Circumcision is often practiced in Islam and Judaism. However, religious circumcision is increasingly being seen as a violation of the child's religious and personal freedom.

In Islam, circumcision is not required. It is not even mentioned in the Qur'an. Many Muslim parents are now deciding not to have their sons circumcised.

In Judaism, circumcision is typically performed on the 8th day after birth. However, many Jews, especially those who identify as cultural or Reform Jews, are no longer having their sons circumcised. Some of these parents are welcoming their sons with a ceremony called Bris Shalom, which does not involve genital cutting.

In the Christian faith, circumcision is not practiced, and is often regarded as being against the religion.

Religious References
http://tinyurl.com/MUSLIM-CIRC
JewsAgainstCircumcision.org
BeyondTheBris.com
CatholicsAgainstCircumcision.org

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES
- CIRP.org
- NOCIRC.org
- NORM.org
- CircumcisionDecisionMaker.com
- DoctorsOpposingCircumcision.org
- tinyurl.com/6y8xev5 (Procedure Video)
- tinyurl.com/6yfz4q (Canadian Paediatric Society)
WHAT IS CIRCUMCISION?
Circumcision is the cutting off of the fold of skin that normally covers and protects the glans of the penis. This double layer of skin, the prepuce, is commonly known as the foreskin. During circumcision, approximately 50% of the skin on the penis is removed, which translates to approx. 15 square inches (~100 cm²) of skin on the adult male penis.

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF CIRCUMCISION IN CANADA?
Doctors in western English-speaking countries started circumcising babies in the mid-1800s to “prevent masturbation,” which was blamed for causing many diseases, including epilepsy, tuberculosis, insanity, and loss of skin. Since then numerous other benefits have been claimed, all of which have been largely disproven. Since 1975 the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) has not recommend circumcision as a health measure. There is no medical reason to have an infant/child circumcised. As a result, it is not covered under any provincial insurance plan in Canada.

Uncircumcised (intact) boys grow up just as healthy, and likely healthier, than their circumcised peers. No national or international medical association recommends circumcision. Some countries such as Sweden regulate the practice. In South Africa circumcision is banned. Circumcision continues largely due to cultural and religious reasons. Many parents circumcise their sons because the father was circumcised. Circumcision is also very profitable. It is a multi-billion dollar industry. Aside from the procedure itself, profit is made from the sale of materials used during the circumcision. The foreskin is also sold for scientific research and to produce cosmetic products.

WILL MY SON BE TEASED IF HE IS NOT CIRCUMCISED?
No, he will not be teased. As a whole, Canada is a very diverse country where differences are celebrated. For many years, the rates of circumcision have been declining. In fact, in 2009 it is estimated that between 9 – 31 % of male infants were circumcised, meaning that 69 – 91% of males were left uncircumcised (intact). This downward trend is expected to continue. On a related note, 85% of men in the world are not circumcised.

ARE THERE RISKS?
Many circumcised males suffer from:
• Extensive scarring
• Skin tags and skin bridges
• Tearing and bleeding at the scar
• Curvature of the penis or painful erections
• Difficulty ejaculating and/or impotence
• Feelings of having been violated and mutilated, as well as additional psychological issues.

All circumcised males lose some or most of the sensitivity in their glans and all of the sensitivity in their foreskin.

IS CIRCUMCISION PAINFUL?
Yes. Circumcision is extremely painful – and traumatic – for a baby. Just being strapped down is frightening for a baby. Babies are as sensitive to pain as anyone else. Most babies scream frantically when their foreskin is cut off. Some deflate. Some lapse into a coma. The reason some babies don’t cry when they are circumcised is that they can’t cry because they are in a state of shock. Most babies are circumcised without an anesthetic. Anesthetics injected into the penis don’t always work. Being stuck with a needle in the penis is itself painful for a baby. Babies are rarely given pain medication after they are circumcised or during the week to ten days it takes for the wound to heal. Pain medication is not always effective and is never 100% effective.

ARE THERE RISKS?
Yes. The risks of circumcision include:
• Excessive bleeding and/or Infection
• Complications from anesthetics
• Psychological issues
• Surgical mistakes (e.g. loss of glans or penis)
• Death

20,000 specialized nerve endings in the foreskin and the gliding mechanism of the foreskin enhances sexual pleasure for both males and females.

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FORESKIN?
The foreskin comprises as much as half or more of the penile skin and has numerous functions. During infancy, the foreskin is attached to the glans and protects it from urine, feces, and abrasion from diapers/environment. Throughout life, the foreskin keeps the glans soft and moist and protects it from trauma and injury. Without this protection, the glans becomes dry, calloused, and desensitized from exposure and chafing.

The foreskin is not covered under any provincial insurance plan in Canada. As a result, it is not circumcised. The foreskin comprises as much as half or more of the skin on the penis. This double layer of skin, the prepuce, is commonly known as the foreskin. During circumcision, approximately 50% of the skin on the penis is removed, which translates to approx. 15 square inches (~100 cm²) of skin on the adult male penis.