

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Dear LIFE Members,

Online learning has arrived and has been embraced by many of you. Members have shared the excitement and satisfaction they have felt given the opportunity to learn through this new platform. At first, for many, it was somewhat intimidating and quite different from the years of learning in what we would consider a conventional setting, structure, and atmosphere.

One member shared the following: "I was extremely nervous and lacked confidence in my technical skills. What I experienced was the complete opposite. With the help of LIFE Zoom volunteers and staff, the transition to learn from in-class to online was extremely easy and has been rewarding. I realized from my experience, with a little training or assistance, this new way of learning was completely adaptable for anyone who was willing to give it a try."



The LIFE spring course calendar consisted of 14 online courses. LIFE considers our first offering a success. However, it would be remiss of me not to say that we experienced a few hiccups along the way, whether it was technology or simply all of us, including instructors, transitioning to this new realm of learning. As we move forward, we will continue to tweak and learn to provide members with quality instructors covering topics in the liberal arts covering a broad range of topics including politics, history, cultural studies, film and art history. A big thank you to the membership for placing your trust, loyalty, and support in LIFE through this whole transition. With your ongoing help and acceptance, online learning is here to stay. In-class learning will continue to be offered in the future when safe to do so.

COVID-19 has been a pandemic nobody could have predicted or thought we would experience in our lifetime. It has brought on tragedy and sorrow for many families and friends who have been affected. On the positive side, it has brought awareness in many areas - areas we may have taken for granted over the years and did not realize the value it brought to our well-being until it was taken away.

One of these areas of awareness is the value that The LIFE Institute offers its members. Throughout these past months, members have shared their personal stories on why LIFE is so much more than taking courses. A few of the many examples shared were the ability to connect, stimulation for their minds, feeling they were not alone in isolation and laughter shared while learning Zoom. Also, the many clubs that LIFE offers for like-minded members to connect; Triple E Investment, Classic Novel Book, Photography, Movie, Table Tennis, Lunch, Blue Zone, Walks, new Coffee Club and the very popular Climate Action Club to mention a few. Members have shared how being engaged with LIFE has helped them get through these troubled times, and that LIFE cares.

I encourage you to renew your LIFE membership starting July 1. This year, as a bonus, new and renewing members will receive two complimentary sought-out lectures by Thomas Axworthy, former Principal Secretary and Chief Speechwriter to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Topics will be U.S. Politics and Canada's Fresh Water Threats (Valued at \$40.) Don't miss out!

The Curriculum Committee, along with LIFE staff, are working diligently to provide you with a roster of quality online courses and lectures for the summer and fall.

Stay safe, stay connected.



Deborah Bonk Greenwood

### THE LIFE INSTITUTE

Office: 297 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario Mailing Address: 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3  
Phone: 416.979.5000, ext. 556989 E-mail: [info@thelifeinstitute.ca](mailto:info@thelifeinstitute.ca) Fax: 416.979.5286 [www.thelifeinstitute.ca](http://www.thelifeinstitute.ca)