

From: Ron Naidoo <rnaidoo@walkforvalues.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:25:19 PM
To: Mayor Trevor Bazinet <tbazinet@goderich.ca>
Subject: Proclamation Human Values Day on April 24, 2025

Mayor, Town of Goderich

Re: Proclamation Human Values Day on April 24, 2025

Your Worship Mayor Trevor Bazinet

Achieving global peace and happiness begins with each of us adopting the fundamental Human Values of **Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love, and Nonviolence**. These values are essential to our humanity and embody the highest aspirations of the human spirit. They go beyond barriers of race, gender, nationality, caste, creed, faith, and religion. By putting these universal values into practice, we can transform lives and promote peace in our world.

Raising awareness of universal human values can be advanced at various levels within the community. It's essential to engage all community and interfaith groups, educators, healthcare professionals, and those living in marginalized areas. Many local and national governments have come

May 27, 2010, marked a significant milestone as the Canadian Parliament recognized the exceptional contributions of the Sathya Sai School of Canada in promoting core values both domestically and globally. Hon. Michelle Simson, MP, delivered a heartfelt Statement in the House of Commons, honoring the school's initiative—the 'Walk For Values'—which served as a powerful platform for disseminating this vital message. Gratifyingly, support poured in from the Prime Minister, Premiers, Governors, Mayors, MPs, MPPs, and Councillors, all echoing the importance of universal human values.

Since 2015, our efforts have gained remarkable traction, with over **350 proclamations received**. Several provinces—including **Alberta, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador**, along with various municipalities—have officially designated April 24 as Human Values Day. This extensive acknowledgment highlights the increasing recognition of how cultivating human values can significantly benefit both individuals and their communities. Additionally, esteemed landmarks throughout Canada, such as the CN Tower, Niagara Falls, Toronto's 3D sign, City Hall in Toronto, the Hamilton Signature Sign, the Mississauga Clock Tower, the Peace Bridge, BC Place in Vancouver, the High-Level Bridge in Edmonton, and City Hall in Vancouver, joined in commemorating Human Values Day on April 24.

This year, we have an exciting lineup of activities planned! We'll be organizing walks here in Canada and around the world, volunteering at local food banks, partnering with

the Go Green initiative, and participating in tree planting efforts to combat climate change and enhance our environment. Join us in making a positive impact!

I am writing to respectfully request the proclamation of April 24, 2025, as Human Values Day in the **The Town of Goderich**

Attached is our **special 10-year presentation on Human Values** along with the request.

We invite everyone to take a moment for self-reflection and to recognize April 24 each year as “Human Values Day.” This important day will serve to elevate awareness of Canada’s commitment to human values, encouraging all citizens to nurture a culture that promotes, supports, and celebrates “excellence in character” across our schools, businesses, homes, and community organizations. By doing so, we can strengthen families and communities not just in Canada, but across the globe. Through this Canadian initiative, we aim to reignite the significance of human values worldwide, paving the way for universal peace and security, as well as fostering harmony among diverse peoples and cultures. If you have any suggestions for how we can contribute to this transformation, they would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Ron Naidoo (Advisor Team - Walk for Values)

SUMMARY OF OUR ORGANIZATION:

What is Walk for Values?

Walk for Values is a walkathon that began in Malvern, Ontario, back in 2003, initiated by the Parent Council of the Sathya Sai School of Toronto, an independent elementary school recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The school's focus is on Education in Human Values, as the staff, parents, students, and volunteers strive to weave human values into the everyday curriculum.

By 2004, this initiative blossomed into a national event, taking place annually in cities including Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and Coquitlam, with participants from Vancouver, Surrey, and Abbotsford uniting during the City’s Teddy Bear Parade. In 2007, the Walk found a vibrant home in Dundas Square, downtown Toronto, and that same year, it expanded internationally, with events occurring across five major Australian cities. From its humble beginnings of just over 3,000 walkers in Malvern in 2003, the event grew to over 5,000 participants by 2010 at Yonge-Dundas Square, the bustling heart of downtown Toronto, and by 2014, it became an annual international celebration. Today, Walk for Values spans over 40 major cities across six continents!

Since 2013, our Walk has taken place at the iconic Nathan Phillips Square, right in the heart of Toronto City Hall. The purpose of this event is to spread awareness about the importance of adopting positive values to address issues like violence, bullying, drug use, crime, disrespect, and greed within our communities. What makes this gathering unique is that it isn't a fundraiser. Instead, every participant chooses to enrich their community by committing to practice a specific value. It truly embodies a "walk of love," as we work together to uplift our city, one individual at a time, all while pledging to uphold human values and raise our shared social consciousness.

This Walk is designed to highlight the significance of embracing positive values to combat issues like violence, bullying, drugs, crime, disrespect, and greed in our community. What sets this event apart is that it is not about fundraising; instead, each participant commits to enriching our community by choosing a value to practice. This initiative is a true "**walk of love**," focused on enhancing our city, one person at a time, through our dedication to human values. It's a meaningful step toward fostering a greater social awareness within us all.

Mission Statement

"*Walk for Values*" is a walk designed to raise awareness of *Human Values* and to promote individual and collective responsibility for the progress of humanity, one step at a time.

Vision Statement

A non-monetary, non-denominational event, this unique initiative, based on the five basic universal human values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence, is part of a global drive to seed human consciousness with timeless affirmations such as hope, kindness, patience and honesty, along with other positive values deemed integral to the sustenance and survival of mankind.

It calls for an honest self-examination from all its participants who identify areas for personal growth and pledge to practice associated values not only for self-transformation but also collectively for social, environmental and global reformation.

The Objective of the "Walk for Values"

The "Walk for Values" aims to help community members, participating organizations, and students gain a deeper appreciation for the significance of living a values-based life. Fundamental Human Values such as truth, right conduct, peace, love, and non-violence are unfortunately on the wane in our neighborhoods and nations. This decline is evident in the daily headlines we see in newspapers and hear on radio and TV news. Our communities and families are increasingly affected by issues like violence and drug abuse. By remaining passive, we only allow this decline to worsen. As caring citizens, it's our duty to take action. This WALK presents a meaningful opportunity to meet that responsibility and promote the awareness of human values within our community.

The values we embrace are the principles that guide our lives:

****TRUTH**** - embodying honesty, integrity, optimism, and excellence.

****RIGHT CONDUCT**** - demonstrating courtesy, gratitude, fair play, perseverance, determination, responsibility, sacrifice, initiative, leadership, courage, duty, and ethics.

****PEACE**** - fostering contentment, discipline, humility, patience, satisfaction, self-control, self-confidence, self-respect, understanding, and modesty.

****LOVE**** - expressing caring, compassion, reverence, forgiveness, generosity, kindness, enthusiasm, tolerance, dedication, devotion, and unity.

****NON-VIOLENCE**** - promoting gentleness, consideration, moderation, cooperation, brotherhood, equality, cultural respect, and social justice.

Over the past decade, the walk has spanned six continents: North America, South America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa.

North America: **Canada** (Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Fort McMurray, Coquitlam), **USA** (Miami, New York, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Raleigh, Seattle, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Tampa, Charlotte), **Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago**; **Australia:** was represented by major cities including Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth, Brisbane and **New Zealand** (Auckland); **Asia:** **India** (Chandigarh, Bowenpally, Visakhapatnam, Tamil Nadu, New Delhi and Prasanthi Nilayam), **Malasia** (Kuala Lumpur and Perak) **Hong Kong and Sri Lanka**; **Europe:** **UK** (Leicester); **Africa:** **South Africa** the event was hosted across all 13 regions, **Nigeria** (Lagos); **South America:** Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) and Suriname

Event Highlights focusing on the Walk For Values and Human Values Day in Canada

- 10 Years of Human Values Day.
- It's not a fund raiser, but an event to promote Human Values and Character Development.
- The only major public event that supports & promotes excellence in Character in communities
- Collection of non-perishable food items - **with goal of 10 tons** - on a **National** basis for the Food Banks across Canada
- Conducting a **National Blood Donation** drive in partnership with CBS
- Collecting new and re-usable **clothing** to be distributed to the needy
- Donated **108 Children's' beds to charity** through the agency of 'Furniture Bank'

- Colorful floats, music bands and participation by other local public schools
- Motivational keynote speakers from the various community organizations
- **“Go Green”** was the theme for 2009 and continues as an underlying goal of all events
- Promotion of family values with fun games and prizes for children
- Leaders from the three levels of Government and other community organisations lead the parade
- Ignite Partner of Pan Am Games & Alliance Partner for Canada 150
- Park cleaning
- Received Proclamation of Human Values Day Across Canada from Premiers of 4 Provinces and Mayors of over 350 municipalities across Canada since 2015
- For Human Values Day 2020, we supported Daily Food Bank and Malvern Food Bank by collecting and donating over 8000KG of necessity items.

Hosted by the Parent Council - Sathya Sai School of Toronto – Canada ,

451 Ellesmere Rd., Toronto, ON., Canada M1R 4E5; T. 416-297-7970; F. 416-297-0945; www.sathyasaischool.ca

Values Without Borders!

Summary of 2024 Proclamations



HUMAN VALUES DAY APRIL 24 2024



PROCLAMATIONS & LANDMARK RECOGNITION



Province of New Brunswick



Province of Nova Scotia



Province of British Columbia



City of Brampton



City of Ottawa



City of Toronto



City of Edmonton



City of Kingston



City of Prince George



Town of Torbay



Town of Ajax



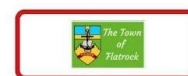
Resort Municipality of Whistler



City of Prince Albert



City of Quinte West



Town of Flatrock



City of Pickering



City of Saskatoon



Town of New Glasgow



District of Saanich



City of Nanaimo



City of Thunder Bay



City of Markham



City of Stratford



City of Dauphine



City of Cornwall

Special colour illumination on 2024-04-24, to recognize Human Values Day.



Niagara Falls



Veterans Skyway Bridge



CN Tower