



HUMANIST CANADA



April 2022

April 7th is World Health Day

**Are we able to reimagine a world where clean air, water, and food are available to all?
And people have control over their health and the health of the planet?**

Greetings!

While the COVID-19 pandemic showed us the healing power of science, it also highlighted the inequities in our world. The pandemic has revealed weaknesses in all areas of society and underlined the urgency of creating sustainable “well-being societies” committed to achieving equitable health now and for future generations.

A well-being economy has human well-being, equity, and ecological sustainability as its goals. These goals are translated into long-term investments and well-being budgets, social protection, and legal and fiscal strategies. Breaking these cycles of destruction for the planet and human health requires legislative action, corporate reform, and individuals to be supported and incentivized to make healthy choices.

Do you have an idea to start a campaign for World Health Day? To download a campaign toolkit, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Enjoy this edition of News,

Jag Parmar,
Administrator

Profile of the Month



Introducing our Profile of the Month: Ian McMillan

Hello everyone, I'm Ian (he/him) and I'm a relatively new addition to Humanist Canada, having joined this past fall. I'm excited to be volunteering to assist with our newsletter and webinars. Aside from a grade 10 careers class test that told my obstinate atheist teenage self that "clergy" was the career for me, I had no formal exposure to religion growing up.

So, rather than apostasy, I was brought to Humanism by a desire to be part of the solution to problems that feel very present to me and my cohort: a dearth of meaning and a doubt towards the future.

It's my hope that Humanism can help provide structure and advocacy for a new way of doing things that puts shared humanity and truth at the center of social discourse. I want to learn and adapt the lessons of the past, whether they be religious or not, to build a modern and fair community for all.

I currently work as a project manager in virtual health care at a hospital in Toronto and bring with me a BA in psychology from uOttawa and MSc in human rights and international politics from the University of Glasgow. I am a fiddler, an avid reader, and am always willing to talk (at length) about movies. Please reach out and say hello!

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!

Course: Creative Photography for Beginners



Course: Creative Photography for Beginners

**With Nirvana SQ,
Photographer**

This course will provide you with the basic skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to create personal photography projects in the genre of your choice, from start to finish, including printing and showcasing. It is designed for

beginners who have a camera but do not know how to use it in manual mode, as well as students interested in improving their general photography skills and eventually creating a portfolio of their work. We will review a wide range of genres and styles and integrate theory and practice via take-home assignments and in-class peer critique of photos, which will help you develop a keen eye for composition, lighting, and storytelling techniques.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Gain a solid knowledge of your camera's features and functions.
- Develop your camera-operating skills to enhance your accuracy and photographic eye.
- Understand different types of light and how to make the most of your lighting conditions.
- Understand composition and subject emphasis.
- Identify the best times to take the photos you have in mind.
- Articulate the intention behind a photography project or series.
- Gain insight into creative experimentation techniques.
- Learn to plan your photographs as well as improvise to capture a fleeting moment.

By the end of the course, you will create a portfolio of your work using the skills you have acquired and showcase the genre and theme you might wish to pursue in the future.

Nirvana has published her photography in art and humanities magazines in Mexico, Chile, Spain, Argentina as well as in international collaborations. Her work have been used for educational purposes by MIT and the University of Chile. She received the prestigious Mexican Government's art grant FONCA in 2014. Nirvana SQ has participated in collective shows in Ecuador, Mexico, Hungary, and USA, including a thematic single show on the Concept of Light in Physics at the International Science Festival at the University of Guanajuato. She has taught courses on creative photography for art and science students in Mexico.

COURSE FEES

\$325 for Humanist Canada student members

\$385 for Humanist Canada members

\$475 for non-members

* If you are an HC member, please [log into your account](#) to select the discounted fee.

Saturdays 11.00 am – 2.00 pm EST, May 14 through June 4 on Zoom.

To learn more, [Click Here.](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

Webinar Series 2022: Challenges and Opportunities in Post-Pandemic Work and Employment

Webinar: Challenges and Opportunities in Post-Pandemic Work and Employment



With Dr. Anil Verma, Ph.D.

It is interesting and useful to ask if the COVID pandemic of 2020-22 has caused some long-term changes in our lives, work patterns and leisure. Many are seeking different jobs and work patterns, and even relocating their homes, leading

some to call this trend "The Great Resignation".

No doubt that the pandemic experience has redefined our focus on what we aspire for in terms of work, employment, leisure, and where we make our home. While some trends like remote work predated the pandemic, our recent experience and newer technologies have propelled us faster in the direction of work-from-anywhere (WfA). This trend is transforming work patterns and rippling through the economy across many sectors: housing, real estate, technology, auto, and travel, among others. These trends offer opportunities as well as challenges for all of us: workers, employers, and policymakers.

This talk will explore options available to us in this environment and discuss strategies on how we could optimize our choices and work-life balance.

Dr. Anil Verma is Professor Emeritus at the Rotman School of Management and the Centre for Industrial Relations & Human Resources, University of Toronto. He served as the Director of the Centre for Industrial Relations & Human Resources during 2009-15. He has taught previously at the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of British Columbia, the University of Saskatchewan, and worked in the steel industry as an engineer for five years. He has taught by invitation in Vietnam, Brazil, Russia, India, China and Thailand.

During 2013-14, he was appointed by the Government of Ontario as Chair of the Minimum Wage Advisory Panel. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Sheffield University Business School (UK) and was a Visiting Professor at Middlesex University Business School (UK) during 2005-2010. To learn more, [Click Here.](#)

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022

Time: 3 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.](#)

Save the Date

Sunday, May 1 at 2-4 pm

AGM

Annual General Meeting



2-3 pm

Our AGM will be on Zoom and begin at 2 pm. We'll review the financial statements, appoint the auditors, report on this past year, and share insights on the year ahead. It's an essential part of maintaining our charitable status.

3-4 pm

After the AGM, stay for the Town Hall Meeting. It's an opportunity to interact with members in smaller breakout rooms, talk about our strategic plan, the state of Humanism in Canada and your suggestions for Humanist Canada.

Register for the AGM & Town Hall

In the coming weeks, members will be receiving information on nominations and elections for the Board of Directors as well as a meeting package.

It's an exciting time to be part of Humanist Canada, so please take a moment and register today.

Celebrating World Humanist Day



Humanist Canada is partnering with the Centre for Inquiry Canada and the Ontario Humanist Society to mark World Humanist Day on **June 21, 2022.**

This year, we are asking Canadian humanists to take part in a day of action that combines critical thinking

and benevolence. We invite you, alone or in a group of like-minded people, to take action that is well thought out and improves the world. We hope that you will share your activity with the organizing groups and even share them with your local media.

Please [sign up](#) to tell us what you will be doing and where you will do it and let us know how it is an act of thoughtful charity. If you would welcome other humanists to join you, we invite you to share your activity and we can help to promote it. [Find out more.](#)

Help Us Support Ukrainian Refugees



The [Kazimierz Lyszczyński Foundation](#), an Associate of Humanists International, has put together an important initiative called [Humanists across borders for Ukraine](#), in response to the humanitarian challenges in Ukraine brought by the unprovoked and illegal invasion by Russia.

To date, they have helped house more than 30 people temporarily in Warsaw. Some of them have now left Poland for other European countries. Aside from providing housing and emotional support to Ukrainian refugees, they are also helping with language, translation, and access to information and advice.

They have now 21 people in their care at this time, with housing, medical, food, clothes, and other complex services. And have managed to connect other people with families who can host them in their own homes.

They are requesting financial assistance, which you can find the [details on their website](#), as well as moral support and solidarity on their [Facebook page](#).

Thank you for your support,
Javan Lev Poblador
Acting Membership Development Officer

Humanist in Action



Living his Humanist principles

Humanist Canada member and Officiant, **Bill McElree** resides in Sudbury, Ontario. He is parlaying his skills as a DJ and former radio announcer to partner with the Ukrainian Seniors Centre to host a 400-person gala to support victims of the war in Ukraine. Bill said he wanted to do something for the people of Ukraine "so he reached out to friends and colleagues to help organize an amazing evening of food and music." Businesses have enthusiastically agreed to help and friends are donating their time to make this an incredible event.

There will be a segment when guests will hear from a Ukrainian refugee who made it to Germany. People will be able to donate to "an organization she knows is helping in a very personal way."

This gala will be held on **April 9th at the Caruso Club beginning at 7 pm**. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$800 for a table and can be purchased through [Eventbrite](#), or by visiting the [Absolute Charity Gala for Ukraine](#) event on Facebook.

How can you help? Consider attending if you are local, spread the word by sharing the Facebook post, or make a donation.

You can reach out to Bill at Mcelreb@hotmail.com or the [Facebook page](#) noted

above if you want to make a donation.

What else is happening in April?

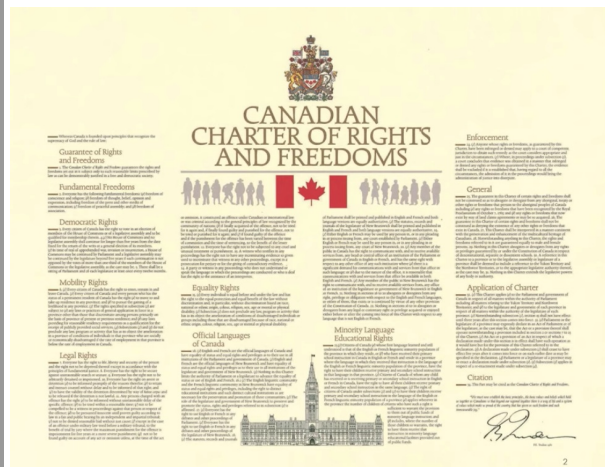


April 22nd is Earth Day.

The first Earth Day in 1970 "brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform."

(Jack Lewis (November 1985). "The Birth of EPA". United States Environmental Protection Agency. Archived from the original on September 22, 2006.)

Earth Day is now observed in 192 countries and it is now "the largest secular day of protest in the world, and more than a billion people participate in Earth Day actions every year." ([About Earth Day Network](#)". Archived from the original on April 23, 2007. Retrieved April 15, 2013.)



April 17th is also Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Day.

The cornerstone of human rights protection in Canada is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Charter forms part of Canada's Constitution and came into being on April 17, 1982, with the signature of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Honoring the 2SLGBTQ+



As humanists, our commitment to human rights and human decency runs deep; it's at the core of who we are and our worldview. As such, public opportunities to be reminded of those values are extremely valuable, both for us, as an opportunity to reflect, but also for the broader public as a way of promoting and enshrining such values in society.

This March, the federal government announced the final design for a [national monument for 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians](#), known as [Thunderhead](#). The monument is said to be a "testimony to the courage and humanity of those who were harmed by the LGBT Purge, homophobic and transphobic laws and norms, and Canada's colonial history." The monument is slated for completion in 2025 and will be built overlooking the Ottawa river in the nation's capital.

Canada, for the most part, has made great strides in ensuring equity for 2SLGBTQ+ persons, but these are all recent developments. Same-sex marriage did not become nationally recognized until 2005, and it was only this past January that the federal government passed a ban on conversion therapy. Hence, the Thunderhead monument provides us with another example of why that work is so important.

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](#)

March Polling Results: Are you worried about a global war?



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

Here is how you responded to our poll:

78.5% of you said: Yes

21.5% of you said: No

Poll For This Month: To mask or not to mask

On March 21st, Ontario removed the mandatory masking requirement for most settings, with the exception of select settings such as public transit, health care settings, long-term care homes, and congregate care settings. Other infectious disease specialists say that it's too soon.

Are you still wearing a mask in non-mandatory settings?

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.