



# *Spiritualist Church of Canada*

*Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul*

**SPECIAL EDITION**

*Winter 2021*

## **From the President**

### **Happy Holidays**

*The Christmas Holidays are fast approaching, and as another year is coming to conclusion the Board of Governors of the Spiritualist Church of Canada want to wish you and your family peace, joy, and love.*

*With all the challenges that we have gone through and keep facing, one thing I know with certainty is the resilience of you and me.*

*Keeping our spiritual center in the now and allowing discernment to lead us in each moment, we can stand in our truth as our lives unfold.*

*We have heard that Christmas isn't just a day, it is a frame of mind. As we allow unconditional love to be our go to place, hence we hold on to Christmas in our hearts every day.*

*Blessings and Happy 2022,*

*Reverend Angie Morra*

*As always, we welcome your ideas let us know what you are thinking. Please use our email address*

*[feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com) to*

## **Land Acknowledgement**

*With deep respect for our indigenous heritage the Spiritualist Church of Canada acknowledges the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.*

***Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays from the Board of the Spiritualist Church of Canada***

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Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, SK

*And to restore them to perfect health  
I put my trust in the Love and Power of  
God*



*For all healing, mental or  
material, is attuning each  
atom of the body, each  
reflex of the brain forces,  
to the awareness of the  
divine that lies within each atom, each cell of  
the body.*

**Edgar Cayce, The Sleeping Prophet**

## **From the Editor**

*Those who know me think I am not too fond  
of Christmas, especially Christmas songs. On  
the other hand, those who know me know  
that I love a good Christmas song -the ones  
you can sing all year round.*

*One of those tunes that I find classic and  
love to trill at the top of my voice is "The  
Christmas Song." It makes me both happy  
and sad in turns believe it or not.*

*I wish for so many of us to experience the  
feelings of well-wishing, love, respect, and  
gratitude every day. I know that there are*

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those out there who see past the shopping/coloured lights and baubles and seek out those who will allow them to share a bit of themselves with them.

To you all, both those who are served and those who serve, I say thank you. May we continue to hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts year-round.

Peace & Love, Stevie

### ***In this special edition:***

Rev. Ella Groves shares a bit of history in this 101<sup>st</sup> year for Calgary First Spiritualist Church.

We welcomed two new ministers to the SCC!

Check out a back issue or two of the SCC newsletters at the Spiritualist Church of Canada website:

<https://www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com/index.php/events-and-news/president-s-message-newsletters>

We continue to invite comments, reviews, ideas for history articles. Please send your submissions to:

[newsletter@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:newsletter@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

## **Canadian Spiritualist History**

### **Calgary First Milestone 2021**

**by Reverend Ella Groves**

The **Calgary First Spiritualist Church (CFSC)** celebrated its **101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary** on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

Sometime prior to 1915, a medium by the name of Ada Garrard had a dream of starting a Spiritualist group; she put an ad in the local Calgary paper inviting interested people to come to a meeting. There was a great deal of interest and soon a body of people grew, and it wasn't long before the parents had a dream. They wanted an opportunity for their children to be taught Spiritualist values and principles based on the teachings of Andrew Jackson Davis. They formed a branch of the Children's Progressive Lyceum and got manuals sent out from England. There were 25 to 30 children who attended the Lyceum in rented halls in Calgary.

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# Spiritualist Church of Canada



*Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul*

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Before long, these visionary Spiritualists had an even grander dream. They wanted their own church and on November 25 of 1920 the Government of Alberta incorporated the **Calgary First Spiritualist Church**. They bought a small building, a Moravian Church located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Southeast. The bell tower was removed, but the stained-glass windows were left intact, and a front porch was added.



Now they had a place to hold the Lyceum, church services and social events. They didn't

stop dreaming; the congregation put their energy into fundraising and in 1929 they burned the mortgage. The dream of having a permanent center for Spiritualists to gather and serve the community was a reality.

The small church did not have main floor bathrooms, nor did it have a

kitchen. There was a bathroom in the basement but to get to it, one had to slide a heavy pew back, open a trap door and then descend a very steep ladder-like staircase. Holding fund raising teas, potluck suppers, whist drives and the annual Christmas Party had its challenges because there was no kitchen. Not many people owned cars in those days so turkeys and hams, pots of mashed potatoes and pies had to be cooked at home and taken to the church on city buses.

The Ladies League dreamed about having an annex with a real kitchen and main floor bathrooms. They worked hard and raised enough money so that their vision became a reality. However, it didn't turn out quite the way they expected. Rev. Eleanor Collette was the one collaborating with the contractor. Eleanor had a strong English accent, and the contractor wasn't too clear about his English. The contractor asked what colour he was to

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# Spiritualist Church of Canada



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*paint the kitchen and Eleanor told him to paint it a 'light green'. It was a shock when people walked in and found their lovely new kitchen had been painted a bilious 'lime green'.*

*Now across the street at City Hall there were politicians dreaming dreams with a vision of urban renewal. The city was buying all the nearby little bungalows and houses with their rose gardens and picket fences. Since the church board did not wish to part with their property, the word EXPROPRIATION loomed over the church. It was an aging Spiritualist population running the church by the late 1960's and many of the mediums and church members had passed onto their reward or were retired. Despite the huge amount of work and effort it would take, there were still those who dreamed the dream and had the vision to continue.*

*location for the church as it was on a corner lot in a pleasant suburb and on a bus line. By the way, the Ladies League made sure that the new building had two kitchens, one upstairs and one downstairs.*

*There was a seventeen-year period in the history of the CFSC when the running of the church fell under the control of one person. The constitution and Roberts Rules, annual elections for Board Members and the opportunity for new members to join the church, were cast aside. There seemed to be no vision for the future of the church. By the late 1980's, the building had fallen into a state of disrepair, the bank account was empty, and the number of people attending services dwindled. The dynamic group energy and vision that kept the church alive and vibrant was gone.*



*In 1974 the church renovated a side-by-side duplex. It was a suitable*

*Fortunately, in 1980 David and Avril Oliver had moved to Calgary. David was a long-time Spiritualist from*

***Christmas, Happy Holidays from the Board of the Spiritualist Church of Canada***



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*England and started to attend circles at the CFSC. Later, in the 1990's he was ordained as a minister and people began to look to him for leadership. David and Avril were familiar with how Spiritualist churches were organized and run in England, and Avril was an excellent organizer and familiar with the process of running democratic meetings.*

*In 1992 the democracy of the church was restored. The 1920 constitution was reinstated. Once again members were allowed to join the church and there was an elected board. With a growing membership and a vision shared by the Olivers, members of my family and other Spiritualists, new dreams were dreamed, new visions were formed. Like the phoenix the spirit of the church rose from the ashes and the church moved forward with new vibrancy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

*It wasn't long before there were so many activities that the church formed*

*committees to oversee the many educational and training programs, outreach activities, building and maintenance requirements, fundraising, social events and much more. The ministry established an Introduction to Spiritualism Course for new members, and the SCC provided ministerial programs thus expanding the number of ordained church ministers.*

*The CFSC had planned to celebrate its centennial throughout the year of 2020 starting in January. Fortunately, two special projects were completed before the pandemic resulted in the church having to close its doors for 17 months. **Guidance for Life's Journey** was a collection of inspirational and enlightening talks given at Sunday services and published in a commemorative book. A theatrical*

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*Winter 2021*

performance, **Spirited Women**, was written and performed based on an encounter of two women, Emma Hardinge Britten and Madame Helena Blavatsky, reminiscing about their lives as pioneer Spiritualists.



Once again, the church is open and due to sound church management and dedicated volunteers it

does not have to rise like the phoenix from the ashes. Gratitude and appreciation go to those who have stepped forward to keep the dream of the CFSC pioneers alive.

## **INSPIRATIONAL**

“Within every human being is the power of receiving from the great reservoir of infinite intelligence from which can be supplied all human needs. Here all true knowledge is waiting to be drawn upon by every child of this great universe.” **H. Gordon**

**Burroughs**

## **Messages from Spirit**

**Our concern is not with the color of skins .  
This is purely physical  
- souls have no colors .  
There are no yellow souls ,  
no red souls , no black souls .  
All souls are equal in origin .  
Every soul is the reflection  
of the Great Soul , the Over-Soul ,  
the Great Spirit , what you call God .**

**- Silver Birch**

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Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul

SPECIAL EDITION

Winter 2021

## Spirit's Reading Corner

### COMPANY

My door is always open.  
The happiness within,  
Draws friends and folks  
I don't yet know  
To join the fun with kin.

The kettle's always boiling,  
For tea is staple fare,  
And sweets or food not far behind,  
Warm hearts and hands all year.

-Heather Pigden is an Ottawa based wordsmith and energy healer, truly in love with people and revels in others' reactions to stories and poems.,



## Spirit's Music Corner

The SCC's Candlelight Service Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December led by Rev. Brenda Philp was in

turns, powerful, energizing and meditative. I was so moved by the music selection I wanted to recommend a listen: **'Toy Trains'** sung by Nana Mouskouri and Lucinda Drayton's **'A Hundred Thousand Angels'**.

## Spiritualist History

*Cited from:* History of Spiritualism by Arthur Conan Doyle, The Canadian Encyclopedia and University of Manitoba Spiritualism digital archives' **Psychic News**

### 3 January 1923

American born Medium, Cora L. V. Scott passed into Spirit. Cora was one of the best-known mediums of the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was a trance lecturer who wrote a few books attributed to her guides rather than herself. Ms. Richmond was the Pastor of the Church of the Soul in Chicago, IL



### 24 December 1932

\*\*\*can we find a copy of this I wonder?

THE NEW HISTORY OF  
SPIRITUALISM  
FIRST BOUND VOLUME OF  
THE "Psychic News"

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Winter 2021

## 10 January 1948

Article in *Psychic News* about the slow progression of Lyceums in North America, they talk about the only Canadian affiliate of the English movement being in Calgary, Alberta.

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness. "

--John Steinbeck

## Christmas Day 1971

Award for Spiritualist of the Year?!  
Sponsored by *The Psychic News*- this was year # 6.

**WHO WILL WIN 1971 AWARD?**

WHO do you consider has contributed most to Spiritualism during this year? Who will be the Spiritualist of 1971?

We invite readers to nominate their choice for the sixth recipient of this PN award.

The first was automatist Geraldine Cummins in 1966. Then came famous mediums Ena Twigg, Jessie Nason, Rosemary Brown and last year Gordon Higginson.

The identity of the Spiritualist of 1971 will be revealed and the person given a suitable award at our dinner/dance on April 22, 1972.

Note this date in your diary

so as to be present for an epoch-making celebration. It will be PN's 40th anniversary birthday party.

Choose the individual you think qualifies for this award and give reasons for your nomination. This should not exceed 100 words.

Closing date for entries is January 31. Please mark your envelopes, "PN Award."

No one connected with this newspaper is eligible. An editorial staff panel will make the final choice.

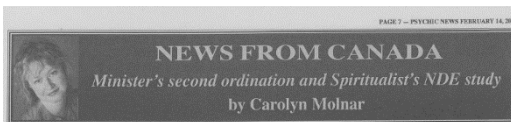
We offer a prize of £2 to the reader who makes what the Editor considers the best contribution. This does not necessarily have to name the winner.

Published by Psychic Press Ltd., 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 9BB, and printed by QE Ltd., Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.



## 14 February 2009

Carolyn Molnar's column in *Psychic*



News features Rev. Sandy Greer's journey from unrecognized ordination in Canada to a second ordination completed

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## **ORDINATIONS**



On **Sunday November 21, 2021**, I was greatly honored to ordain **Reverend Heidi Hopkins** as a Minister of the Spiritualist Church of Canada.

The ceremony was held at the Spiritual Society of Barrie, located 464 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie, ON and was witnessed by Heidi's family and friends, from both sides of life.

Reverend Heidi says, "My journey of becoming an ordained minister started about 7 years ago. I thought about it, and it took some time to do it but with determination I accomplished part of my journey.

I want to help and teach others what Spiritualism is about and help them on their journey as others have helped me. I am so proud to be a Spiritualist and the path I am on."



Welcome Heidi, to your role as an SCC Minister and an ambassador for the Spiritualist Church of Canada.

On **Friday November 12, 2021**, I was greatly honored to ordain **Reverend Brenda Philp** as a Minister of the Spiritualist Church of Canada.

The service was held by way of Zoom and the ceremony was witnessed by the Board of the Spiritualist Church of Canada.

Reverend Brenda says, "Having been a long-time member of the SCC and having sat on the Board of the SCC for many years I have had the opportunity of seeing just how much this organization does for its members and for Spiritualism on the whole. Although, for over 10 years I have been ordained within my home church in London, Ontario, where I will continue to hold my registration to perform marriages, through the SCC I have had the opportunity to become part of a broader Spiritualist community. The SCC is both a first-class educational organization and a great way to form friendships with other Spiritualists across Canada and around the world. I look forward with

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*Winter 2021*

excitement to the new opportunities as an ordained Minister of the Spiritualist Church of Canada”.

Welcome Brenda, to your role as a SCC Minister and an ambassador for the Spiritualist Church of Canada.

Blessings

Rev Angie Morra President

## **AROUND TOWN**

### *Alberta*

#### **St. Brigid's Spiritualist Church**



OUR MINISTERS AND RESIDENT  
MEDIUMS ARE OFFERING  
EVIDENTIAL MEDIUMSHIP &  
SPIRITUAL HEALINGS!

\$25/20 minutes

\$50/45 minutes

Email us @

info@stbrigidsspiritualistchurc  
h.ca and let us know if you  
would like Richard, Jill, Kim or  
Bobbi

#### **Lethbridge Spiritualist Centre/Eternity Connection/Calgary First Spiritualist Church**

Offered every Sunday morning at 9:30 am (MT) spiritual healing and at 11 am a Sunday service (with local and UK mediums). This has been a joint effort between Lethbridge Spiritualist Centre, the Eternity Connection and the Calgary First Spiritualist Church. These events and how to register can be found on our website, [www.eternityconnection.org](http://www.eternityconnection.org) under the “community” section.

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## **The Gateway Centre**

Holding Virtual Sunday Services at 2:00 pm  
on Zoom check website for full details:  
<https://www.gatewaycentre.ca/>

## **Manitoba**

### **Spiritualist Fellowship Church**

The Spiritualist Fellowship church will be hosting weekly services in an abbreviated format at 7:00 p.m. online through Zoom.

**Link:** <https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/71631174632>

**Meeting ID:** 716 3117 4632

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

**Weekly Sunday Services on Zoom:**

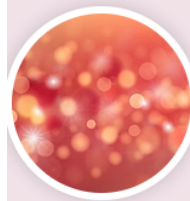
<https://uso4web.zoom.us/meeting/upUrdOipqT8sGdZvLMji7LHFj1WELnIFrawQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKu6pqDgrGgORthqFR7YcBljCd-vwtildjadnijPIKSkETivQHLN1F55xOf7C>

## **Ontario**

### **Church of Universal Love**

Rev. Gillian Edwards and the Board have continued to offer a meditation and healing service Friday nights on Facebook Live. COUL conducts a Divine Service on Sundays at 10:30 by Zoom. For zoom link information contact: <https://www.churchofuniversallove.com/>

There are three events slated for the winter season:



#### **COUL All Message Service!**

Sunday January 2, 2022  
On ZOOM  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm EST

Love Offering

Join us on ZOOM for a morning of upliftment, inspiration, and fun in the new year.

We look forward to seeing you there and serving spirit on your behalf in the name of love and light!



#### **2022 Burning Bowl Ceremony with Marnie Banks**

Sunday January 9, 2022  
On ZOOM  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm EST

Love Offering

Ready to say goodbye to 2021?

Join us for our popular Burning Bowl Ceremony as you say farewell and then set your intentions for the New Year. This ceremony and meditations will help you leave behind what no longer serves and clear the way to manifest your best life going forward.

What better way to pause, reflect and open yourself to changes enhancing your life in so many ways? You will find this a joyful and powerful event, both individually and collectively, allowing us to move into 2022, seeing the future in a positive light.

This ceremony is being held via zoom again this year, so please have your own paper and pens available in order to participate fully.

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Winter 2021



## Mediumship Development Circle

Monday January 10, 2022  
On ZOOM  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST  
Love Offering:  
\$10.00

Register

Join us on ZOOM for this monthly circle where you can have a chance to practice your Mediumship. Whether you are a Medium in training or need a place to get back on track, this is the place for you.

Once registered, we will provide you with a Zoom link to this evening.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## First Spiritualist Church of Galt

Virtual Services are held every Sunday at 11:00 am details to be found on their website:

<http://www.firstspiritualistchurchofgalt.ca/>

All are welcome to join us.

During the Service we offer a healing meditation, an address, and a demonstration of mediumship.

Our Wednesday Message Services are being held on the first Wednesday of the month

## London Spiritualist Church

Offering virtual service at 1:30 pm on Zoom check the LSC website for full details and guest speakers:

<http://www.londonspiritualistchurch.com/>

EVER WONDER IF YOU CAN CONNECT WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD  
SIGN UP TODAY FOR THIS EXPLORATORY COURSE

### BASIC MEDIUMSHIP STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING

Facilitated by: Rev. Carol Burrows  
Co-Facilitated by: Karen Bell

Whether you are a beginner into the study of mediumship, or a medium who hasn't been practicing and needs a kick to restart, this course is for you.

WHEN: January 22, 2022

TIME: 9:30 AM TIL 2:00 PM

WHERE: PARLOUR, TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

(Participants must be double vaccinated, and we will be following covid safety protocols.)

COST: \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members

(Great reason to buy your LSC Membership Card)

Please pay for course in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer

E-transfer is preferred, send to [lsc4money@gmail.com](mailto:lsc4money@gmail.com)

Full instructions for e-transfers at [www.londonspiritualistchurch.com](http://www.londonspiritualistchurch.com)

The course will be broken down into:

1. What is Mediumship
2. Are you born as a medium
3. What is intuition
4. Signs and symbols, what do they mean
5. How do I start

More than anything, this is a day of fun and exploration. Come with an open mind, open heart, and expect only the highest and best that the spirit world has to offer.

Please bring a snack for lunch break

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## **Springdale Church**

Has re-opened as of 20 September with the Divine Service held at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited to 10 attendees; please forward reservation request to: [information@springdalechurch.ca](mailto:information@springdalechurch.ca) to confirm your attendance or leave a voice mail on: 416.759.3958.

Healing services continue to be on hiatus. Stay tuned for updates.

## **Spiritualist Society of Burlington**

Online Divine Service is on Facebook, join the group through the SSB website 11:00 am Sundays. They share a link for lyrics, principles and healing affirmation. <https://spiritualistsociety.com/>

## **Spiritualist Society of Barrie**

Spiritualist Society of Barrie is holding a **ZOOM Message and Meditation Service** Sunday evenings at 7PM. To join this service, contact SSB by email: [ssbbarriezoom2020@gmail.com](mailto:ssbbarriezoom2020@gmail.com)

## **Star of Hope Spiritualist Church**

All Sunday Services and Wednesday Guided meditations are being held virtually using the Zoom platform. If you would like to be notified and invited to attend Service and/or Meditation, please use the newsletter sign-up feature on their website: <https://thestarofhope.org/>

## **The Healing Spirit**

Currently, The Healing Spirit is holding Sunday services at 10:30 pm by Zoom. Check their website for further details: <https://www.thehealingspirit.ca/>



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## World Winter Solstice & Holiday Celebrations



### Winter Love

*The Winter Solstice falls on the day(s) when the Sun's path in the sky is the farthest north or south from the Equator. The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year.*

*The word solstice comes from the Latin sol "sun" and sistere "to stand still." "Sun stands still" because the path of the Sun seems to stay the same or stand still.*

*In its period of darkness, the winter solstice is an opportunity to go inward with deep intention, to care for our spiritual selves, our bodies and minds, our loved ones and families, and to prepare for the longer days ahead.*

*Although the winter solstice means the start of winter, it also means the return of more sunlight.*



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## EDUCATION



*Given that our country is still facing uncertain times, we the Board understand it is important to continue to*

*move forward with our Education Courses in a safe and friendly environment, your home.*

*The SCC has seen that teaching on ZOOM has provided our students with an alternative venue for in-person classes; allowing students coast to coast to meet.*

*We will be confirming courses to be presented both in-person and by way of Zoom. We acknowledge that ZOOM is a venue that is subject to variable conditions that may play into the connectivity of the call. We also believe for all concerned; this is our best alternative for moving forward.*

*Thank you for your continued support of the Spiritualist Church of Canada and Spiritualism.*

*Reverend Angela Morra,  
President Spiritualist Church of  
Canada*

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## WHAT'S NEW IN THE SCC

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***\*\*\*As of 31 December 2020, the SCC has moved to printable digital membership cards.***

***The New Board Training Course*** is adapted specifically for each Church and available to all SCC registered churches.

*This training will be presented in parts and is tailored to your By-Laws, letters patent, Mission Statement and the roles of Pastor and Board members. A*

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*Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul*

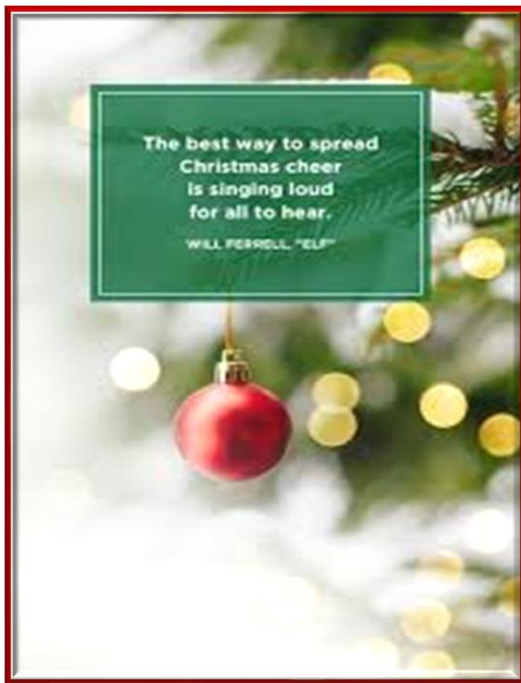
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*Winter 2021*

personalized church binder will be provided for easy reference in running your Church.

[www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](http://www.spiritualistchurchofcanada.com) for more information

*"Extremely comprehensive course, the reference material and examples were very helpful. The fact that a binder full of information was prepared for each board member was a bonus! The time spent answering our questions and getting to know the SCC board was invaluable. Thank you, SCC."*



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Individual members of the Board are unable to answer for the Board. Therefore, any concerns, issues and/or questions must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors via the President or Secretary. The board will discuss, and a reply will be put forward.

[feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

### **Government Compliance for SCC**

As a member church we will advertise your events/workshops on both the website and in the newsletter. The information must come in the form of a flyer containing all pertinent information including indication of proceeds disbursement. Pls contact: [feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:feedback@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com) for clarification.

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# *Spiritualist Church of Canada*



*Eternal Progress Open to Every Soul*

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[President@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:President@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

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[VicePresident@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:VicePresident@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

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[Treasurer@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:Treasurer@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

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[secretary@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:secretary@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

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Stevie Martin: [newsletter@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:newsletter@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

### **Website and Facebook:**

[web@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:web@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

### **Western Liaison:**

Bobbi Pineau: [westernliaison@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com](mailto:westernliaison@spiritualistchurchofcanada.com)

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays from the Board of the Spiritualist Church of Canada**

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