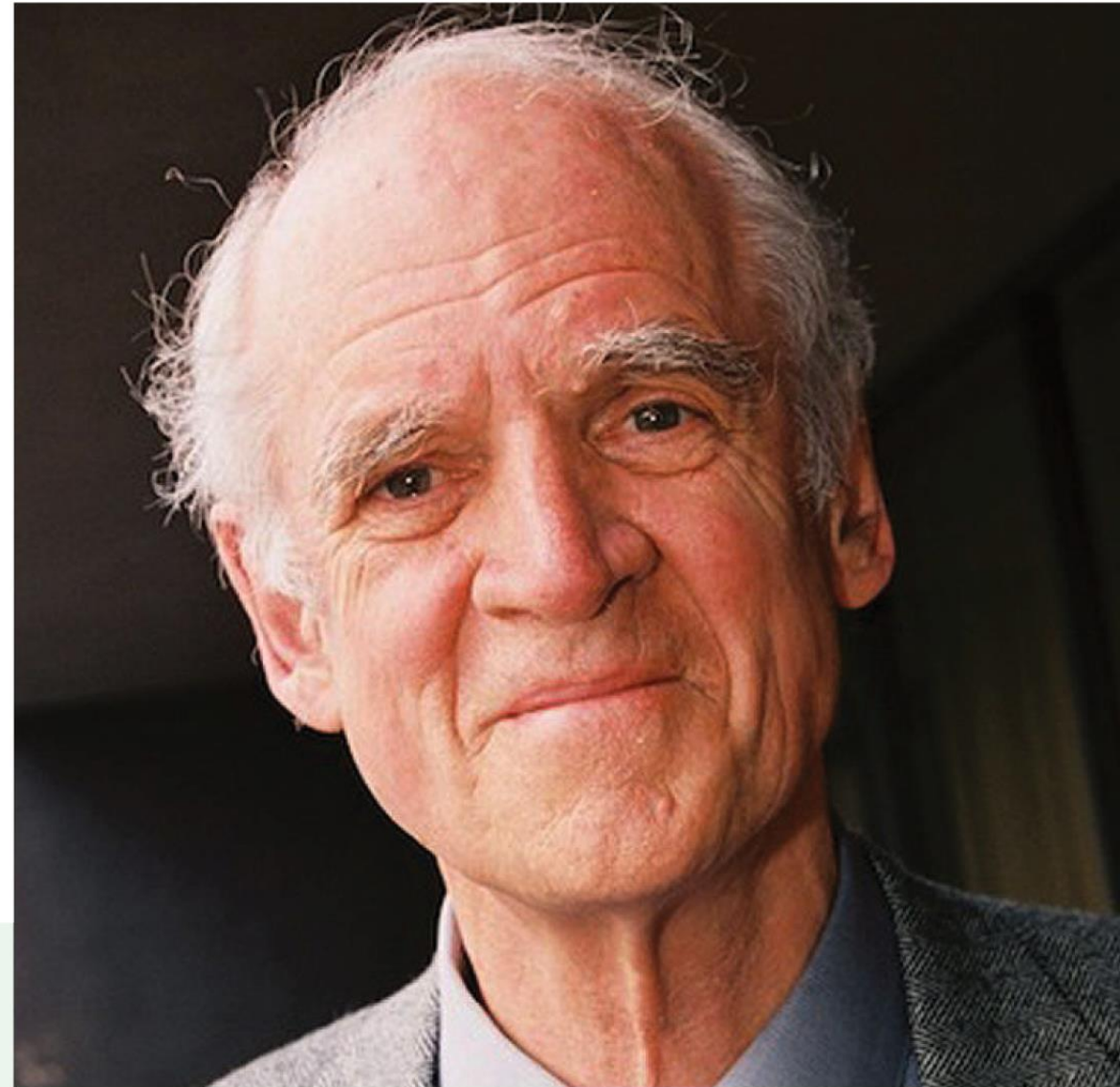
**1. GEOGRAPHY**

*to*

**2. NEUTRAL**

*to*

**3. CLOSED**



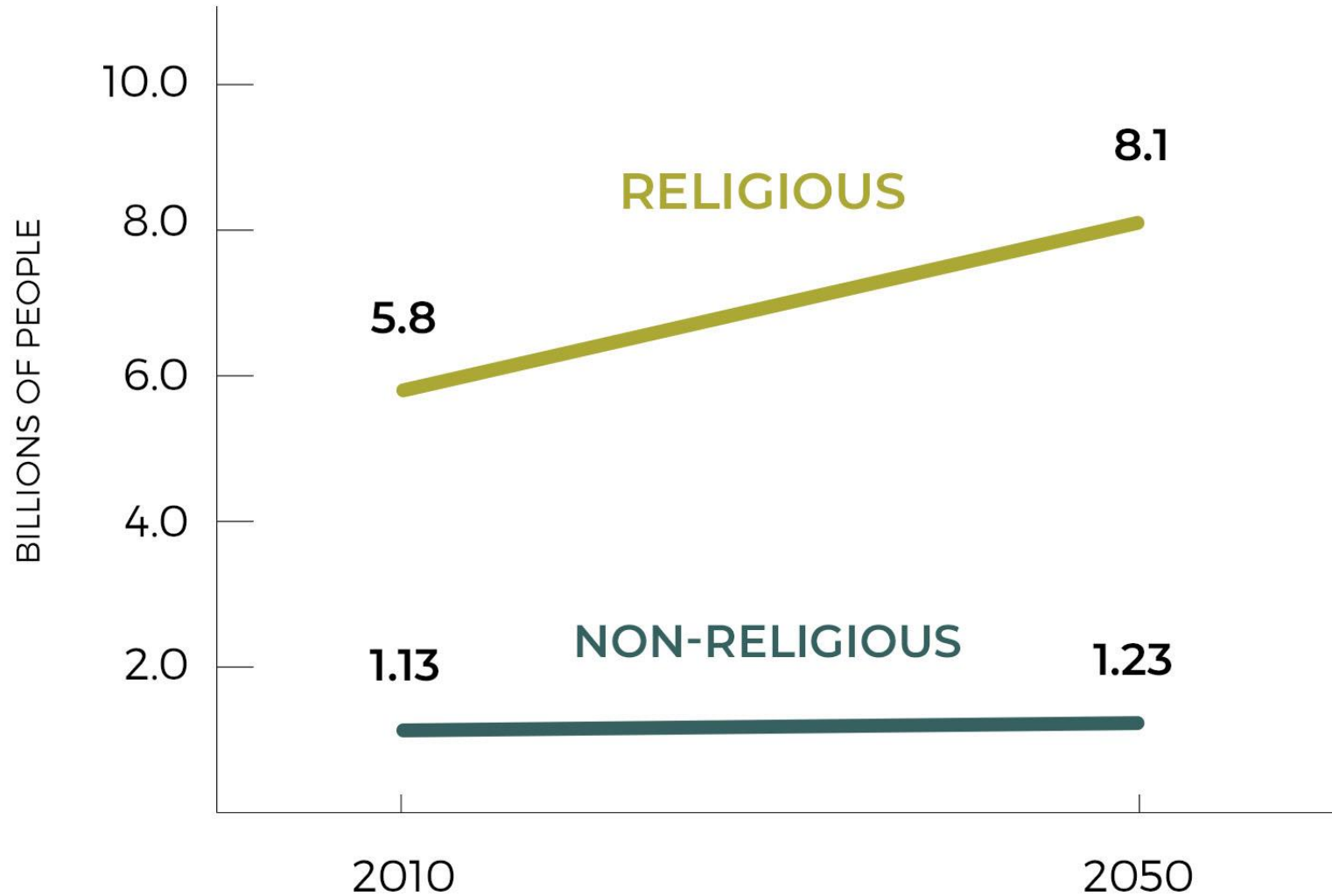
CHARLES TAYLOR, MCGILL PHILOSOPHER

*“With respect, **I cannot agree** that the impact of the decision on the freedom of religion of members of the TWU community is of “minor significance.”*

**– C.J. BEVERLY MCLACHLIN**  
SUPREME COURT OF CANADA  
DECISION RE TWU, PARAGRAPH 129

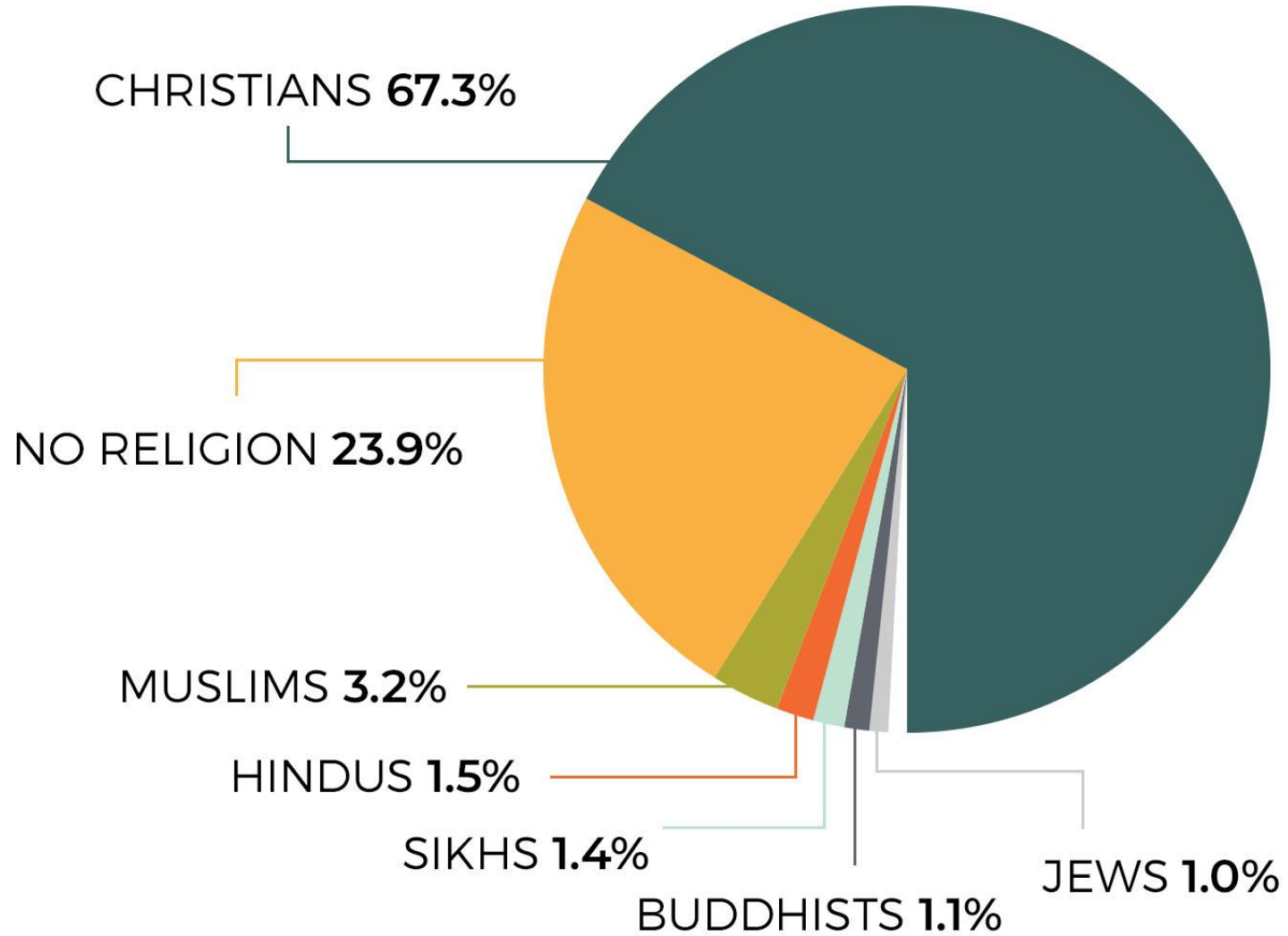


# WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH



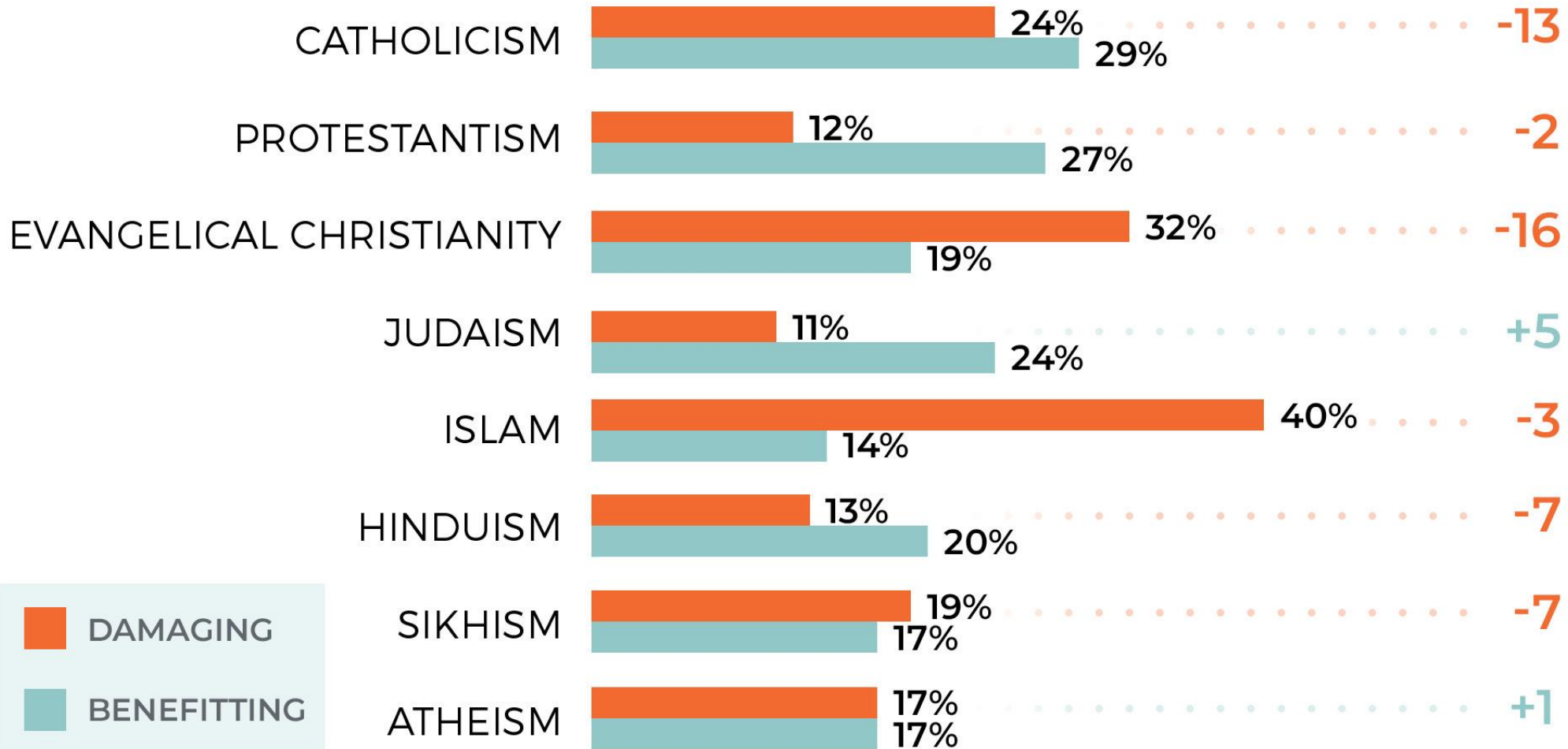


# RELIGIOUS POPULATIONS IN CANADA



# DOES THE OVERALL PRESENCE OF THESE GROUPS IN PUBLIC LIFE **DAMAGE** OR **BENEFIT** CANADIAN SOCIETY?

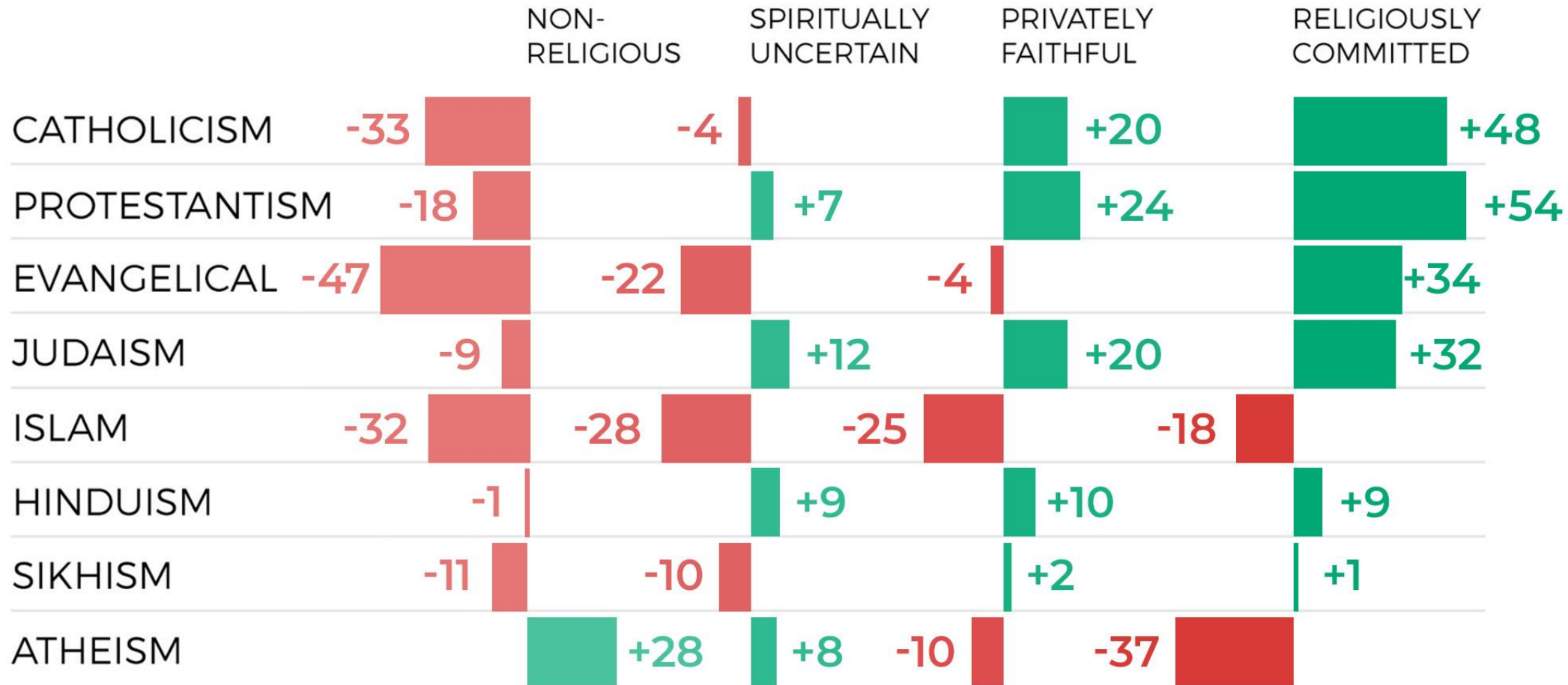
CHANGE FROM 2017



Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019



# IN YOUR VIEW, WOULD YOU SAY THE OVERALL PRESENCE OF EACH OF THESE IN CANADIAN PUBLIC LIFE IS **BENEFITTING** OR **DAMAGING** CANADA AND CANADIAN SOCIETY?



Source: Angus Reid Institute/Cardus 2019





$$y = 2 \times 2 \times 3^x$$

$$4x = 8 - 3y^2$$

Framework - (History + Data) = Faulty way forward

$$x = \frac{b + (a - c)}{\sqrt{a}}$$

$$(x - y^2)$$





**AWARENESS**

A photograph of a group of people in business attire. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is shaking hands with a woman in a dark blue blazer. In the background, a woman with glasses is laughing. A green banner with the word "AFFIRMATION" in white capital letters is overlaid across the center of the image.

**AFFIRMATION**



# ENGAGEMENT





# ACCOMMODATION

# CHALLENGE

WILL **#CANADA2020** FIGURE OUT HOW TO  
RESPECTFULLY LIVE TOGETHER IN DIFFERENCE?



# CHALLENGE

WILL **#CHRISTIANBUSINESS2020** BE  
LEADERS IN CHANGING THE PUBLIC STORY  
BY THEIR WORDS AND DEEDS?





# THANK YOU

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 *@rpennings*

CARDUS

cardus.ca