



*Our literary efforts will be guided by the language-related personal ethic
“I commit myself to true speech, not false; healing speech, not divisive;
amiable speech, not unkind; meaningful speech, not idle chatter”.*

Buddhist Literary Festival Canada 2021
Friday-Sunday, December 10–12, 2021, 2–5 p.m. EST Daily
Online & Free ([Register By Clicking Here](#))

PROPOSED BY: Venerable Professor Bhikkhu Mihita (Retired, Trinity Divinity, University of Toronto)

SPONSORED BY: Centre for Religion and Its Contexts, Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto

TEMPLE CO-SPONSORS: Mahadhammika (Burmese); **Mahayana Pure Land Temple** (Chinese); **Pho Hien** (Vietnamese); **Toronto Mahavihara** (Sri Lankan)

INSPIRATION

It has been nearly two years since Canadians have been deprived of, thanks to COVID, what the Buddha calls ‘contact food’ (phassāhāra). So the inspiration to hold this second Buddhist Literary Festival (the first was held in 2017 at Word on the Street Harbourfront) at this time as we come out of a sombre experience is to provide an opportunity for Buddhists to join hands in a joyful and relaxing esthetic experience, and enjoy some ‘contact food,’ literally and figuratively, at the same time introducing ourselves to a relatively little known dimension of Buddhism.

Buddhist Literary Festival Canada 2021 Program

DAY 1: Friday, December 10, 2021 (2–5 p.m. EST)

OPENING

1. National Anthem, Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome from **Prof. John H. Young**, Interim Principal, Emmanuel College
3. Theme Song: *Buddhist Unity Song–Roll the Dharma Wheel*, led by Kimberly Beek
4. Welcome from Co-sponsoring Buddhist Temples:
 - i. Mahadhammika (*Burmese*, GTA) Temple: **Venerable Bhante Kawwida**
 - ii. Mahayana Pure Land Temple (*Chinese*, Markham, ON): **Venerable Master Xin Yin**
 - iii. Pho Hien (*Vietnamese*, GTA): **Venerable Thich Chan Toan, PhD**
 - iv. Toronto Mahavihara (*Sri Lankan*, GTA): **Venerable Ahangama Rathanasiri Mahathero**
5. Proposer Welcome & Introductory Talk: “Buddha as Language and Literary Entrepreneur:” **Venerable Prof. Bhikkhu Mihita** (Retired, Trinity Divinity, University of Toronto)

PRESENTATIONS

6. Elders’ Verses–Female (*Therigāthā*) (earliest women in poetry): **Upāsikā Eleanor, PhD**, University of Toronto
7. Elders’ Verses–Male (*Theragāthā*): **Prof. Martin Adam**, University of Victoria, BC
8. Early Canadian Novelists: **Terry Watada**, reading from his latest novel
9. Pioneer Recognition in Gratitude (*Kataññutā*) and Honoree Hour
 - Literature–Creative Writing
 - Buddhist Fiction Blog
 - Biography
 - Education
 - Academic
 - Organizational
 - Historical–Interfaith

DAY 2: Saturday, December 11, 2021 (2–5 p.m. EST)

1. Contemporary Canadian poets:
 - a. **Terry Watada**
 - b. **Asoka Weerasinghe**, poem: “The Bamiyan Buddhas”
2. “The Literature of the Pali Canon,” **Dr. Bryan Levman**, University of Toronto
3. Canadian Novel: **Prof. Vanessa R. Sasson**, Marianopolis College, Quebec, *Yasodhara and the Buddha*.
4. Buddhist Youth Oratory: **Sachini Jayewardene**, *Loving Kindness*
5. “Classical Chinese Literature,” **Prof. Henry Shiu**, University of Toronto
6. Canadian Buddhist Publishers
 - a. Nalanda Publishing Canada, **Jim Vuylsteke**
 - b. Sumeru Press, **John Negru**
7. “Early Buddhist Western Literature,” **Ven. Ajahn Punnadhammo Mahathero**
8. “Buddhism as Theatre: Ethical Dimensions of adapting for the Stage What the Buddha Never Taught,” **Prof. Martin Adam**, University of Victoria, BC

DAY 3: Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021 (2–5 pm)

1. Buddhist Biographers: **Prof. Glen Choi**, Seneca College: *Beginning, Middle & Zen: Tales from Canada to Korea and Back Again*
2. “Literature in the Sky! (as in the Canon),” **Venerable Prof Bhikkhu Mihita**
3. “Overview of the Realms of Existence,” **Venerable Ajahn Punnadhammo Mahathero**
4. **TOWNHALL Towards the Future: Share, Ask, Shape, Volunteer**

CLOSING

Metta! Anumodana! Namo Amitabho! May you be well and happy!