



HUMANIST CANADA



February 2022

February is Black History Month

Greetings!

This month we celebrate a woman whose name has become timeless in Canadian history. Viola Irene Desmond (née Davis), businesswoman, civil rights activist (born 6 July 1914 in Halifax, NS; died 7 February 1965 in New York, NY). Viola Desmond built a career and business as a beautician and was a mentor to young Black women in Nova Scotia through her Desmond School of Beauty Culture.

In 1946, Viola Desmond challenged racial discrimination when she refused to leave the segregated Whites-only section of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Viola Desmond was arrested, jailed overnight, and convicted without legal representation for an obscure tax offense as a result. Despite the efforts of the Nova Scotian Black community to assist her appeal, Viola Desmond was unable to remove the charges against her and went unpardoned in her lifetime. Desmond's courageous refusal to accept an act of racial discrimination provided inspiration to later generations of Black persons in Nova Scotia and in the rest of Canada.

In 2010, Lieutenant-Governor Mayann Francis issued Desmond a free pardon. In December 2016, the Bank of Canada announced that Viola Desmond would be the first Canadian woman to be featured by herself on the face of a banknote — the \$10 note released on 19 November 2018. Viola Desmond was named a National Historic Person by the Canadian government in 2018. To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Enjoy this edition of News,

Jag Parmar,
Administrator

Profile of the Month



Introducing our Profile of the Month: Hailey Houghton-Rogers

Though I only recently joined Humanist Canada as the new Social Media Coordinator, I'm already really enjoying the role and getting to know the group.

I have been a marketing and communications manager for almost 15 years, working with clients in various industries to evolve their brands and connect with the right audiences. Empathy and a genuine interest in other peoples' stories guide my creation of engaging on-brand content. I have a BA in Philosophy from the University of Guelph, and a Marketing Management Certificate from George Brown College and look forward to drawing on both while working with HC.

On the personal side, I am a mom of three children trying my best, alongside my husband, to raise compassionate, creative humans with open minds and hearts. I was once asked if I'm a feminist. To which I replied, "Yes, and no... I would say I am a Humanist" - a term I thought described my positions on equality, fairness, and LGBTQ+ rights - while knowing very little about Humanism itself. So, when introduced to Humanist Canada through a friend, I proved that *"you can be a Humanist without even knowing it"*.

If you have any ideas or feedback for what you would like to see on the HC social media accounts, or just want to share a bit about your humanist journey, I would love to hear from you.

Thank you for having me.

If you'd like to share your story with us, please contact [Jag Parmar](#) so you can be the next Member Profile of the Month!

Webinar Series 2022: Indigenous Languages and Non-Alphabetic Writing in the Americas



Webinar: Indigenous Languages and Non-alphabetic Writing in the Americas

**With Dr. Sanchez Martinez, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina**

In this talk, Dr. Sanchez Martinez will discuss Indigenous languages and non-alphabetic writing from Abiayala (The Americas). The talk will focus on the Siwar Mayu project, an online multilingual publication that contributes to the seminal role of translation in bridging Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures. In the Quechua language, currently spoken by eight million people in Latin America, "Siwar" and "Mayu" translate as "hummingbird" and "river", respectively. The Siwar Mayu project is conceived of as a river of hummingbirds. 'Siwar' symbolizes the bearer of messages, the ancestors, the ones who cross borders, just like the authors and artists featured on the website. This collaborative project is an open-access publication dedicated to Indigenous writers and artists, where peoples from different countries and backgrounds dialogue through art, poetry, short stories, plays, testimony, oral history, and essays.

Dr. Juan Guillermo Sánchez Martínez grew up in Bakatá (Bogotá), Colombian Andes. He dedicates both his creative and scholarly writing to Indigenous cultural expressions from Abiayala (the Americas).

His book of poetry, *Altamar*, was awarded the National Prize by the Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia, in 2016. Juan coordinates the online publication *Siwar Mayu, A River of Hummingbirds*. He has authored and co-edited multiple publications, including *Muyurina y el presente profundo. Poéticas andino-amazónicas* (2019), "Cinema, Literature and Art Against Extractivism in Latin America" (2019), "The Five Cardinal Points in Contemporary Indigenous Literatures" (2016), and the multilingual anthology *Indigenous Message on Water* (2014).

He is currently an associate professor of Languages and Literatures and Native American and Indigenous Studies at the University of North Carolina Asheville. To learn more, [Click Here](#).

Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022

Time: 3 pm EST

[Click Here to Register](#)

**2022 Photography Contest:
Looking for Volunteers for the Contest Committee**

In the spring of 2022, Humanist Canada will launch a photography contest. The contest will be adjudicated by professional photographers



and selected images will be used in our 2023 calendar, which will be available at our online store (details forthcoming).

We are looking for several volunteers for our Photography Contest Committee to help out with the conceptual and logistical aspects of the contest.

Please contact [Anna Popovitch](#) if you are interested in participating.
Thank you!

Visit Our Web Store



Here is What's New On Our Web Store!

Don't forget to visit our online store! We're a small shop right now, but we have big plans! Check-in regularly to find new HC logo items like our masks,

mugs, and pins. We also have a number of books, written by our HC family of authors.

If you have any ideas about what we should offer, send them our way!

[Visit our online store](#)

January Polling Results:

Should the Humboldt Truck Driver, Jaskirat Singh Sidhu be deported or allowed to stay in Canada?

Sidhu, who was given very poor and minimal training as a truck driver, was sentenced to eight years after pleading guilty to dangerous driving causing death and bodily harm in the April 2018 collision that killed 16 people and injured 13.

Here is how you responded to our poll:

12.6% of you said: He should be deported.

87.4% of you said: He should be allowed to stay.

Poll For This Month

Quebec scraps the idea of the Anti-Vax Tax

Quebec Premier François Legault says his government will not go ahead with a proposed tax on the unvaccinated, in order to protect "social cohesion" in the province.

The tax, first announced in January by the premier, would have imposed a monetary penalty on Quebecers who are eligible but who refuse to get their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Legault said that while his government has a bill ready to go, he's decided not to table it after seeing "growing discontent" in the population.

But since the announcement of taxing the unvaccinated, thousands of Quebecers registered for their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/vax-tax-nixed-1.6334828>

Was the Ant-Vax Tax a good idea?

Yes

Select

No

Select



Tell us what you'd like to see in the Newsletter.

To ensure the newsletter is relevant we invite your response to a few short questions. Having feedback from across the country is our goal. [Click here!](#)

Why membership in Humanist Canada is important!

We simply can't do it without you. We are entirely funded through memberships and donations. Your involvement is incredibly significant and goes a long way to support lasting change for a better society and a tolerant world where rational thinking and kindness prevail.

Humanist Canada has just launched a new member system that will allow you to update your own information. Click on the button below, and you will be prompted to set up your login information.

Already a member

Join Humanist Canada

If you have any questions about renewing, please contact the National Office at members@humanistcanada.ca or 1-877-486-2671.