

LAST DAY FOR LIVE-IN
REGISTRATIONS JUNE 2!

Canadian Christian Meditation Community
Biennial National Conference Retreat

July 5–7, 2024

Totem Park, University of British Columbia
2525 West Mall, Vancouver, BC

From Anxiety to Peace

Led by Laurence Freeman OSB
Keynote speaker Kaveh Guilanpour

Biographies



Laurence Freeman was born in England in 1951 where he was educated by the Benedictines and studied English Literature at New College, Oxford University. Before entering monastic life, he had experience with the United Nations in New York, banking and journalism.

Today Fr. Laurence is a Benedictine monk of the Monastery of Sta Maria di Pilastrello, Lendinara, in the Benedictine Congregation of Monte Oliveto. He is Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation.

In the monastery, his spiritual teacher was John Main. He helped Fr. John to establish the first Christian Meditation Centre in London. At the invitation of the Archbishop of Montreal, in 1977, he accompanied John Main to establish a Benedictine community of monks and laypeople dedicated to the practice and teaching of Christian meditation. Fr. Laurence studied theology at the Université de Montréal and at McGill University. He made his solemn monastic profession in 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1980.

After the death of John Main in 1982, he continued the work of teaching meditation that had already begun to develop a global community. In 1991, Fr. Laurence returned to England to establish the International Centre of the newly formed World Community for Christian Meditation, now present in more than a hundred countries and which has become a 'monastery without walls', in which he travels and teaches widely.



Squamish Elder **Wendy Charbonneau** is a direct descendant of Chief Capilano on her father's side and Mulks the great guardian of Squamish legends and folklore on her mother's side. She is a residential school survivor. As an Early Childhood Educator, she has touched the lives of many children through Indigenous storytelling as well as native arts and crafts. Her trilogy "Resisting Injustice, Genocide and Linguicide" (2019) was premiered on its completion during Truth and Reconciliation Week at Capilano University in 2019. "Women Are Gone" (2016) gives voice to the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls who remain unaccounted for; "Where the Salmon Tumble" (2018) speaks of the plight and dignity of the Squamish Nation; and "Ancestors: In the Shadows of Time" (2019) grieves the loss of the original Squamish language (Elizabeth Carmack, 2019).



Kaveh Guilanpour is a former senior member of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Team and Vice-President for International Strategies at the Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions.



Diane Tolomeo lives in Victoria, British Columbia where she is a happily retired professor of English. She taught at the University of Victoria for 34 years, specializing in biblical literature and its archetypal patterns. She holds a PhD in English Literature from Princeton University.



Jason M. Brown was born and raised in Southern California and studied anthropology and international development as an undergraduate at Brigham Young University. He earned joint master's degrees in forestry and theology from Yale. He completed his PhD in 2017 from the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) at the University of British Columbia where his dissertation explored the sense of place of contemporary Catholic monks in the American West. As a Lecturer at Simon Fraser University Jason teaches courses in comparative religion and ecological humanities for the department of Global Humanities and occasionally environmental ethics for the School of Resource and Environmental Management. He leads retreats on contemplative ecology, and is piloting an ecological chaplaincy project at SFU. He is Co-Chair of the Oyster River Brandt Hermitage Society.

For the Conference Retreat brochure, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Conference Retreat schedule is on the next page.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

- 3:00 – 6:00pm Check in
- 5:45pm Dinner
- 7–9pm
- Welcome and Introduction by National Coordinator André Choquet
 - Land Acknowledgement by Squamish Elder Wendy Charbonneau
 - **Session 1: Fr. Laurence Freeman**
 - Evening Prayer and Meditation

SATURDAY, JULY 6

- 7:00am Meditation (optional)
- 7:45am Breakfast (Live In only)
- 9:00am Morning Prayer and Meditation
- 9:45am **Session 2: Fr. Laurence Freeman and Kaveh Guilanpour**
- 10:45am Coffee/tea Health Break
- 11:15am **Dr. Diane Tolomeo** “‘I Worried a Lot’: Poems that Move Us to Peace”
- Noon Lunch & Book Sales
- 1:30pm Midday Prayer and Meditation
- 2:15pm **Dr. Jason Brown** “Honouring the Legacy of Fr. Charles Brandt: A Contemplative Ecologist for our Times”
- 3:15pm Health Break
- 3:45pm **Session 3: Laurence Freeman, Kaveh Guilanpour, Dr. Diane Tolomeo and Dr. Jason Brown**
- 4:45pm Evening Prayer and Meditation
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 7pm AGM of the CCMC
- 8pm Music with JoAnn Primeau followed by reception

SUNDAY, JULY 7

- 7:00am Morning Prayer and Meditation (optional)
- 7:45am Breakfast (Live In only)*
- 9:00am **Session 4: Fr. Laurence Freeman and Kaveh Guilanpour**
- 10:00am **Closing Session and announcements**
- 10:15am Health Break
- 10:45am Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation
- 12:30pm Lunch & Departure

* Check out is required at this time for those lodging on campus. Secure storage for luggage will be available at Totem Park front desk.

Program subject to change