



March 2022

March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility

Greetings!

On this day, let's celebrate Canada's first transgender judge, Kael McKenzie, who is also a proud member of the Manitoba Métis Nation.

"Kael is the first self-identified transgender judge in Canada and that is something to be celebrated," a judge said to a crowd of applause at the swearing-in ceremony. (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/transgender-judge-kael-mckenzie-manitoba-appointment-1.3446720>)

This day highlights our friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors who contribute uniquely to the diversity in Canada. It is also a day that raises awareness about Trans communities and discrimination fueled by transphobia that is a lived reality for many in Canada and around the world.

Trans Day of Visibility recognizes the struggles, sacrifices, and achievements of those who fought and continue to fight for gender equity. In a world where governments continue to debate the rights of Trans people and their identities, Trans individuals continue to resist oppression by simply being exactly who they are. Fighting for gender diversity and equity benefits everyone.

To read the full message by Minister Chagger, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Enjoy this edition of News,

Jag Parmar,
Administrator

A Statement on Russia's invasion of Ukraine by Humanist Canada's Board of Directors



Humanist Canada joins with citizens worldwide in outrage over the attack that Russia, under the governance of Vladimir Putin, has launched upon Ukraine.

A fundamental principle of modern Humanism is the support of democracy and human rights. To this end, we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are experiencing incalculable devastation and losses. We stand with the

people in Russia who oppose Putin's war, as well as millions around the world who demand peace. We stand against any form of discrimination amid this crisis and value everyone that calls Ukraine home.

Any solutions must be based on principles that prioritize the dignity and well-being of all peoples and the respect of human rights and international law. Rooted in our Humanist principles and by utilizing free inquiry, the power of science, critical thinking and creative imagination for the furtherance of peace and in the service of compassion, we have confidence that we have the means to solve the problems that confront us all. (*The Amsterdam Declaration*)

We call on our members, community leaders, elected representatives, and all Canadians to support a negotiated solution to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We encourage you to support humanitarian efforts, one of which is the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. The Government of Canada will match donations dollar-for-dollar.

[Donate to Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal](#)

Profile of the Month

**Introducing our Profile of
the Month:
Steve Ghikadis**



I have been active in the secular world for the better part of 5 years. I started a local atheist group that regularly participates in events, outings, and charity opportunities. I'm also the Online Community Director for Recovering From Religion. I started there as a helpline agent over two years ago.

I joined Humanist Canada to bolster our right to freedom of religion and freedom from religion with the separation of church and state. I think it's important for people to express how they feel and be able to represent who they are within society. As a Canadian, I am privileged to have this opportunity. I want to be an example of secularism that others can relate to.

To me, Humanism is about taking care of my fellow humans by showing and encouraging empathy, curiosity, and kindness. I was raised as a freethinker and taught to always question things that were presented to me. My mom was a single parent and always took the time to explain everything in an open and honest way with a ton of compassion. Nothing was off the table. I attribute my thirst for knowledge to my upbringing. To quote my Humanist hero, Dale McGowan, "The principles of free-thought is that no question is unaskable." I now have my own children to impart this wisdom onto.

Be kind, courteous, curious, loving, and compassionate...and hopefully, humanity will follow.

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!

Humanist Canada Town Hall



Humanist Canada Town Hall Building a Success Story

We're planning an inspirational afternoon to share HC's 2022-2023 Strategic Initiatives. Honestly, this is way more exciting than it sounds. We also want to engage in a conversation on "What can Humanism and Humanist Canada do for Canada?"

Get in on the ground floor and help shape our future. This is the beginning of significant development for Humanism, Humanist Canada, and HC's issues in the Canadian public interest.

Join Chris Blake and Martin Frith in an engaging conversation. [Read about Chris and Martin.](#)

Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 3 pm on Zoom

[Click Here to Register](#)

Webinar Series 2022:

Low-Cost Housing in Canada: Past, Present, and Future



Webinar: Low-Cost Housing in Canada: Past, Present, and Future

**With Sarah Cooper, PhD.
University of Manitoba**

Housing is foundational for both individuals and communities. In the past, Canada's social housing system was recognized around the world as a model for low-cost housing provision. But what happened? In this presentation, Sarah Cooper will review the history and present state of low-cost subsidized housing in Canada, from the public housing heyday of the 1960s to the present National Housing Strategy. She will also offer some potential directions for the future of low-cost housing.

Sarah Cooper is an Assistant Professor in the Department of City Planning in the Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba. Her research focuses on housing and social policy, with an emphasis on ensuring access to housing for all. Her current research examines housing for low-income households in Canada, with a focus on the expiry of social housing funding agreements—an issue that will transform the landscape of housing and housing policy in Canada over the next few decades. She approaches her research from a social justice perspective and draws on neoliberal urbanism, settler-colonial theory, and critical housing theory to inform her work.

Prior to completing her PhD at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Sarah worked as a Research Associate and Planner at the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources in Winnipeg, and as a researcher at the Manitoba office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. She has worked on a wide variety of research and planning projects, including neighbourhood housing plans, watershed and community plans, and housing and social policy analysis. Sarah is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP). To learn more, [Click Here.](#)

Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022

Time: 3 pm EST

[Click Here to Register](#)

Chaplaincy in the UK: The Journey of a Dutch Humanist Chaplain

**Chaplaincy in the UK:
The Journey of a Dutch Humanist
Chaplain**

With Lindsay van Dijk



Join Lindsay van Dijk as she shares with us her exceptional journey to becoming a humanist chaplain in the UK's National Health Service. You'll hear about Lindsay's most memorable moments as a chaplain and why she believes that this career path is

exceptionally powerful.

Lindsay van Dijk has been trained at the Master's level in the Netherlands at the University of Humanistic Studies (Utrecht) to provide humanist and existential counseling, coaching, and pastoral care. Lindsay is accredited as a humanist pastoral carer through the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy (UKBHC), the Non-Religious Pastoral Support Network (NRPSN), and as a humanist funeral celebrant at Humanists UK.

She was the first ever UK-based appointed head of chaplaincy as a humanist in February 2018 and is currently the Head of Chaplaincy at another large NHS Trust. She made national and international headlines and has won several awards for her chaplaincy team since then. She is currently the chair of the NRPSN, supervisor, and trainer at Humanists UK. She's started her PhD about "The experience of humanist healthcare chaplains entering faith-based NHS chaplaincy teams" at Middlesex University. To learn more, [Click Here.](#)

Twitter: @lindsayvandijk

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Time: 12 pm EST

[Click Here to Register](#)

Do you have an idea for a webinar?



We hope you are enjoying our monthly webinars. Is there a topic you are interested in that we haven't covered? Or a speaker you'd like us to invite? Please email your suggestions and comments to [Anna Popovitch.](#)

What else is happening in March?



**March 8th is also
International Women's
Day.**

This year's theme is ***Women Inspiring Women.*** It celebrates all the women and girls who inspire us by demonstrating leadership in the choices they make in their day-to-day lives to contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and political spheres.

In Canada, unlike in many other countries, women are free to study and be leaders in the field they choose, care and provide for their family, express who they are, and fight for their beliefs. (<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/international-womens-day/2022-theme.html>)

Visit the [Women of Impact in Canada](#) gallery to learn about the inspiring achievements of Canadian women in various fields such as politics, sciences, and the arts.

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](#)

February Polling Results: Was the Anti-Vax Tax a good idea?



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.

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

Here is how you responded to our poll:

58.9% of you said: Yes

41.1% of you said: No

Poll For This Month

With the escalation of the Russian offensive in Ukraine, are you worried about the possibility of a global war?

Are you worried about a global war?

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.
