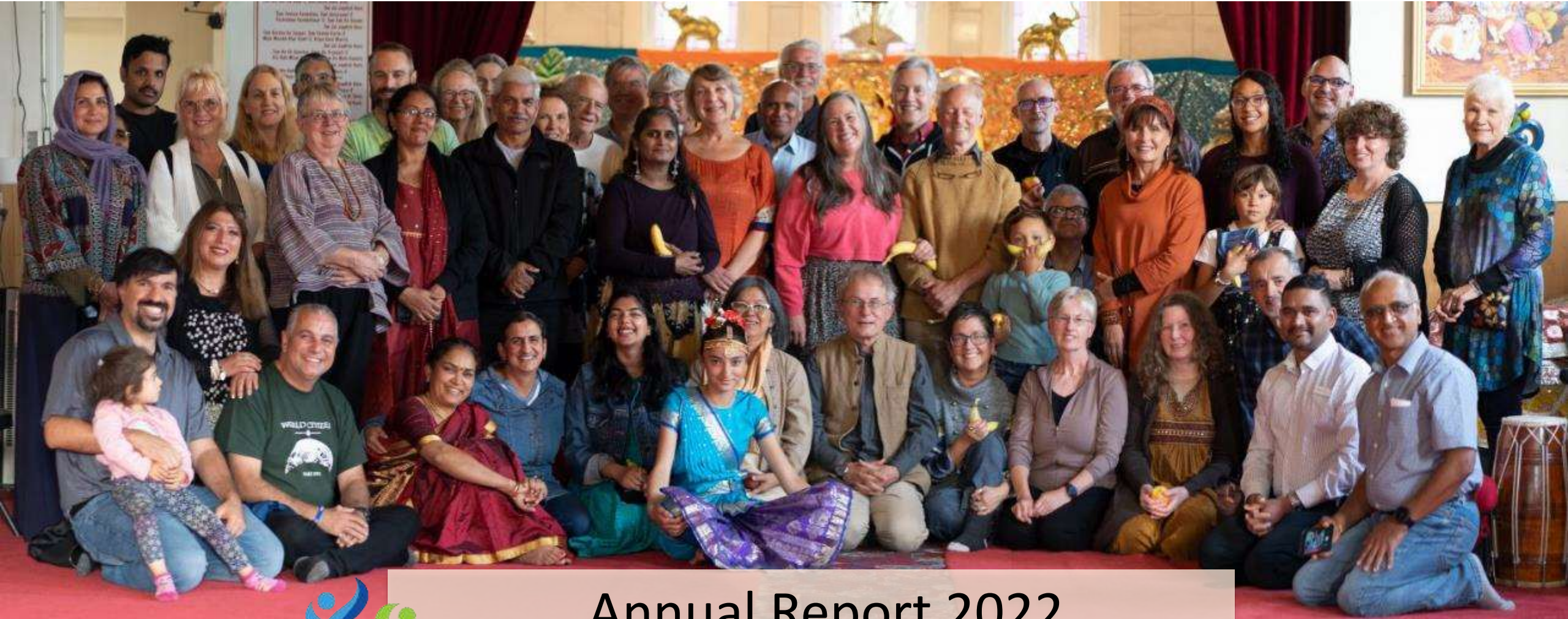


Gathering at the Hindu Temple, 17-9-22



Annual Report 2022

Victoria Multifaith Society



Our Mission

To learn
from one another

To celebrate
our unity in diversity

To work together
for the well-being of the
community & the world



2022

Launch of the
Learning Anti-Racism Toolkit

Sharing our faiths and learning
about others

Online & in person events on issues
of concern from a values-based
perspective

Fruitful collaborations with
like-minded organizations



Spirit, Oneness & Climate Justice



7 p.m., Wednesday, 2 February 2022, online

Four Canadians speak about the spiritual and practical aspects of the climate emergency.

Community
Partnership Network


WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK


VICTORIA
MULTIFAITH
SOCIETY


University
of Victoria
Multifaith
Services

World Interfaith Harmony Week was celebrated on 2 February, 2022

MC Farouk Mitha welcomed Panelists Sharon Welsh, Janet Gray & Tony Snow speaking on the spiritual & practical dimensions of the climate emergency.

Organized by VMS; held online.

- **Sharing our Faiths**
- **Guest presentations**
- **Anti-Racism Workshops**



Open Door Spiritualist Sanctuary



Quaker Friends Meeting House

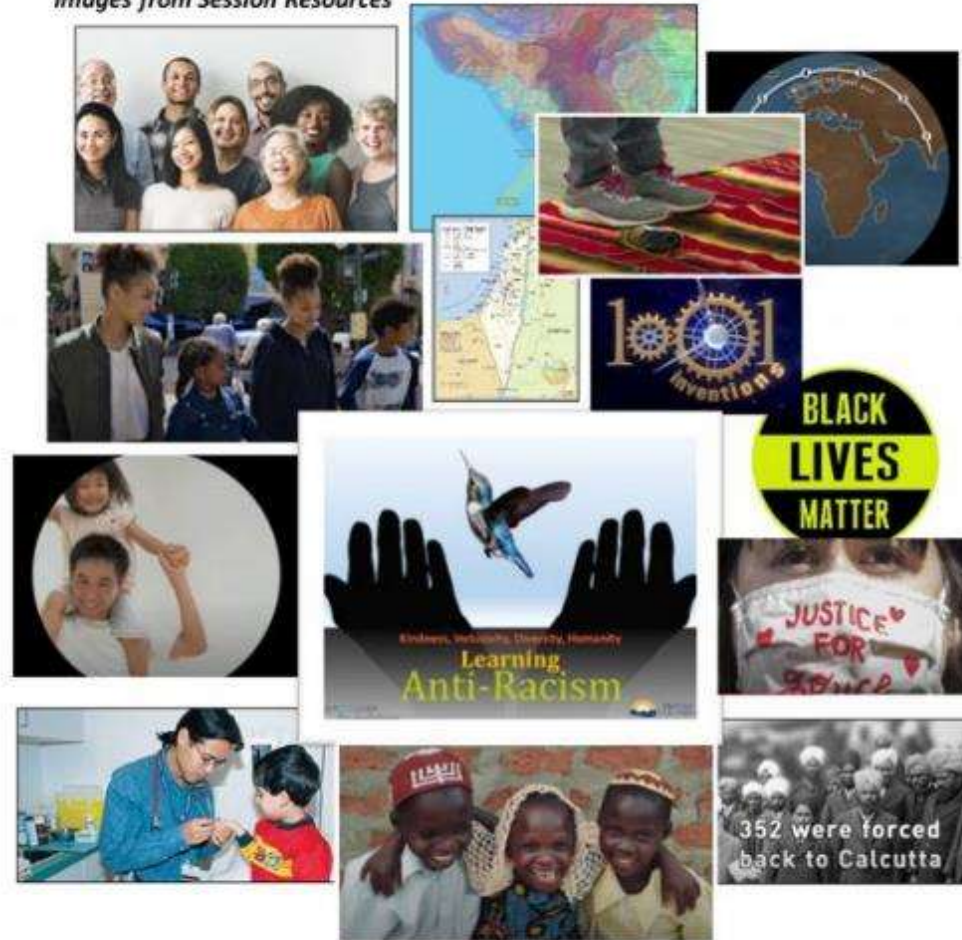


The Interfaith Liaisons Network

- Meetings were held monthly, sharing faith perspectives and experiences.
- Presentations on the Greater Victoria Peace School, the World Partnership Walk and the Hindu religion.
 - Sept – Nov., 3 Anti-racism workshops: *Appreciating the Asian-Canadian Heritage;*
Anti-Indigenous Racism; and Antisemitism.

Anti-Racism Project Launch, March 29

Images from Session Resources



INTRODUCTION TO Learning Anti-Racism

A Toolkit for our Times
The Human Family

Tuesday, 29 March,
1:30—3:30 p.m.

Free Eventbrite Registration
Equality, Inclusivity, Diversity, Humanity



CCRL The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy
CLRC Le centre de littératie religieuse-civique

The *Learning Anti-Racism Toolkit*, the product of a 15-month project begun in January '21, was launched online in March 2022.



Learning Anti-Racism Toolkit

*Available on the VMS
website under
[Resources](#)*

8 sessions

- **The Human Family**
- **Islamophobia**
- **Anti-Asian Racism**
- **Antisemitism**
- **Anti-Indigenous Racism (2 sessions)**
- **Anti-Black Racism (2)**



The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the soul of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness.

Debriefing: Quotes and discussion questions to promote reflection and action

Session 5: Anti-Indigenous Racism

Re-evaluating Canadian History



Intro: The goal of this session is to develop a narrative that places Indigenous history at the starting point and central to the story we tell ourselves about Canadian history.

Videos (to watch as a group)

- [What non-Indigenous Canadians Need to Know](#) (4:36 min.)
- [What is Treaty? Grand Chief Steven Point](#) (4:27 min.)

Small Group Discussion:

Step 1. B.C. has 203 First Nations, 36% of which have active or completed treaty negotiations as of 2021. Most of the land is unceded territory. You're encouraged to research this in greater detail in the resources given at the end of this workshop.

For this exercise, we'll be looking at a territorial map of North America, pre-colonization: the [Native Land interactive map](#). Individually or in pairs, locate the territory where you currently are and also the place you were born. Note down the **Native Territory, Language and applicable Treaties**, using this map and the [First People's Map of BC](#).

Step 2. Discuss and share, beginning with a round of responses from the individuals or pairs for the 1st question below.

- What new information did you learn in studying the maps?
- How does this change your concept of Canadian history? What were some of the things that surprised or disturbed you?
- What are some of the Indigenous stereotypes in popular culture, both positive and negative? (Think about movies, media, songs, books etc.)
- What attitude or attitudes towards Indigenous people prevailed in the place you grew up? How has this changed over the years?

Pre-Workshop:

• Locate the 2 websites [Native Land interactive map](#) and [First People's Map of BC](#) and have them ready on a device that can be brought to the workshop.

• Watch [Wigwagsabak - the Tree of Life](#) (22:08 min.) and read or watch at least 1 item from each section of *Suggested Reading & Viewing*.

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Each workshop includes videos to watch in advance, resources, quotes, breakout groups and debriefings.

Contact us for more information.

victoriamultifaith@gmail.com

Spiritually Speaking column



The Value of Simple Silence...



Adversarial Democracy...



Finding a New Normal...



Changing the World...

About 25 multifaith writers contribute to the Spiritually Speaking / Faith Forum column of the **Times-Colonist** newspaper, expressing a values-based perspective on current issues.

Affiliated with VMS and moderated by Anna Bowness-Park, the column appears twice weekly online and Saturdays in the print edition.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Ismaili Muslim Community, 19-June-22



Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration

"Honouring Peace"

9 Aug. 2022 with 300+ attending



One Spirit: Celebrating our Faiths Together

September 17th, 2022

Multifaith, arts-based devotional, with the Hindu Parishad and Cultural Centre



Sorrento Centre — 22 Oct. 2022



Mindfulness and Indigenous Law,
a full-day conference, was held in Sorrento
in collaboration with the Sorrento Centre
and the Secwepemc Tribal Council.



AGM 2022

Indigenous & Canadian Stories: New Understandings

13 November, 2022

VMS Board of Directors

Thank you

to former board members:

Moussa Magassa

(Muslim seat)

&

Yavhel Velasquez

(Unity seat)



Welcome

May Shihadeh (Muslim seat)

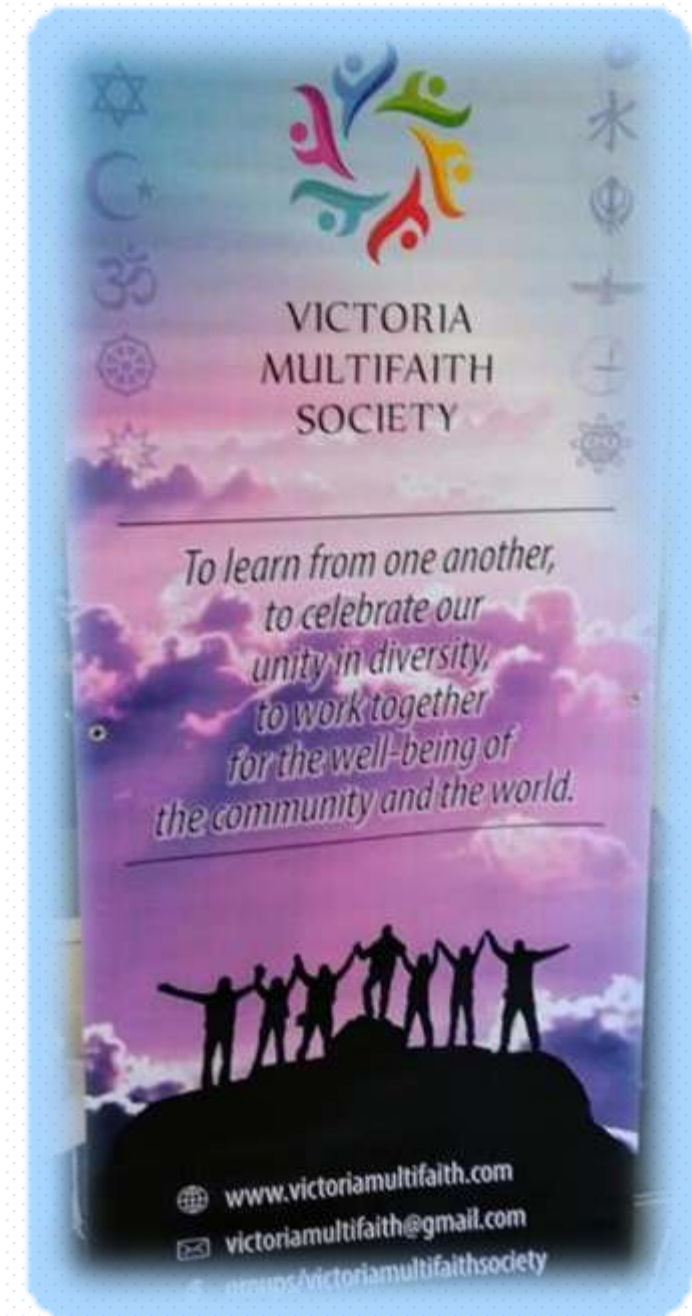


Lesia Kohut (Unity seat)



VMS Board 2022

- **John Borrows** – Chair, Indigenous Spirituality
- **Henri Lock** – Secretary, Christian seat
- **Ora Stefanic** – Treasurer, Jewish seat
- **Lesia Kohut** – Unity seat
- **May Shihadeh** – Muslim seat
- **Janine Theobald** – Buddhist seat
- **Jagir Virk** – Sikh seat
- **David Batterham** – Bahá'í seat
- **Shrikant Shenwai** – Hindu seat
- **Sheila Flood** – Executive Director





Plans for 2023

World Interfaith Harmony event, 5 Feb.

Rollout of Anti-Racism Toolkit

New “Beyond Polarization” Project

Regular activities such as ILN

Financial Report 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

Victoria Multifaith Society			
Financial Statement July 1, 2021 - June 30,2022			
OPENING BALANCE July 1, 2021			\$ 13,864.91
INCOME			
Donations - Canada Helps and other			\$ 1,768.86
Anti-Racism project			\$ 1,667.00
*ICA			\$ 100.00
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 3,535.86
EXPENSES			
Account service charge			\$ 6.00
Shares membership fees			\$ 5.00
Director Insurance			\$ 750.00
Wreath-remembrance day			\$ 92.31
Honorarium-Anti Racism project			\$ 2,500.00
Facilitators-Anti-Racism project			\$ 6,667.00
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 10,020.31
EXPENSES OVER INCOME			\$ (6,484.45)
BALANCE as of June 30, 2022			\$ 7,380.46

*Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria-contribution to World Interfaith Harmony Event

The Victoria Multifaith Society is a project of the World Inter-Faith Education Association BC

Membership & Donations

- **Membership free with any donation**
- VMS website “Donate or Join”
 - E-transfers through Canada Helps
 - Tax receipts for donations \$20 & over
- www.victoriamultifaith.com
Victoriamultifaith@gmail.com

