

Canadian National Pagan Conference  
**Gaia Gathering 2011**



# Language to Liturgy

May 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

Concordia University - Hall Building, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Quebec

Prepared by  
Gaia Gathering Montreal Committee

Updated May 18, 2011

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## **ALLERGY WARNING**

**We have people at the conference who have an FATAL ALLERGIC reaction to any SAGE herb, burnt or not.**

**Please do NOT carry or burn any sage at any time during the conference. Even fumes in clothing can cause an anaphylactic reaction.**

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.**

## Welcome from the Local Organizing Committee

*First, we'll take Montreal, then we'll take Merlin...*  
(with apologies to Leonard Cohen)

Montreal is a city that lives and thrives on diversity. Even within the Two Solitudes of the Anglophone and Francophone communities, we can find a plethora of political, ethnic, religious, philosophical, and linguistic diversity that truly makes Montreal a unique place to live.

It is in this spirit of finding common ground in the midst all this diversity that we are proud to welcome the diverse traditions, philosophies, and realities that make up our Canadian pagan community. We look forward to celebrating what binds us together, but also what distinguishes one from another. As the French say: *Vive la différence!*

This has been an exciting year full of growing edges for the Montreal host committee. When we put in our bid last April, we didn't really know exactly what we were getting into! But ever since, we have been eagerly working toward making this event a success and our community has really pulled together echoing our enthusiasm.

We've held multiple fundraisers, including two bardics, a Witches Ball, a Yule Auction, a Divine-In, and multiple workshop days. These resulted in an astounding \$5000 in fundraising, of which over \$1200 was specifically raised to help Pagans from across the country attend this year's event.

The community has also worked tirelessly to pull the conference together in under a year; usually host cities have two years to organize. Amazingly, this has resulted in a thoughtful selection of keynote speakers, discussion topics and special events, like the *Dragon Ritual Drummers* and *Triskalia* concert on Saturday night and the Pagan Art Show. Very clearly this conference is a community effort and speaks to what community can accomplish working together.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the efforts of other communities across Canada. Fundraisers have been held in Halifax and Winnipeg to help get folks from their cities to this year's conference. As well, Canadian Pagan podcasts, *The Wigglian Way* (Vancouver) and *Standing Stone & Garden Gate* (Ottawa), have also spent time profiling the event. As a result, this year we have registered attendees from coast to coast, and almost every single province!

Not only have the people in our communities shown incredible generosity with their support of this event, but it has also allowed our Francophone and Anglophone pagan communities to come together like never before. We sincerely hope this strong connection will continue long after this conference is over.

The Montreal conference certainly leaves us with many tools and lots of energy to move forward. We look forward to your good company as we continue to follow our paths.

*Amanda Strong, T. Scarlet Jory  
Hobbes, Melanie Valiante, Hesser Garcia*

## Greetings to Pagans from across Canada

*A letter from the Gaia Gathering National Board of Directors*

Welcome to the 6th Gaia Gathering! Gaia Gathering is national in scope, but each one comes from hard work by local volunteers, and this year promises to be another excellent conference. A big cheer for the Montreal crew that is making it happen. As well, congratulations to the Montreal community for their phenomenal fundraising efforts this year. It is also encouraging to note that past Gaia Gathering host cities continue to be moved to support the conference, so thank-you to the Pagans of Halifax and Winnipeg for your fundraising efforts.

One of the biggest challenges we face now is rising transportation costs that are making it more and more difficult to gather Pagans from across this huge land. At the time of writing this letter, there are no bids to host the next conference. So at the annual general meeting (AGM) on Monday we will have to ask ourselves, "Where do we go from here?" National management has also proved difficult, with three-year terms for directors possibly contributing to burn-out.

We believe that Canada still needs an opportunity for Pagans to gather, and that Gaia Gathering as originally envisioned by Gina, Hawk, and Kit is still the best prospect for filling that need. This weekend's conference will include a "visioning" session in which all are invited to contribute ideas about how to make Gaia Gathering meet the needs and desires of Pagans from across Canada. At the AGM you will be invited to elect new directors to implement the decisions you make, and those decisions will guide the future of this event.

In our view this is not a time for wringing hands in woe, but rather a chance to envision the best way to bring Canadian Pagans together. I do not believe that Gaia Gathering is broken, but the lack of a venue for the next gathering indicates that it is dented. Perhaps in another week, or another few months, a new bid will appear, and your new Board of Directors will need to carry your vision into the next gathering.

So as you are enjoying this conference: think, and discuss, and choose as the Gods may move you.

*Dodie Graham, Richard James,  
Charlene Ross, Amanda Strong*  
Gaia Gathering National Board of Directors

### Thanks to all our volunteers who made Gaia Gathering Possible!

Rosanne Seguin; Marisol Charbonneau; Sonia Bélanger, Crystal Hurlbert; Andrew Manning; Linda Demissy; Marie-anne; Benoit Cote; April Anna Bremers; Lena Breijer; Mady Pho; Allison Kimberly Ryan; Dave Kelsall; Elissa Baltze; Catharine Allan; Erica Sabo; Meri Fowler; Bennu; John Anderson; Machauna; Lotus; Alex Nuta; Andrea Ostiguay; Serafina; Rhiannon; Dagda; Machauna; all the people of Avalon Center who bought tickets, donated items, came to workshops and in general participated with great enthusiasm; Isis Shaktyma, Freya Kybella; Willow Darkmoon; Brigantia; Innana; the members of Clan Yggdrasil; Marie-Renée Patry; Charme et Sortilege; Le Mélange Magique; Tresor Magique; Ariel Harper and everyone who organized and supported the Halifax Ceilidh; the folks of Gaia Winnipeg; Ryan Sauve; Farrell McGovern; Standing Stone and Garden Gate podcast; The Wigglian Way podcast; the Ottawa Pagan Conference; Mark Hughes and everyone who organized and let our main ritual on Friday night; Alex delBusso and his Goddesses; Triskalia; Kanaska Carter; Loran; Taelstrum; Robyn Stroll; our key note speaker, Arin-Murphy Hiscock and Lucie Marie-Mai DuFresne, and all our panelists & workshop leaders; and everyone else that we've forgotten to mention. **Thank You!**

## About Gaia Gathering

The Canadian National Pagan Conference (CNPC), Gaia Gathering, is a national conference held every year over the long Victoria Day weekend in May. Each year the conference is held in a different Canadian city, which is determined through a bid and vote process. The conference brings together Canadian Pagans, Pagan-curious, elders, community leaders, and interested others for three days for networking, discussion, workshops, and community. Legally, we are incorporated federally as a non-profit organization and operate with a national Board of Directors as well as a local host committee.

Gaia Gathering offers:

- ★ A great opportunity for Canadian Pagans, Pagan-friendly, and Pagan-curious to get to know each other, network, share information, and learn peer-to-peer from the wide experience available in Canada.
- ★ The possibility of meeting Pagans from paths and traditions that you may not normally be exposed to in your home community or geographic area. A chance for us to gather together to discuss issues affecting our identities as Canadian Pagans.
- ★ An opportunity to learn from our collective experiences with regards to legal, social, political, religious, and business issues as Pagans in Canada.
- ★ A venue to get to know communities in Canada separated geographically, to discuss community development, and expand the ideas of pagan community in theory and practice.
- ★ The opportunity for academics working in Pagan Studies or related disciplines to share their latest research and connect with other scholars in Canada.
- ★ The opportunity for community leaders in from Pagan communities across Canada to network with each other and share experiences.

## Conference Guidelines

The following is a list of participant guidelines, to provide information and prevent difficult situations. Please respect these rules, for everyone's benefit. Thank you in advance.

- ★ You are responsible for your own safety and behaviour at all times, and the safety and behaviour of any minors in your charge.
- ★ Minors will only be admitted when registered by an attending adult.
- ★ Cameras are not permitted at conference proceedings.
- ★ Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the conference centre.
- ★ No alcohol (except wine at the banquet) or illegal substances permitted in the conference centre.
- ★ No animals - except service animals - permitted on site.
- ★ Any person not complying with the above guidelines and/or acting in such a manner as to affect the safety or enjoyment of the conference for others will, at the discretion of conference organizers, be asked to leave. No refund of fees will be provided.
- ★ Participants understand and agree that any statements made by panelists or other attendees are their own opinions only and are not to be attributed to the organizers or attendees in general.

# Gaia Gathering Theme Song

© Words & music by Susan Hurrell 2005

In Gaia's name we gather  
She's called to you and me  
As pagans, as Canadians  
The branches of Her maple tree  
Our roots are deep, we love this land  
So heart to heart and hand to hand  
We gather here in Gaia's name

In Gaia's name we gather  
From circle, hof and grove  
United by diversity  
We seek to serve the Gods above  
On many paths, we walk this land  
So heart to heart and hand to hand  
We gather here in Gaia's name

So let us welcome each other  
As pagan sisters and brothers  
the Hidden Children no longer  
Like Canada, we are strong and free

In Gaia's name we gather  
To learn each other's ways  
For highest good, in fellowship  
We celebrate our pagan space  
To know ourselves, to heal this land  
So heart to heart and hand to hand

We gather here in Gaia's name  
We gather here in Gaia's name  
We gather here in Gaia's name



## Keynote Speaker Lectures and Bios

**Nature is My Prayerbook: The Problem of Liturgy in Modern Paganism**  
by Arin Murphy-Hiscock

**Saturday**  
10:30am – 12:00pm (EN)

The concept of liturgy, an established system or repertoire of rites and ideas designed for use in worship or religious observance, is a problematic one in modern alternative spiritual paths. Contemporary Paganism encourages self-expression and a continual evolution of the self and one's relationship with the Divine, and often a deep suspicion or outright rejection of anything that suggests prescribed canon or static law, which creates tension when contrasted with the traditional concept of a conventional, common liturgy.

At the same time, it is human nature to surround oneself with reliable, recognizable structure for comfort, a sense of connection to others and/or the past, and for the ease with which one can reach a desired mindset for worship or practice. This dichotomy is part of what characterizes contemporary Pagan practice, and is the subject of this talk.

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### About Arin Murphy-Hiscock



Currently a resident of Montreal, Canada, Arin works as a freelance writer and editor.

She is the author of *Power Spellcraft for Life: The Art of Crafting and Casting for*

*Positive Change* (2005), *Solitary Wicca for Life: A Complete Guide to Mastering the Craft on Your Own* (2005), *The Way of the Green Witch* (2006), *The Way of the Hedge Witch* (2009), and *Pagan Pregnancy: The Journey From Maiden to Mother* (TBA).

She is also the editor of the anthology *Out of the Broom Closet* (2009).

Arin is a third-degree Wiccan High Priestess in the Black Forest Clan, a tradition linked both by lineage and practice to several other branches of Wiccan thought and philosophy including the Caledonii Tradition, Druidism, Gardnerian practice, Seax-Wicca, general Celtic Wicca, and German witchcraft. She works as a priestess in her community performing rites of passage and giving occasional workshops, and leads a private coven. Her hobbies include playing the cello, hand-spinning, and weaving.

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**Voicing our Faith - Living our Words - Building our Communities**  
by Lucie DuFresne

**Sunday**  
9am – 10:30am (EN)

What if words actually mattered? What if they were not only descriptive but also performative? What if they created both the breadth and the limit of shared reality? How could this be?

What if each language was its own pattern of reality, unique and ultimately untranslatable. What happens when a faith community is made up of native speakers of different languages? Is it necessary that all speak with the same words? The same voice? The same intent? At what level of linguistic 'sameness' is religious 'sameness' found? Is linguistic 'sameness' mandatory? For what and for whom?

Some have argued that the language of the original text must be maintained. Others have argued for words from the heart, whatever the language spoken. This talk will explore the nature of language as a communicative code, of the politics of discourse, of textual and ritual codification and of the inherent dangers of any canonification, be they dogmatic, textual or ritual. Rather, degrees of commonality will be argued for, such that the context, intent and audience of the communicative act be the determining factors for language choice and use.

## About Lucie DuFresne



Lucie Marie-Mai DuFresne, PhD, has earned advanced degrees in both Anthropology and Religious Studies. As a fluently bilingual francophone, she

teaches in both French and English in the Faculties of Arts (Religious Studies, Native Studies) and Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Women's Studies) at the University of Ottawa.

As head of the Canadian Centre for Research on Women and Religion, she has organized several international conferences (Divina et Femina I, II, III) and Gaia Gathering 2008.

She is currently the interim director of the Intercultural Research and Training Center and is planning its second trip to Yunnan, China, to work with indigenous minorities.

She is a founding member of PFPC (Pagan Federation / Fédération Païenne Canada) and has advocated for Canadian Pagan rights and freedoms with several levels of government, municipal social services (Police, Children's Aid, psychiatric hospital), and multifaith organisations.

Active in the Ottawa Pagan community since 1988, she has managed and owned occult bookstores, sponsored women's moon circles and taught Pagan and Magical Lore classes. She holds the record for the most different workshops taught at Kaleidoscope Gathering.

## Sonia Bélanger

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## Northern Cougars

### Clergy for your Community

Our focus is clergy training. We seek people who demonstrate leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, dedication to serving their community and have a strong background in Wicca and Paganism. The training requires a commitment of four intensive years.



Coven is like a family that share their spirituality. It's hard to know if a coven is right for you or if you are right for it. For this reason we have a 4 month outer court (audition or trial period).

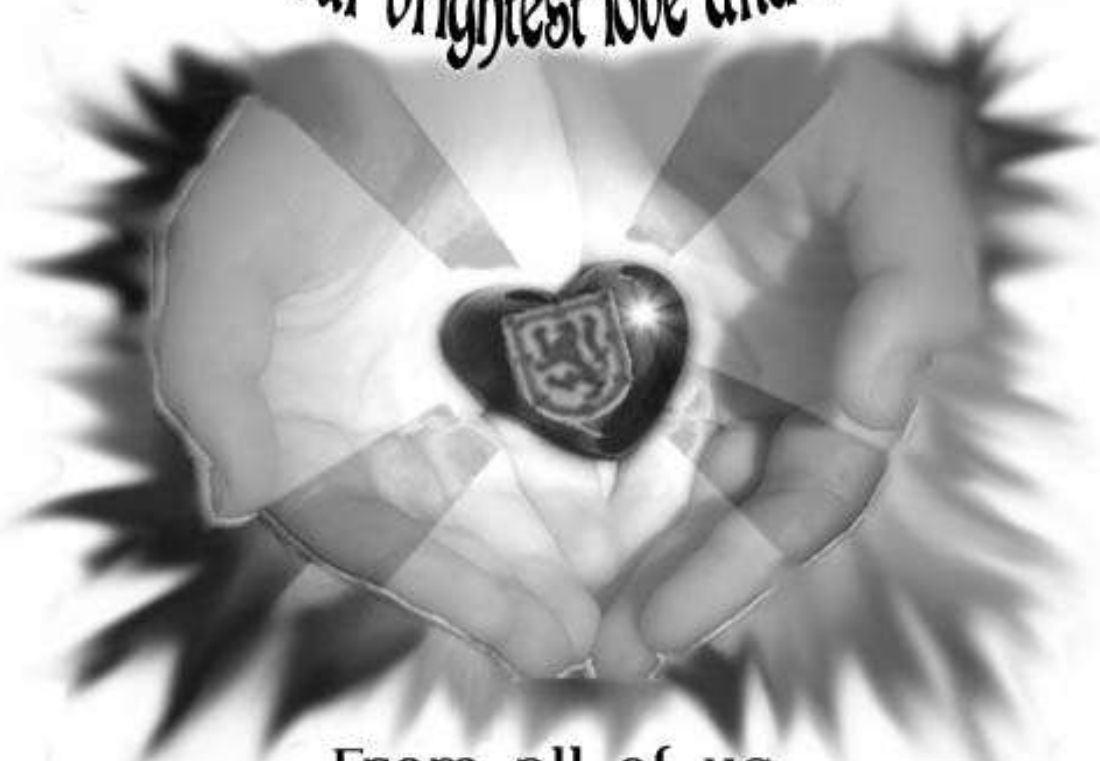
Black Forest Clan is a Euro-Celtic traditional coven which combines Gardnerian Wicca, British Traditional, Caledonii, Druidism and Celtic Shamanism.



### For more information:

<http://www.mtl-magicalcircle.ca/BFC/index.htm>  
northern.cougars@gmail.com

*From the Pagan Heart of  
Nova Scotia,  
We send our brightest love and blessings!*



**From all of us:**

- The Earth Spirit Society of Nova Scotia,  
Ariel Harper Nave, Kelly and Stu with The Witching Hour on CKDU,  
Plus the performers from Céilidh: Songs for Gaia:  
Phil Cousins, Roger Bowman, Elinor, Rise Up Shannon,  
Surya Chandra, Thieves of Dagdad, and Time At The Bar,

**Thank you so much Gaia Gathering!  
Don't forget to visit with us!**

**AEGIS**

Pagan Festival and Spiritual Retreat

July 29th to August 1st 2011 in the beautiful Annapolis Valley  
Rituals ♡ Workshops ♡ Vendors ♡ Feast ♡ Magickal location. ♡ Remarkable people.  
More info at: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AEGISabbat/>  
Email us! [AEGISns@gmail.com](mailto:AEGISns@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook!

## Workshops

### Herbal Myths, Legends, and Magickal Lore by Amy-Lou Taylor (Ontario)

Saturday 1pm Room A  
(EN)

Have you ever wondered why an herb has its particular name, why it is used in a certain way, and how it came to be used in magick? Well, every name has a story and so do a lot of the herbs. Herbs have been used in magick and medicine in every culture for centuries and often in different ways.

This rich folklore and history is where the herbal myths, legends, and magickal lore come from. Join Amy for an insightful discussion and more than a few good stories about how herbs came to be the unsung heroes of our culture and are a part of our magick in everyday life. Handouts and possibly (time/weather permitting) an herb walk will be available as well.

### Voodoo Traditions by The Niagara Voodoo Shrine (Ontario)

Saturday 3pm Room A  
(EN)

Probably the most misunderstood of spiritual paths, even by the pagans who enjoy and interact within it. What is voodoo, where does it come from, why is there Catholic iconography in it? All these questions plus many more will be answered.

As well, accouterments of the practice will be on display and explained. The best way to understand something is to smell it, taste it, and feel it. This workshop will also have an interactive working within it, with drum calls and songs that are part of the way to call the spirits of the tradition.

### Myth and Magic of the Spoken Word by Hobbes (Quebec)

Sunday 1pm Room A  
(EN)

Join Hobbes, storyteller and bard, as he explores the role that story and myth plays in spiritual development. Are myths pure entertainment, or do they contain the unspeakable truths that can only be experienced through the fantastic? As practical, real-world people, how do we come to terms with building relationships with mythic creatures and

deities that most people regard as fantasy and fictional? Is there a middle ground, and if so, how do we secure our foothold in it?

Hobbes will explore the role that myth plays in our community, our identity, and how it helps us understand the mysteries of the Divine.

### The Eight Paths of Power by Sable (British Columbia)

Sunday 2:30pm Room A  
(EN)

Also known as the "Eightfold Way," the Eight Paths of Power are a series of 8 different techniques used in Wicca to perform magick. As detailed in Gerald Gardner's Book of Shadows, they are: Meditation or Concentration (Called, for short, "Intent"),

Trance; Projection of the Astral; Rites, Chants, Spells, Runes, Charms, etc.; Incense, Drugs, Wine, etc. "Intoxicants"; The Dance and kindred practices; Blood Control (the Cords), Breath Control, and kindred practices; The Scourge; and The Great Rite.

#### Legend:

- **EN:** Panel is in English with whisper translation in French
- **FR:** Panel is in French with whisper translation in English

## Academic Stream

### Saturday: Academic Panel #1

#### Invoking the Sacred and the Silent: Language and Meaning in the Elementary Art Classroom (EN)

*Pattie Chambers, Doctoral Student  
Montreal Concordia University,  
Department of Art Education  
Resident of Montreal, Quebec*

Making art with children is a magical and sacred act. A lesson plan is a magic spell – the materials and procedures are chosen with careful and creative intention and the words are very powerful. Yet we often fall back on mundane language when we teach, either from exhaustion or hesitation to offend.

What if we chose to use Sacred Language – the language of spirituality, magic and manifestation – when teaching art? How would that deepen the art making experience of our students?

How would it deepen the teaching experience for the art teacher?

Based on the work of scholars Nel Noddings, Peter London, Angelo Caranfa, and Parker Palmer; I investigate how the words and silences we use as art teachers can be reframed as sacred language.

As we reframe our language as sacred, implications emerge for pedagogy and curriculum as it challenges us to rethink how we view the whole of art education and how we move through the world as art educators.

#### Sidereal Astrology and Festival Dates (EN)

*Sarah Wibberley, Bachelor Student, Novice Pathwalker (Avalon  
Druid Order) University of Victoria, Department of Sciences Health  
Information Science Resident of Kanata, Ontario*

*Co-presenter: Caroline Morin, Novice  
Dreamer (Avalon Druid Order)  
Resident of St. Hubert, Quebec*

This paper/presentation will describe the impact of the sidereal system of astrology on the scheduling of pagan holy days. A basic overview of the origins and philosophy of astrology will be given to outline the theories by which astrology is given to operate. The differences between the tropical and sidereal system mechanics are also described.

We then examine the most precise astrological system

for one's preferred pagan ideology and preferred theory of how astrology works.

Finally, both the tropical and sidereal systems of astrology will be examined with respect to scheduling pagan holy days taking into account ideology and intent. Examples include methods used by the Avalon Druid Order (an international, not-for-profit order of practicing druids, aspirants and tribes folk called to service and striving to live in balance with nature).

#### Text A: Liturgy or Literature (EN)

*Lisa Crandall, Masters Student  
University of Ottawa, Department of Religious Studies  
Resident of Iroquois, Ontario*

Gerald Gardner is generally considered the source of the standard rituals and texts of Modern Witchcraft, also known as British Traditional Witchcraft and/or Wicca. This presentation examines the identity and content of an early Gardnerian document.

This presentation examines the content of an early Gardnerian document known as **Text A**. It is a handwritten document given in the late 1990's to a Canadian witch by Doreen Valiente. According to Valiente, it is a very early Book of

Shadows written by Gerald Gardner himself.

Aside from the initiation rituals, this document contains excerpts from a wide range of books and journals written in the late 19th and early 20th century. Some of the material in these pages may have eventually made its way into the Gardnerian Book of Shadows but this document, as it stands, is better described as a scrapbook (very little of it was actually written by Gerald Gardner himself).

## Saturday: Academic Panel #2

### The Changing Image of God: A Study of the Goddess Movement (EN)

*Delores LaPratt, Ph. D. student  
Montreal Concordia University, Department of Religion  
Resident of Montreal, Quebec*

"God is dead. And we have killed him," wrote Friedrich Nietzsche in *Thus Spake Zarathustra*. Only three generations after Nietzsche made his classic declaration, the religious landscape of Western culture has drastically altered. Traditional forms of Christianity have plummeted in popularity while there has been an explosion in non-traditional forms of spirituality. New Age philosophies and new religious movements now comprise a growing contingent of the Western religious landscape. God has not died.

However, the hegemony of the traditional image of God and traditional forms of Christianity is being challenged on a number of fronts.

This presentation will examine one such challenge to Christianity - the Goddess movement.

Many new religious movements, including the Goddess movement, were once countercultural but have become increasingly mainstream. The degree to which these movements have become mainstream is debatable but their growth is undeniable.

After contextualizing the Goddess movement, its metaphysical framework will be studied with particular reference as to how adherents image the divine and one's relationship to the divine. The repercussions of this reimagining of the divine and theological anthropology in the Goddess movement are profound. It will be argued that Western culture is undergoing a paradigmatic shift in worldview and a new religious consciousness, and the Goddess movement is a part of that transformation.

### Attachment to God: A Comparison of State of Mind Using the Adult Attachment Interview About Parents and God (EN)

*Stéphanie Marchal, M.A., Psy.D.,  
Doctor in Clinical Psychology  
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, USA  
(Grad. December 2010) Resident of Montreal, Quebec*

Language use when discussing attachment relationships correlates strongly with overall security of state of mind. Past research on attachment and language use was conducted on human-to-human relationships, but not on human-to-Divinity relationships. This research illuminates how inner organization around spiritual life influences one's language.

The present research consists in an in-depth qualitative discourse analysis of interviews focusing on six adult participants' attachment relationships with their parents and with their Divinities or God(s). There was no restriction on type of belief.

A qualitative analysis, focusing on the exploration of language use, was performed, using the Adult

Attachment Interview (AAI). Each participant's two interviews about parents and God(s) were compared.

The results indicated that participants' coherence, collaboration, and attitudes toward attachment experiences, but not attachment behaviours, were very similar in the two interviews. These results suggest that attachment to God(s) in long-term believers helps to form an overarching state of mind with regard to attachment experiences. The participants who exhibited more insecure state of mind with regard to attachment relationships also tended to idealize and isolate their God image, as if in an effort to "safekeep" an ideal caregiver. The implication on a sense of mutuality and intimacy will be discussed.

**Revisiting "Shamanism"**  
**(EN)**

*Jarrod Hyam, PhD Candidate*  
*University of Calgary, Department of Religious Studies*  
*Resident of Balzac, Alberta*

As scholarly interest in global pagan traditions grows, the anthropological term "shamanism" is increasingly utilized, often in interdisciplinary contexts. This word is derived from the Siberian Tungus word *šamán*, referring to a primary visionary and spiritual healer. The term "shamanism" is applied to indigenous folk religion across the world, outside of the original Siberian folk-religious context. Applying this term to First Nations and Native American peoples is controversial, as it is imposing a very specific religious phenomenon onto a completely different religious and cultural context.

Hence, there is debate as to whether the term "shamanism" should be utilized to describe indigenous folk religion in a general manner.

I will continue this debate, discussing what an anthropological alternate to this generalization might be, while analyzing if there are positive

outcomes that may result from continuing the use of the generic term "shamanism."

Coinciding with the increasing interest in neo-paganism as a revisitation or reconstruction of archaic and medieval paganism, the term "neo-shamanism" is also utilized in modern scholarship. "Neo-shamanism" refers to modern shamanic practitioners who are often non-traditional – practicing outside of traditional, indigenous contexts – and eclectic in approach. This modern approach is also criticized for distorting secretive, indigenous religious practices and producing so-called "plastic medicine men/women" who erroneously claim to be shamans.

I will also critique modern neo-shamanism, illustrating both the potential benefits of utilizing this eclectic approach as well as the potential cultural distortions and conflicts that can result.

**Sunday: Academic Panel**

**Semiotic Epistemology:**  
**Human Communication Repaired (EN)**

*Jason Poettcker, Bachelors Student*  
*University of Victoria, Departments of*  
*Philosophy and of History Resident of Victoria, British Columbia*

Recently one of my philosophy classmates posed this question to me; "If there is no universal foundation for language and it is all a matter of subjective interpretation, how can I be sure that anyone really understands what I am saying?" In the world today the desire constantly be in 'communion' with others through language is driving the rapid technological development of Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace.

Sadly, in the case of human relationships we are at a time when people feel more isolated from one another than any other period in history because they no longer believe that meaningful human communication is possible.

I will argue that Foucault's Archeology of Knowledge does not take meaningful serious speech acts seriously, and therefore contributes serious damage to meaningful human communication.

In other words Foucault's skepticism towards language and its ability to allow human beings to transmit meaning has contributed to a loss of faith in language. In response, this paper proposes a Critical Realist Semiotic Model approach to repair communication. This model will incorporate St. Augustine, Jacques Maritain and John Deely in a coherent theory of communicational epistemology that contrasts Foucault's skepticism towards language. This Semiotic model of language could give us a starting point for meaningful communication.

**D'une langue genrée à une liturgie ambiguë : l'expérience queer néo-païenne (FR)**

*Martin Lepage, Étudiant au doctorat  
Université du Québec à Montréal, département de  
sciences des religions*

L'identité gaie est toujours très mal comprise au sein des religions, tant par les institutions religieuses que les sciences qui étudient le religieux. Vouloir l'appréhender par rapport aux religions qui souvent la répudient peut sembler, même aujourd'hui, paradoxal.

Le néo-paganisme, cette mouvance « mystique-ésotérique » de résurgence du paganisme préchrétien, laisse une place privilégiée à la diversité culturelle, sexuelle, des croyances et des pratiques. Il possède, par rapport à l'identité gaie ou *queer*, une tolérance et une acceptation plutôt exceptionnelle, et réussit à s'établir en harmonie dans une communauté bilingue.

Effectivement, pour nos recherches doctorales, nous nous intéressons aux traditions néo-païennes que sont la Wicca et Reclaiming Witchcraft, toutes deux présentes dans la ville de Montréal.

Dans le cadre de cette communication, nous voudrions observer comment la notion de genre, lors de certaines célébrations collectives qui impliquent la sexualité, est à la fois estompée, sinon effacée, et extrapolée par ce jeu entre les deux langues. Ces pratiques, par leur oscillation constante, dans la liturgie, entre le français et l'anglais, contribueraient à cette inclusion d'une présence homosexuelle, combinée à une vision du monde anti-dualiste et à la vénération d'une divinité polymorphe toute féminine et masculine.

**Paganism and the Aftermath of the Quiet Revolution (EN)**

*Marisol Charbonneau, Masters Graduate  
University of Ottawa, Department of Religious Studies  
Resident of Montreal, Quebec*

In the 1960s, the rise to power of the provincial Liberals in Quebec and the ensuing expansion of the provincial government infrastructure triggered a series of modernizing and secularizing initiatives that forever changed Quebec society.

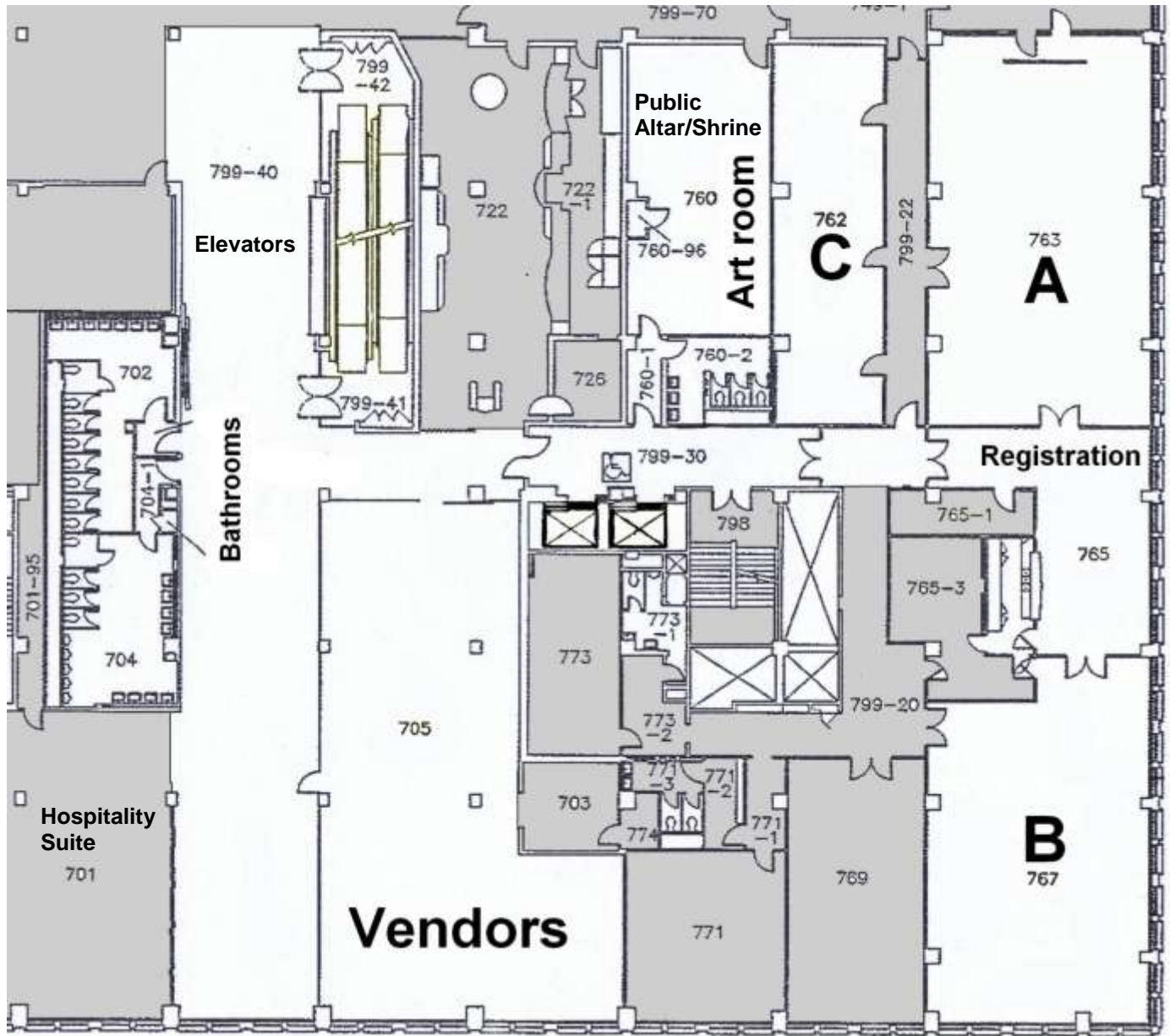
Most notable among these was the extremely rapid decline of the power and prestige of the Roman Catholic Church, whose ubiquity prior to that decade had made the Roman Catholic faith one of the defining features of the French Canadian identity within the province.

In the aftermath of the Quiet Revolution, as this turning point in Quebec history has come to be known, Francophone Quebecois have retained links to their Roman Catholic heritage mostly on a symbolic level, as the majority of Quebecois baby boomers and their descendants regard the Church with indifference at best, and with contempt at worst. It is in this highly de-Christianized context that Paganism has taken root in the province of Quebec, and most notably in Montreal.

This essay explores the unique cultural context of the Quiet Revolution and its aftermath, and the unique opportunities and challenges that this historical phenomenon has offered to the growth of the Pagan revival in the predominantly Francophone province.

# Map of the Conference Space

Gaia Gathering is being held in the Concordia conference facilities  
on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the **Concordia University – Hall Building**  
**1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West**



**The Bard's New Hat**  
Collection of tales by storyteller  
**JD "Hobbes" Hickey**

[shorteningtheroad.blogspot.com](http://shorteningtheroad.blogspot.com)  
[documentia.ca/storyteller](http://documentia.ca/storyteller)

**Winner of:**

- ★ Ottawa Storytelling Festival Story Slam
- ★ Kaleidoscope Gathering Fest Bardic
- ★ Wic-Can Fest Bardic

**CDs for sale (\$10) in the Vendors room**

	Room A	Room B	Room C	Other	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7th floor Concorida University (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West)</b>				
12:00	Short Opening Ceremony				<b>Vendors Room</b>
12:30					
13:00	<b>Panel Discussion:</b>			<b>Magical Mercantile Tour</b>	
13:30	Transgender Pagans				
14:00					
14:30	<b>Panel Discussion:</b>				
15:00	Conflict & Resolution				
15:30					
16:00	Multifaith Welcome, Talk,				
16:30	University Tour				
17:00					
17:30	<b>DINNER</b>				
18:00					
18:30					
19:00					
19:30					
20:00	<b>Main Opening Ritual</b>				
20:30	<b>Meet'n'Greet</b>				
21:00					
21:30					

	Room A	Room B	Room C	Other	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7th floor Concorida University (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West)</b>				
9:00	<b>Academic Stream Panel #1</b>	<b>Panel Discussion:</b>	<b>Panel Discussion:</b>		<b>Vendors Room ★ Pagan Art Show ★ Signing table</b>
9:30		The Value of Personal Gnosis	Mental Health & the Pagan Community		
10:00					
10:30	<b>Keynote Speaker: Nature is My Prayerbook: The Problem of Liturgy in Modern Paganism</b>				
11:00	Arin Murphy-Hiscock (Liturgy)				
11:30	Book signing with				
12:00	Arin Murphy-Hisock	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			
12:30					
13:00	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Academic Stream Panel #2</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
13:30	Herbal Myth & Lore		Publishing Canadian Pagan Media		
14:00					
14:30	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
15:00	Voodoo Traditions	Celebrating in French	Organizing Pagan Events		
15:30					
16:00		<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
16:30		Priest/Priestessing in our Craft	Impact of the Internet		
17:00					
17:30	<b>DINNER BREAK</b>				
18:00					
18:30					
19:00	<b>Pagan Rhythms: Triskalia</b>				
19:30					
20:00	Karina's Lounge (18 yrs +), 1459 Crescent St				
20:30	<b>Pagan Rhythms: Dragon Ritual Drummers</b>				
21:00					
21:30	Karina's Lounge (18 yrs +), 1459 Crescent St				

	Room A	Room B	Room C	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th floor Concorida University (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West)</b>			
9:00	<b>Keynote Speaker: Voicing our Faith - Living our Words - Building our Communities</b>			<b>Vendors Room ★ Pagan Art Show ★ Signing table</b>
9:30	Lucie Dufresne (Language)			
10:00				
10:30	<b>Academic Stream #3</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
11:00		Circle Repair	Documenting our Histories	
11:30				
12:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			
12:30				
13:00	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
13:30	Myth and Magic of the Spoken Word	Pagan Evolution & Quebec's Quiet Revolution	Gaia Gathering Visioning	
14:00				
14:30	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
15:00	Eight Paths of Magic	Song/Chant Share	Community Statement on Sexual Abuse	
15:30				
16:00		<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
16:30		Ancient & Modern Mythology	Translating Paganism to French	
17:00				
17:30	<b>Free time</b>			
18:00	<b>Last chance to visit the Vendors!</b>			
18:30				
19:00	<b>Steam-Pagan Banquet</b>			
19:30				
20:00				
20:30				
21:00	<b>Open-Mic at Banquet</b>			
21:30				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>YWCA (1355 boul. René-Lévesque West)</b>			
9:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b>			
9:30	Pagan Canon/Sacred Texts			
10:00				
10:30				
11:00	<b>Annual General Meeting/LUNCH</b>			
11:30				
12:00				
12:30				
13:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b>			
13:30	Clergy burnout			
14:00				
14:30				
15:00	<b>Short Closing Ceremony</b>			
15:30				
16:00				

## Special Features

### Registration Area

Friday – Sunday

- ★ **Information:** Have a question? Wondering where to find a vegetarian restaurant, the best poutine, or how to use our metro system? Ask one of the helpful volunteers at the registration table. We've armed them with information!
- ★ **Community Tables:** If you have a group, event or a business, drop your information off on the community table in the registration area. It's great to see what is happening across the country!
- ★ **Raffle:** Local Pagans and business have donated goods and services that will be raffled at the banquet. Every full weekend registration automatically gets you three entries in the raffle and every full day pass gets you one entry. You can also buy additional tickets at the registration desk for \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Funds raised will be donated to the host city committee of the next Gaia Gathering.

### Magical Mercantile Tour

Friday  
1pm – 4pm

Come visit some of the most frequently sought-out Pagan commercial and magical community spaces in Montreal.

- ★ *Avalon Centre* is a community-supported space that offers workshops, classes, and ritual space for Pagans living in Montreal's West Island.
- ★ *Le Mélange Magique*, located downtown, is a well-known magical and occult shop, and the host of the Montreal Pagan Resource Centre (MPRC) and Crescent Moon School (CMS).
- ★ *Charme et sortilège* is located in the Plateau Mont-Royal district and is a well-known store among the growing Francophone Pagan community.

### Welcome and talk about Multifaith Chaplaincy

Friday  
4pm

Laura Gallo of the Concordia's Multifaith Chaplaincy will formally welcome all present at Gaia Gathering to Concordia University on behalf of the many multifaith chaplains of the department. She will introduce to the attendees to the importance and role of multifaith chaplaincy and the role it plays in this university.

### Opening Ritual & Meet'n Greet

Friday  
8pm – 9:30pm

Join us as we officially open the 6th Gaia Gathering, celebrate our linguistic and cultural diversities, and get to know each other as a community over the weekend. This ritual was collaboratively planned by the Montreal community and coordinated by Mark Hughes. Following the ritual there will be a Meet and Greet facilitated by Pagans from the West Island of Montreal, coordinated by Meri Fowler.

### Hospitality Suite

Friday – Sunday  
Room 701

Relax, enjoy a cup of coffee and some conversation in the Gaia Gathering Hospitality Suite, just across the hall from the vendor's area. The food and snacks are sponsored by the Pagan Federation Païenne Canada (PFPC), and the space was donated by the Concordia Student Union. **Please bring your own mug.**

## Pagan Art Show / Community Altar / Shrine

Saturday – Sunday  
9am – 4pm

Visit the Art Room to enjoy artwork produced by members of our own community, both locally and from across North America. This is Montreal's second annual Pagan Art Show and is coordinated by the Montreal Pagan Resource Centre.

Participating artists this year include Lauren Trimble, Lena Breijer, Sandy Durand, Prudence Priest, Elissa Baltzer, April-Anna Bremers, Tina Jory, T. Scarlet Jory, and Gladys Bacon. Many of these artists are attending the conference, so feel free to meet and chat with them!

### Community Altar / Shrine

Located in the back of the Art Show room, you will find our community altar. We welcome you to lend your energy to this sacred space. Feel free to use it for rituals and meditation as you need anything during the Art Room's open hours. You may add to the altar but please do not take away anything which isn't yours. Bright Blessings to all and we wish you all peace of mind at our shrine.

## Author / Artist Signing Table

Saturday – Sunday  
9am – 4pm

Visit the author/artist signing table and meet with your favourite Pagan celebrities! Dr. Brendan Myers, Arin Murphy-Hiscock, Adelina St. Clair, and members of Triskalia and the Dragon Ritual Drummers will be at the signing table at various moments during the conference to meet you and sign copies of the books and CDs.

Don't miss this chance to hobnob with the prolific and magickal! Check with Registration to find out who will be at the signing table and when they will be available!

## Pagan Rhythms:

featuring *Dragon Ritual Drummers* with opening act: *Triskalia*

Saturday  
7pm – 10:00pm

### Karina's Lounge (18 yrs +)

1459 Crescent St

Tickets: \$10

(free for Gaia Gathering weekend pass holders)

Pick up your tickets at Registration



The **Dragon Ritual Drummers** will celebrate their 10 year anniversary as of 2010. Based out of the Niagara Region, they began their journey as favourites in the pagan festival circuit in Ontario, Canada. They have since moved on to play at pagan festivals and large mainstream events all over North America.

The troupe includes Utu, Flint, Adrian, Drago, Naresh, and Eion. All members play a variety of instruments including tribal drums, string instruments, as well as brass and archaic reed instruments heard in the ancient hills and valleys of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Their music and performances are creative, intense, and powerful. They bring the audience to their feet dancing as they are swept away in the intense beat of music inspired from around the world and through the ages.

## Gaia Gathering Visioning

Sunday  
1pm (Room C)

Join members of the National Board as we discuss if the current formula that we developed for Gaia Gathering over seven year ago is still working, and collectively envision what future conferences might look like. We'll then brainstorm ways to help achieve this vision, as well as identifying and suggesting ways to overcome current obstacles.

This is your opportunity to get involved in the vision of the Canadian National Pagan Conference, and to share your thoughts and observations on the Montreal conference as well as any past ones that you have attended. The results of this visioning session will be presented at the AGM on Monday as suggestions to the incoming board of directors.

## SteamPagan Banquet + Pagan Idol Hurley's Pub (1235 Crescent St.)

Sunday  
7pm

What happens when you mix Steampunk with Pagan fashion? You get SteamPagan of course! How would pagans be attired in a steam-powered society? We leave it up to your creative genius to decide how you would present your SteamPagan side!

**Note:** Dressing up in SteamPagan attire for the banquet is **completely** optional. **However, you must purchase your tickets in advance (see Reg.)**

**Pagan Idol** is an free-to-attend open mic session where people are invited to entertain us with their talents.

Sing! Tell stories! Tell jokes! Perform magic before our very eyes!

**You can sign up for Pagan Idol at the banquet!**



## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday,  
10:30 am (YMCA)

Join us as we decide where the next Gaia Gathering will be held, elect new officers for our national board of directors, and review the reports from our out-going board of directors and local conference committee. A summary of the suggestions coming out of the visioning session on Sunday will also be presented. This is your chance to participate in some important decisions and to learn more about 'the inner workings' of the conference.

**Everyone is welcome to attend, however only those who have paid the full conference registration rates are considered members with voting rights.**

Tea, coffee and morning snacks will be available at the start of the meeting. We will take a brief break for a buffet-style lunch around 11:30.

## Panel and Roundtable Discussions

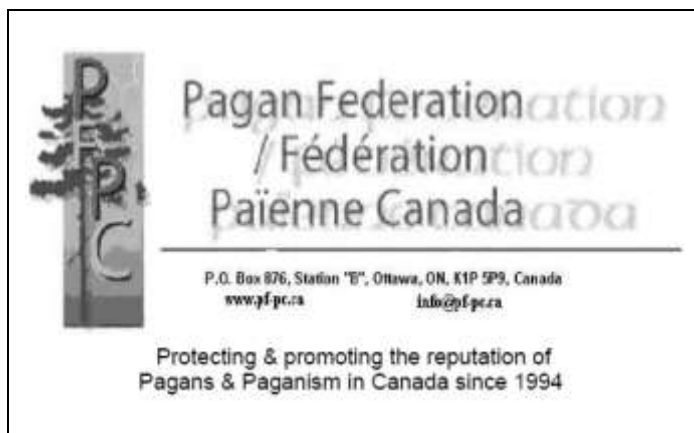
<b>Transgender Pagans (EN)</b>	<b>Conflict and Resolution (EN)</b>
<p>Recently, there was a public women's Pagan ritual where people who were not born into female bodies were excluded. How do cissexism/transphobia, body essentialism, exclusion, and anti-oppression work both in our community and in our liturgy.</p>	<p>In managing conflicts between ideologically-separated groups, organizations, and people, how can we bring positive interventions and find enough common ground between them? What models exist?</p>
<b>The Value of Personal Gnosis (EN)</b>	<b>Mental Health &amp; the Pagan Community (EN)</b>
<p>How much value do we place on personal gnosis (knowledge acquired directly from deities and spirits), obtaining and sharing it, compared to the other pillars of Pagan spirituality? These being: lore, tradition, and modern inspiration (ecology, feminism, activism and creativity).</p>	<p>How do we react to the presence of mental illness among us, and how can we help? What accommodations can be made and what resources are there to support our community? How can our leaders avoid burn-out, and how can the community support them in a way that prevents burn-out?</p>
<b>Publishing Canadian Pagan Media (EN)</b>	<b>Celebrating in French (FR)</b>
<p>Why are most of the 'big name' Pagan authors American (and to a lesser extent British)? Who are our Canadian authors and how can we help support them? With the evolution of the Internet, how are pagan authors using blogs, podcasts, and other media to get their ideas out to the public?</p>	<p>This panel discusses the challenges Francophone Pagans face within their own spiritual practice, but also when interacting with Pagans in their own community and beyond. What documentation is available for Francophone audiences? What direction is the Francophone Pagan community taking? Is there a common ground to be found with other linguistic cultures in terms of spiritual expression?</p>
<b>Organizing Pagan Events (EN)</b>	<b>Song and Chant Share (EN)</b>
<p>This panel of organizers offers advice on everything from designing, fund-raising, managing volunteers, and publicizing your Pagan event.</p>	<p>Learn and share songs, chants, and other music from our communities across Canada.</p>
<b>Impact of the Internet (EN)</b>	<b>Priestessing/Priesting our Craft (EN)</b>
<p>The Internet provides us with more access to people and information, but it also allows reduces in-person contact with real people. How can we use the Internet to our advantage and what is there about the Internet that should we avoid? How has the internet and social media changed Pagan communications? How has technology influenced our spiritual practice?</p>	<p>This panel seeks to define the qualities a person needs to be able to take on a leadership role in the Pagan community. What does it mean to be a Priest/ess in our covens, groups and communities? What are the risks and challenges, and what skills do we need to cultivate? Do we have a need for a Pagan chaplaincy to make clerical services available in our communities, and how can we support our leaders in that endeavor?</p>

<p><b>Documenting our Pagan History (EN)</b></p>	<p><b>Circle Repair (EN)</b></p>
<p>Our communities are constantly evolving in terms of culture, population, and the response to crisis. How do we chronicle these events that make-up our modern history? We have discovered such wisdom in ancient texts, but what can we learn from the legacy of our modern-day elders? How do we preserve our recent history so that future generations can benefit?</p>	<p>How do circles, covens, groves and other group prevent potentially damaging situations or repair the broken trust and fractured dynamics after a fall-out?</p>
<p><b>Pagan Evolution after Quebec's Quiet Revolution (EN)</b></p>	<p><b>Pagan Community Stance on Sexual Abuse</b></p>
<p>Anglophone and Francophone Pagans often differ in the ways they live and practice their religion. These differences are deeply rooted in Quebec's unique cultural and religious past.</p> <p>This panel explores the impact of salient events in Quebec's recent cultural history, and how the Quiet Revolution and the subsequent de-Christianisation of Quebec's Francophone population have impacted the way Francophone and Anglophone Pagans understand and live their faith.</p>	<p>This panel provides discusses what we as Pagans mean by the term sexual abuse, and whether it is possible to create a statement that a consensus would agree on. This discussion features a document that was written, discussed, and spear-headed by Dr. Brendan Myers and The Wild Hunt blog (<a href="http://thewildhunt.org">thewildhunt.org</a>).</p>
<p><b>Ancient vs. Modern Mythology (EN)</b></p>	<p><b>Translating English Sources to French (FR)</b></p>
<p>Would you call upon Robin Hood as the God deity? Do you find more power in calling down the spirit of the Dagda, or could you call upon the power of Superman as an archetype? Can Pagans still find power and relevance in published works from the last few centuries? How old does mythology need to be to be considered a valid mythology?</p>	<p>With so many Pagan books published in English, is there a market for them to be translated to French? What are the challenges to translate these documents? This panel explores the challenges inherent in making the current Pagan documentation accessible to the Francophone population.</p>
<p><b>Pagan Canon</b></p>	<p><b>Clergy and Leader Burn-out (EN)</b></p>
<p>A canon is a collection of writings that a religious tradition considers sacred, divinely inspired, or foundational. What texts, poetry and writings do we consider sacred? Is there a Pagan canon or tradition-specific canons? Where do sacred texts overlap between traditions?</p>	<p>Many of our communities hinge upon the efforts of the few to provide services, organize events, and plan rituals that the community members can take part in. Sometimes these people receive the support they need, but much more often, they are left to do the work on their own, which is the well-worn path to burn-out.</p> <p>How can we better support our clergy and community leaders to prevent burn-out? More importantly, how can we help them recover from the burn-out they've already experienced?</p>

## Vendors

Gaia Gathering 2011 will be featuring a large vending room and arts show to expose local businesses, artisans, and artists to our guests from all across Canada. As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, our registered vendors for 2011 include:

- ★ **Andrea Ostiguay** (Reflexology and Crystal Bowls)  
[westislandcrystaljunkies.blogspot.com/](http://westislandcrystaljunkies.blogspot.com/)
- ★ **August Joy Jewelery** (Jewelry)  
[www.etsy.com/shop/AugustJoy](http://www.etsy.com/shop/AugustJoy)
- ★ **Bijoux Elizabeth** (Celtic-inspired Knotwork Jewellery in Leather and Wire)  
[bijouxelizabeth.etsy.com/](http://bijouxelizabeth.etsy.com/)
- ★ **Josianne Blanchette** (Handmade Gothic and Pagan Jewelry)  
[www.etsy.com/shop/angelyques](http://www.etsy.com/shop/angelyques)
- ★ **Elissa Baltzer** (Artwork and Magical Tools)  
[elissabaltzer.blogspot.com/](http://elissabaltzer.blogspot.com/)
- ★ **Prudence Priest** (Amber)  
[www.prudenttravels.blogspot.com/](http://www.prudenttravels.blogspot.com/)
- ★ **Stephanie Bayne**
- ★ **Silver Dragon Jewelry** (Cast jewelry in silver, bronze with stones)
- ★ **The Art of April Anna (Artwork)**  
[theartofapril-anna.blogspot.com/](http://theartofapril-anna.blogspot.com/)
- ★ **Le Melange Magique** (Books, tools, miscellanea)  
[www.themagicalblend.com](http://www.themagicalblend.com)
- ★ **Charme & Sortilege** (Magical tools, miscellanea)  
[www.charme-et-sortilege.com](http://www.charme-et-sortilege.com)
- ★ **Lady Rose Designs** (Medieval chainmail and modern jewelry) [www.lady-rose-designs.com](http://www.lady-rose-designs.com)
- ★ **Lucie DuFresne** (Silver jewelry and smudges)
- ★ **Lauren Trimble** (ceramic and tile art, posters, wall hangings) [www.laurentrimble.com](http://www.laurentrimble.com)





**PanFest 2011**  
Air moves me  
July 29-August 1, 2011

Alberta's Premiere  
Pagan Festival

Panfest 2011  
Registration Fees  
& Deadlines

Regular	May 1st	\$125.00
	Child	\$ 65.00
Last Chance	June 1-30	\$140.00
	Child	\$ 75.00

[www.panfest.ca](http://www.panfest.ca)

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# Crescent Moon



Since its founding in 1995 this school of neo-Pagan study has undergone several incarnations to become Crescent Moon School of Magic & Paganism.

The goal of Crescent Moon School is to introduce people to a variety of magical paths and neo-Pagan religions by offering a broad program in all subjects which are of interest and value to the modern neo-Pagan practitioner, including but not limited to study of cultures and pantheons, history of religions, and cultural magical techniques.

Crescent Moon offers a concise 4-level program. Level 1 (which lasts approximately 18 weeks) is offered twice a year in September and February.

For more information...

**(514) 799-9412**

[www.mtl-magicalcircle.ca](http://www.mtl-magicalcircle.ca)

# Navigating and Visiting Montreal

Montreal has a vibrant atmosphere, active Pagan community, and ample opportunities for those who might enjoy a little sight-seeing and shopping.

Montreal has many unique aspects to be discovered and appreciated. Guests can visit our many museums, tour the city, or take in a show. Our conference venue is directly adjacent to the metro public transit system ([www.stm.info/](http://www.stm.info/)), making exploring the city a snap.



Gaia Gathering is being held in the Concordia conference facilities on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the **Concordia University – Hall Building** 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West

## Public Transit

- ★ You can purchase a 24 hour pass (\$8) or a 3-day pass (\$16) from the STM *Société de Transport de Montreal*; Montreal's public transit commission). This special transit pass also allows travelers to access the public bus and metro network. The closest metro station to Concordia University is the **Guy metro station** on the Green line.
- ★ Maps of the public transit system can be found on the STM website ([www.stm.info/](http://www.stm.info/)).

## Taxis and Limos

- ★ Taxis charge a flat rate of \$39 from the airport to anywhere in the downtown area. However, there are plenty of taxis downtown, so you can usually flag one down pretty quickly.
- ★ Limousines are also available, if travelers are in a fancier mood, for a fee of \$50 to anywhere downtown.

## Car Rental Information

- ★ National Alamo: 1-800-462-5266
- ★ Avis: 1-800-TRY-AVIS
- ★ Budget: 1-800-472-3325
- ★ Dollar-Thrifty: 1-800-800-4000
- ★ Enterprise: 1-800-RENT-A-CAR
- ★ Hertz: 1-800-263-0600

## Pagan Businesses

- ★ **The Magical Blend/Le Melange Magique:** The Magical Blend offers a complete selection of products oriented towards the followers of all alternative spiritual paths, including Wicca, Paganism, Magick, Goddess Spirituality, Witchcraft, and Santeria.  
[www.themagicalblend.com/](http://www.themagicalblend.com/)
- ★ **Montreal Pagan Resource Centre:** A volunteer-based drop-in centre where people (from any faith) can teach, share, and inform themselves on subjects related to alternative spirituality.  
[mprc-crpm.ca/](http://mprc-crpm.ca/)
- ★ **Charme & Sortilege:** A boutique that specializes in white magic and traditional witchcraft. The shop features ritual tools, grimoires, and Books of Shadow, an apothecary, divination services, and medieval-themed clothing. [www.charme-et-sortilege.com/](http://www.charme-et-sortilege.com/)

## Nature Museums

- ★ **The Biodome.** An oasis in the heart of the city, the Montreal Biodome recreates some of the most beautiful ecosystems of the Americas.  
[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome/](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome/)
- ★ **The Botanical Gardens.** With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivated exhibits, 10 exhibition greenhouses, and 30 thematic gardens, the Montreal Botanical Gardens rank among the world's largest and most spectacular.  
[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/)
- ★ **Montréal Planetarium.** Visit Montreal's own night sky simulator. See the night's stars the way they are, the way they were, and the way they will be.  
[www.planetarium.montreal.qc.ca/](http://www.planetarium.montreal.qc.ca/)
- ★ **Mount Royal Park.** The largest park in the city. Walk up to the cross at the top, or just hang out around Beaver Lake. Weather permitting, Mount Royal Park hosts the TamTam drumming event every Sunday!  
[www.lemontroyal.qc.ca/en/learn-about-mount-royal/](http://www.lemontroyal.qc.ca/en/learn-about-mount-royal/)

## Art and History Museums

- ★ **McCord Museum.** Founded in 1921 by David Ross McCord, the McCord Museum is a public research and teaching museum dedicated to the preservation, study, diffusion, and appreciation of Canadian history.  
[www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/](http://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/)
- ★ **Pointe-à-Callière Museum.** The Montreal museum of Archaeology and History features seasonal exhibits that explore and expand our knowledge of history.  
[www.pacmuseum.qc.ca](http://www.pacmuseum.qc.ca)
- ★ **The Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art.** A major Canadian institution dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the Musée offers a varied program ranging from its Permanent Collection to exhibitions of works by Quebec, Canadian, and international artists. The Permanent Collection comprises some 7,000 works, including the largest collection of art by Paul-Mile Borduas.  
[www.macm.org/](http://www.macm.org/)

- ★ **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.** Conserving art for all to share. The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts acquires and promotes the work of Canadian and international artists, attracting a broad and heterogeneous public, and providing access to our universal artistic heritage. [www.mbam.qc.ca/en/index.html](http://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/index.html)
- ★ **Stewart Museum.** Situated at the fort on Île Sainte-Hélène near Montreal, the Stewart Museum tells the history of the discovery, exploration, and development of Canada, and of its relationship with the civilizations of Western Europe that gave it birth. [www.stewart-museum.org/](http://www.stewart-museum.org/)

### Other sites to visit

- ★ **The Canadian Center for Architecture.** An international research center and museum. [www.cca.qc.ca/](http://www.cca.qc.ca/)
- ★ **Montreal Science Center.** The Montreal Science Center highlights recent innovations and inventions of our local industries. [www.centredessciencesdemontreal.com/](http://www.centredessciencesdemontreal.com/)
- ★ **The Montreal tourism board.** The Montreal tourism board web site is the Internet gateway to the city of Montreal. It includes links to hotels, events, and much more. [www.tourisme-montreal.org/](http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/)
- ★ **The Canadian Tourism Commission.** The Canadian Tourism Commission works to increase awareness of and generate interest in Canada as a premiere four-season tourism destination. [www.canadatourism.com/](http://www.canadatourism.com/)

## Thank You! Merci!

In the last year, Montreal held six fund-raisers that together raised over \$5000 to provide general funds for the conference, reward volunteers with a discount on registration, provide travel subsidies to out-of-towners, and offer Saturday night entertainment. A huge THANK-YOU to everyone who helped out or attended them; with special thanks to the people who coordinated each fundraising event:

Au cours de la dernière année, six levées de fonds ont eu lieu à Montréal, lors desquelles plus de 5 000 \$ ont été amassés afin de renflouer le fond général de la conférence, récompenser les bénévoles d'un rabais à l'inscription, des subventions à ceux qui voyagent de loin et pour verser un cachet au spectacle du samedi soir. UN GRAND MERCI à tous ceux qui ont aidé ou qui ont participé à ces événements, particulièrement à :

#### **Gaia's Bardic and Gaia's Auction**

Organized by / organisé par Hobbes

#### **The Montreal Witches' Ball**

Organized by / organisé par  
the Montreal Pagan Resource Centre (MPRC)

#### **Yule Fair Raffle Basket**

Machauna and Meri Fowler

#### **Beat the Winter Blues Concert**

Organized by / organisé par Hobbes  
Space donated by / espace fourni par Clydes Pub

#### **Avalon Centre Workshop Day**

Organized by Meri Fowler  
Space donated by Avalon Centre

#### **Journée D'Ateliers Yggdrasil**

Organisé par Isis Shaktyma & Clan Yggdrasil  
Espace fourni par Charme & Sortilege

#### **Divine-In**

Organized by / organisé par Catharine Allen



## Montreal Pagan Resource Centre Centre de ressource païenne de Montréal

1928 Ste. Catherine St. West, Montreal, Qc  
[mprc-crpm.ca](http://mprc-crpm.ca)

EST in 2000, the MPRC is a volunteer-based drop-in centre where people from any faith can teach, share, and inform themselves on subjects related to alternative spirituality.

The MPRC also organizes and supports many pagan events and is a proud sponsor of Gaia Gathering 2011.

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### Thank you!!!

We are grateful to everyone who donated their professional services, artwork or products for fundraisers or the conference. Please support them and their businesses!

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**Andrea Ostiguy**  
*westislandcrystaljunkies.blogspot.com*

**April Anna Bremers**  
*www.AprilAnna.com*

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### Merci!!!

à tous ceux qui ont offert leurs services professionnels, leur artisanat ou leurs produits dans les différentes levées de fonds ou pour la conférence. Encouragez-les!

#### Performers:

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*kanaska.webs.com*

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**TaelStrum**  
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*www.myspace.com/triskalia*

#### Venues and Groups:

**Avalon Centre**  
*www.avalonnaturel.com*

**Charme et Sortilege**  
*www.charme-et-sortilege.com*

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*www.thewicca.ca/wscg*

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**Our heartfelt thanks go to all our volunteers, both locally and across the country, who gave us their time, talent, and passion to make this conference a reality.**

**We could not have worked this magic without you. Thank you.**



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