

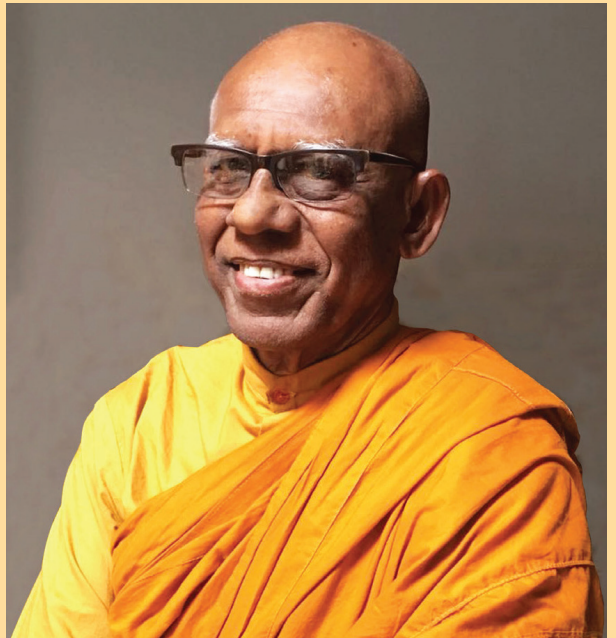
Ven. Bihikku Mihita

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

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

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

In Canada since 1967, and “Buddhist spokesman” [1] for decades, “his life story is a prism through which the history of Buddhism in Canada comes into focus” [2]. Holding the first North American pan-Buddhist Wesak in Toronto (1981) [3], he is featured in the Media – Print [4], Radio [5], TV [6] and Film [7]. On the Ad Hoc Interfaith Cte on the Canadian Constitution, he sought to accommodate God non-believers, too, in the Preamble [8]. President, Buddhist Council of Canada [9], he introduced Theravada Buddhism to Cuba (English; Español) [10] [11] in 2018.



Founder, Nalanda College of Buddhist Studies (Canada) (1999) and Founding Editor, *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* [12] (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) [13]. His doctoral thesis *Humanistic Nationism* [14] called ‘extraordinary’ by Examiners, he is the author of works on Buddhism [15], Linguistics [16], Literature [17] and Canadian multiculturalism [18], and is characterized as a ‘multidisciplinologist’ in *Canadian Who’s Who* [19]. He calls himself a CRINTFREETH – ‘Creative Interdisciplinary Free-thinker’, continuing to draw upon the *sampajañña* insights gained in meditation.

Pioneering Researcher on South Asian Canadian Literature (*Search for Meaning*, Secy of State) [20], he introduced Multicultural Literature to the Ontario School Curriculum. A ‘prolific’ writer, featured in ‘Precise Writing in the [English] Essay’ [21], he is the pioneering Columnist at the *Toronto Star* on Multiculturalism and Buddhism (1993-98) [22]. Featured at Toronto’s Harbourfront Reading Series for Poetry, his ‘extraordinary’ Novel, *Untouchable Woman’s Odyssey* [23] is called a ‘Buddhist Pilgrim’s Progress’ and ‘timeless’ [24]. Educated at Nalanda and Ananda, he was in cricket and cadeting. Asst Assessor in SL in later years, he was a writer in Sinhala (academic thesis) [25], short fiction, *Dawasa* columnist) [26], critic, translator [27], radio artiste, dancer, actor and swimmer.

After a life of ‘let go’ [28], Bhikkhu Mihita’s expectation is *Nibbana* in this very life.