



Centre For Inquiry Canada Statement of Values	
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Issued/Developed By: Eric Adriaans, National Executive Director	
Board of Directors Approval Date:	Affirming Signature:

Centre For Inquiry Canada Statement of Values

A. Overview

Centre for Inquiry Canada – Le Centre pour l'enquête (CFI Canada/CFIC) is a charitable organization with the mission:

To educate and provide training to the public in the application of skeptical, secular, rational and humanistic enquiry through conferences, symposia, lectures, published works and the maintenance of a library.

CFI Canada's mission informs and establishes the foundations of its organizational principles and philosophy. All CFIC personnel are obliged to review this Statement of Values, and must be familiar with and demonstrate respect for its affirmations.

B. Related Policy Statement

Related Policies – CFI Canada expects the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct in keeping with:

- Humanist Ethics and Principles
- CFIC policies on Human Rights, Social Justice and Diversity
- CFIC privacy/confidentiality policies and practices
- CFIC Human Resources policies
- Other CFIC policies and positions as communicated from time to time

This Statement of Values and other CFI Canada policies include direction regarding conduct that may interfere with business operations, inhibit CFI Canada's ability to fulfil its charitable purpose, discredits CFI Canada, or is demeaning to the value or dignity of CFI Canada's Community or fellow personnel. Such conduct, on or off duty, may result in dismissal and/or other sanctions.

C. Definitions

"client" means any individual or organization to whom an employee or volunteer extends service or interacts with in the course of his or her role on behalf of CFI Canada, and may include CFIC clients, program participants, members, donors, and supporters.

“CFI Canada’s Community” means any and all clients, personnel, members, Board Members, Friends of the Centre, Councillors, donors, supporters and all those individuals and organizations having a responsibility to CFIC or interest in its success.

“personnel” means all employees and volunteers of CFI Canada; personnel may also be referred to as “internal stakeholders”.

“Centre For Inquiry Canada”, “CFI Canada” and “CFIC” means the registered Canadian charity (833642614RR0001) and all of its branches or operating units.

“Center For Inquiry Transnational” and “CFI Transnational” means the independent affiliated organization serving the United States of America and based in Amherst New York and all of its branches and operating units.

“Centre For Inquiry Movement” means the collective organizations adhering to common branding and values propositions as established and represented by CFI Transnational, CFIC and other recognized CFI organizations around the world.

D. Details of Values

- I. CFI Canada values people above ideas; we strive to ensure beneficial outcomes for our clients, personnel and CFI Canada’s Community.
- II. CFI Canada values the global advancement of *Centre For Inquiry* organizations, including CFI Transnational and recognized Centre for Inquiry organizations, as the leading international voice for secularism, skepticism, humanistic enquiry, rational and free-thought.
- III. CFI Canada values Humanism as described in *Affirmations of Humanism – A Statement of Principles* as attached to this Statement of Values.
- IV. CFI Canada values skepticism; we strive to ensure that information or messages we circulate do not require the audience to accept it without validation of evidence; we expect information providers to provide validated evidence supporting their information, perspectives or opinions.
- V. CFI Canada values rational thought; we strive to ensure our actions are informed and directed by evidence and sound decision-making procedures.
- VI. CFI Canada values free thought; we support the ability and right of individuals to reach independent conclusions through personal inquiry.
- VII. CFI Canada values human rights; we support fundamental human rights which stress the equality of all people.

- VIII. CFI Canada values education; as an educational charity, CFI Canada is committed to the highest standards of education and strives to continually improve educational content and experience.
- IX. CFI Canada values the wellness of people; we strive to improve the wellness of our personnel, CFI Canada's Community and the public.
- X. CFI Canada values excellence; at all times, CFI Canada undertakes to continually improve its business based on feedback, input and participation of CFI Canada's Community, personnel and the public.
- XI. CFI Canada values transparency; at all times, CFI Canada undertakes to demonstrate transparency to its personnel, members and the public.
- XII. CFI Canada is an open and diverse community of individuals that embraces individuals regardless of sex/gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of participants in any form.

E. Other Matters

CFI Canada's Statement of Values is consistent with many adjunctive perspectives and values not expressly indicated in this document. CFI Canada may hold or determine these perspectives as components of the values described in Section D.

CFIC personnel and members are not obligated to affirm or disaffirm any beliefs, views, values, opinions or perspectives held by members of the public or other members of CFI Canada's Community.

Individuals not in agreement with any perspectives, assertions or other matters contained in this Statement of Values are encouraged to express their questions, concerns or views with supporting information and evidence through CFI Canada's feedback process.

F. Responsibilities

1. The National Executive Director is responsible for advising the Board of Directors and CFI Canada's Community on matters relating to this document as well as maintaining, monitoring, and revising this policy.
2. Members of the Board of Directors, Branch and Program Leaders, the National Executive Director and other Officers of CFI Canada are responsible for oversight, application and implementation of this policy in each of their respective jurisdictions.



Affirmations of Humanism – A Statement of Principles

by Paul Kurtz

- We are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems.**
- We deplore efforts to denigrate human intelligence, to seek to explain the world in supernatural terms, and to look outside nature for salvation.**
- We believe that scientific discovery and technology can contribute to the betterment of human life.**
- We believe in an open and pluralistic society and that democracy is the best guarantee of protecting human rights from authoritarian elites and repressive majorities.**
- We are committed to the principle of the separation of church and state.**
- We cultivate the arts of negotiation and compromise as a means of resolving differences and achieving mutual understanding.**
- We are concerned with securing justice and fairness in society and with eliminating discrimination and intolerance.**
- We believe in supporting the disadvantaged and the handicapped so that they will be able to help themselves.**
- We attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, and strive to work together for the common good of humanity.**
- We want to protect and enhance the earth, to preserve it for future generations, and to avoid inflicting needless suffering on other species.**
- We believe in enjoying life here and now and in developing our creative talents to their fullest.**

•We believe in the cultivation of moral excellence.

•We respect the right to privacy. Mature adults should be allowed to fulfill their aspirations, to express their sexual preferences, to exercise reproductive freedom, to have access to comprehensive and informed health-care, and to die with dignity.

•We believe in the common moral decencies: altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility. Humanist ethics is amenable to critical, rational guidance. There are normative standards that we discover together. Moral principles are tested by their consequences.

•We are deeply concerned with the moral education of our children. We want to nourish reason and compassion.

•We are engaged by the arts no less than by the sciences.

•We are citizens of the universe and are excited by discoveries still to be made in the cosmos.

•We are skeptical of untested claims to knowledge, and we are open to novel ideas and seek new departures in our thinking.

•We affirm humanism as a realistic alternative to theologies of despair and ideologies of violence and as a source of rich personal significance and genuine satisfaction in the service to others.

•We believe in optimism rather than pessimism, hope rather than despair, learning in the place of dogma, truth instead of ignorance, joy rather than guilt or sin, tolerance in the place of fear, love instead of hatred, compassion over selfishness, beauty instead of ugliness, and reason rather than blind faith or irrationality.

•We believe in the fullest realization of the best and noblest that we are capable of as human beings.