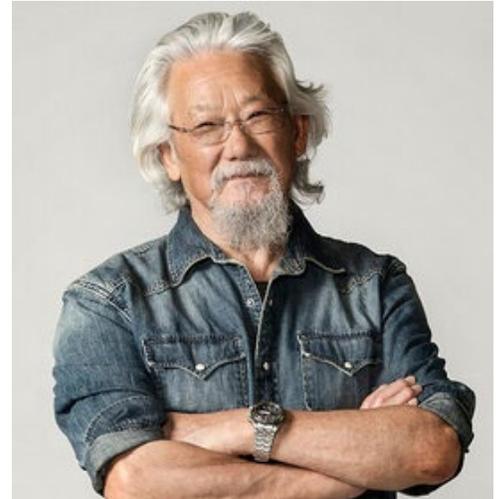


RTOERO News you can use – May 2022

ICYMI: 4 memorable quotes from David Suzuki’s presentation to RTOERO members

In January, RTOERO members had the chance to hear from Dr. David Suzuki as part of the Vibrant Voices webinar series. Dr. Suzuki shared incredible insights. Here are four quotes from his presentation worth reflecting on again.



On the role of older adults and retired people in Canada

“You and I, as retirees, no longer need to worry about a raise or a job, so we can speak from our hearts. If we offend people by sharing what we’ve learned over our lifetime, that’s their problem, not ours. And if we have grandchildren, then we have no choice but to speak out and tell the truth.”

On whether it’s too late

“We don’t know that it’s too late. It’s in the doing and trying that we define that we’re a worthy species. We’ve got to act because that is our hope.”

On our way of life

“When we think that growth is the very measure of progress, we never ask the important questions. What is an economy for? Are there no limits? How much is enough? Are we happier with all this stuff? Why is anyone allowed to be a billionaire?”

“We settlers have to rediscover Indigenous values to shape policies, strategies and actions because clearly, the dominant paradigm doesn’t work.”

Read the full article on the RTOERO website – rtoero.ca/20-david-suzuki-quotes-to-ponder-and-process.

Watch for future webinar invites to arrive by email. And you can always check the events calendar on the RTOERO website: rtoero.ca/events

5 conversations to have before you retire

Like other significant life changes (marriage, childbirth, relocation), there are things to do to prepare for retirement—and some meaningful conversations to have before the big day. It's helpful to speak with family members, friends and professionals who support you about your ideas and expectations before you retire. Getting on the same page can help prevent disappointment or even conflict. Here are some conversations to have.



Expectations for you and your partner

If your partner is retiring at the same time as you, have a conversation about your expectations for each other. Do you think you'll spend time together daily? Do you want to do activities together? If they're not retiring, discuss what you're expecting regarding how the relationship and household responsibilities will change.

Time with grandkids

If you have grandchildren, spending time with them might be on your retirement to-do list. Consider how much time you'd like to spend and talk with their parents. For example, are you or your grandkids' parents expecting that you'll provide regular childcare? If not, are you hoping for weekly family meals?

Financial readiness and spending

A conversation about finances with your partner and guidance from a financial planner might seem obvious. Get clear about how your cash flow will change and how your expenses will decrease. Discuss your goals for retirement. Even if things are just possibilities at this point, it's a good idea to be open about your thinking.

Work plans or ideas

Many people want to continue some type of paid work in retirement. They may consult or take contract work with their current employer. If you're interested in contract work with your current employer, have a conversation with your supervisor before retiring.

Emotional preparedness

Retirement is a significant life transition, and it can bring up all kinds of emotions—excitement for sure, sadness, and even dread. It can be helpful to have ongoing conversations about how you're feeling—you can prepare for retirement emotionally! Keep in mind that mental health professionals in your community can help you through the transition.

As you prepare for retirement, the conversations you'll have are an essential part of your planning. Financial planning often gets the retirement spotlight—but it's one part of the planning process.

Find more resources on the RTOERO website – rtoero.ca/category/rtoero-news/enjoy-retirement.

Terms to know: What does decolonization mean?

There's a good chance you've come across the term decolonization in recent years. How does it make you feel? Do you know what it means in a Canadian context?

To understand decolonization, we need to understand colonization. In Canada, colonial means Eurocentric. On these lands, European migrants arrived, claimed the lands as their own and never left. As a result, Western European ways of being, believing, knowing and more are presented as the standard. Other ways of knowing, being and doing are often presented as the alternative/other.

Decolonization involves Indigenous people reclaiming and restoring culture, lands, health and relationships, and that reclamation and restoration can be done independently and with the support of non-Indigenous people.

Another related term is indigenization, which includes making meaningful changes to practices and structures so that power is returned to Indigenous people. Indigenous ways of knowing and doing are presented and practised as equal to Western ways.

The information we've shared here is summarized from an article by Queen's University available here [**queensu.ca/ctl/resources/decolonizing-and-indigenizing/what-decolonization-what-indigenization**](https://queensu.ca/ctl/resources/decolonizing-and-indigenizing/what-decolonization-what-indigenization) (English only).

The Public Service Alliance of Canada offers a list of resources to support ongoing learning about decolonization here: [**psacunion.ca/decolonization-and-indigenous-issues**](https://psacunion.ca/decolonization-and-indigenous-issues)

RTOERO is committed to fostering an organizational culture that values diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This involves striving for equity and embracing, respecting, including and valuing differences. Ongoing learning and humble reflection are essential parts of this work.

Want a wardrobe refresh? Host a clothing swap!

It's no secret that the fashion industry and consumers' addiction to buying the latest trends are taking a significant toll on the environment. Plus, there continue to be human rights issues tied to clothing production. But, it's possible to adjust your shopping ways and still change over your closet. Host a clothing swap!

- You could host an event with friends or plan it as a community event. You could even tie in a fundraising component by asking for a donation to participate.
- Guests bring gently worn fashion items (can be more than clothing) and swap with each other. Everyone goes home with new-to-them items.

Have you ever hosted a clothing swap? RTOERO would love to hear about it and may feature your story in an upcoming blog post. Send an email to media@rtoero.ca.

Donating to RTOERO Foundation is easy and tax deductible

Member fees are not allocated to Foundation

RTOERO members often ask if the Foundation is supported through a portion of membership fees. The answer is no. RTOERO does provide in-kind support to the Foundation in the form of office space and shared human resources, which our auditors have confirmed is a standard arrangement for an association that is the parent of a charity formed under its umbrella.



Programs are sustained through fundraising

While RTOERO and the Foundation are very closely integrated, the Foundation is a separate organization with its own board of directors and an operating budget that is independent from RTOERO finances. The continuation of grant programs rely on the generous contributions of individual donors. The Foundation's annual budget, including all funds available for granting, is directly linked to the success of fundraising efforts. It is through the generosity of RTOERO members that the Foundation is able to deliver on the promise of our mission.

Receive a tax receipt

The RTOERO Foundation is a registered Canadian charity – charitable registration number #848662110RR0001. A tax receipt is issued for every individual donation of \$20 or more. Donors can choose to have the receipt either mailed or emailed to them.

Donating is easy

There are three ways to make a tax-deductible donation to the RTOERO Foundation.

1. Online: rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/donate
2. Mail: Send in a cheque, made payable to RTOERO Foundation, 18 Spadina Road, Toronto ON M5R 2S7
3. Phone: Donate using your credit card by calling
4. 1-800-361-9888 ext. 271