

**Security and the Sacred:
Examining Canada's Legal Response to the Clash of Public Safety and Religious
Freedom**

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the Supreme Court of Canada has grappled with the issue of religious freedom within the public sphere. Particularly, the Court has examined the question of when, if ever, religious freedom should yield to perceived public safety concerns. These perceived concerns have involved numerous forms of expression, but the discussion has most often focused on the *kirpan*, a small dagger, and an important article of the Sikh faith. This article examines the rulings of Canadian courts with respect to this and other faith-based articles of expression, and posits that a clear, consistent legal approach has yet to be articulated. The article then attempts to outline what a desirable rule for these cases would look like, taking Canada's legal history and prevailing values into consideration in doing so.