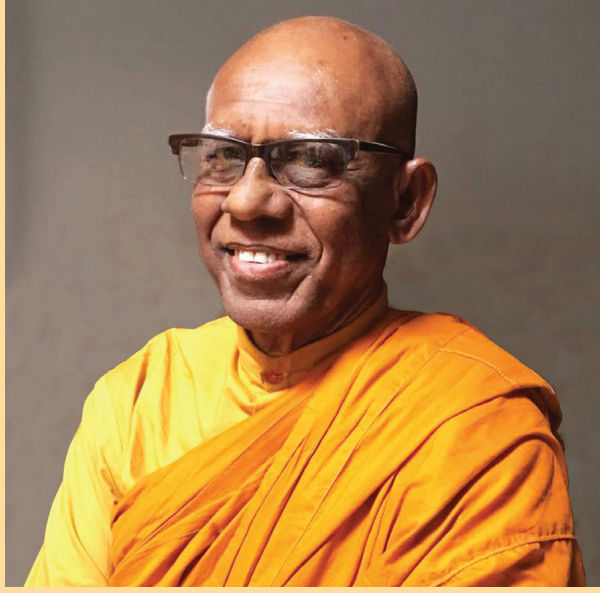


Ven. Bihikku Mihita

(formerly Prof. Suwanda H J Sugunasiri of Toronto, Canada)

BA (London); MA (Philadelphia); MEd, MA. PhD (Toronto)

Languages: Sinhala, English, Sanskrit, Pali, French.



US Fulbright scholar (1964), & Canadian Buddhologist, Bhikkhu Mihita was ordained at age 82 (as in photo) in Havana, Cuba, with Upasampada in Toronto. Life-long teetotaler and non-smoker, parents the model, his ordination was a culmination of a life-long Buddhist practice in Sri Lanka with a 2500 year tradition.

In Canada since 1967, and Buddhist spokesman for over three decades, he is featured in *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, and in the Media – Radio, TV and Film. As member of the Ad Hoc Interfaith Committee on the Canadian Constitution, he sought to be more inclusive in the Preamble, accommodating God non-believers as well. Currently President of the Buddhist Council of Canada, he introduced Theravada Buddhism to Cuba (English; Español) in 2018.

Founder, Nalanda College of Buddhist Studies (Canada) (1999) and Founding Editor, *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* (2005), and now retired from the Faculty of Divinity, Trinity College, U of Toronto, most recently, he was Guest Professor at U of Havana (2012; 2017). His doctoral thesis *Humanistic Nationism* called ‘extraordinary’ by Examiners, and author of works on Buddhism, Linguistics, Literature and Canadian multiculturalism, he is characterized as a ‘multidisciplinologist’ in *Canadian Who’s Who*. So he now calls himself a CRINTFREETH – ‘Creative Interdisciplinary Free-thinker’, continuing to draw upon the *sampajanna* insights gained in meditation.

Pioneering Researcher on South Asian Canadian Literature (for Secy of State), he introduced Multicultural Literature to the Ontario School Curriculum. A ‘prolific’ writer in English, and featured in ‘Precise Writing in the [English] Essay’, he is the pioneering Columnist at the *Toronto Star* (1993-98) on Multiculturalism and Buddhism. Featured at Toronto’s Harbourfront International Reading Series for Poetry, his Novel, *Untouchable Woman’s Odyssey* is characterized as a ‘Buddhist Pilgrim’s Progress’, ‘extraordinary’, ‘genius’ and ‘timeless’. Born in Tangalla, High School beginning at Nalanda, at Ananda, he was Secretary, English Literary Association and active in sports - cricket and cadetting. Sr. government servant in SL in later years, he was a writer in Sinhala (academic thesis, short fiction, *Dawasa* columnist), translator, radio presenter, dancer, actor and swimmer.