

# THE COST AND CONSCIENCE OF PROGRESS



This presentation explores the choices in civilization's development, marked by growing complexity, power dynamics, and spiritual purpose. It traces archaeological markers from food surpluses to state power and social stratification, questioning if we recognize watershed moments like the AI Revolution, contrasting it with gradual past innovations such as writing.

Religion serves as the moral foundation, with Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith, emphasizing ethics like Justice and Unity over technology. Applied to AI, it examines if technological utility justifies costs like job displacement and resource use, ultimately defining the ethical civilization we build today.

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 2:00 PM**

Location: University of Victoria Multifaith Center  
West Campus Gate, next to Finnerty Gardens, Parking Lot 6

*\*Free Parking on Sundays*



Born in Northern Ontario in 1953, Jim Flood grew up in Southern Ontario, splitting time between a Toronto children's hospital and Stratford. He discovered the Bahá'í Faith in 1972 in Charlottetown, joined in 1973, married Sheila in 1975, and graduated university in 1978. He worked at the National Bahá'í Centre (1980 - 1984), pioneered in the French Caribbean (1984 - 1991), and moved back to Canada, living in Quebec City with Sheila and their two children until 1998. His career spanned teaching English, running a computer business, tech writing, and IT management. He retired from BC Assessment in 2019.



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