

# A timely questionnaire

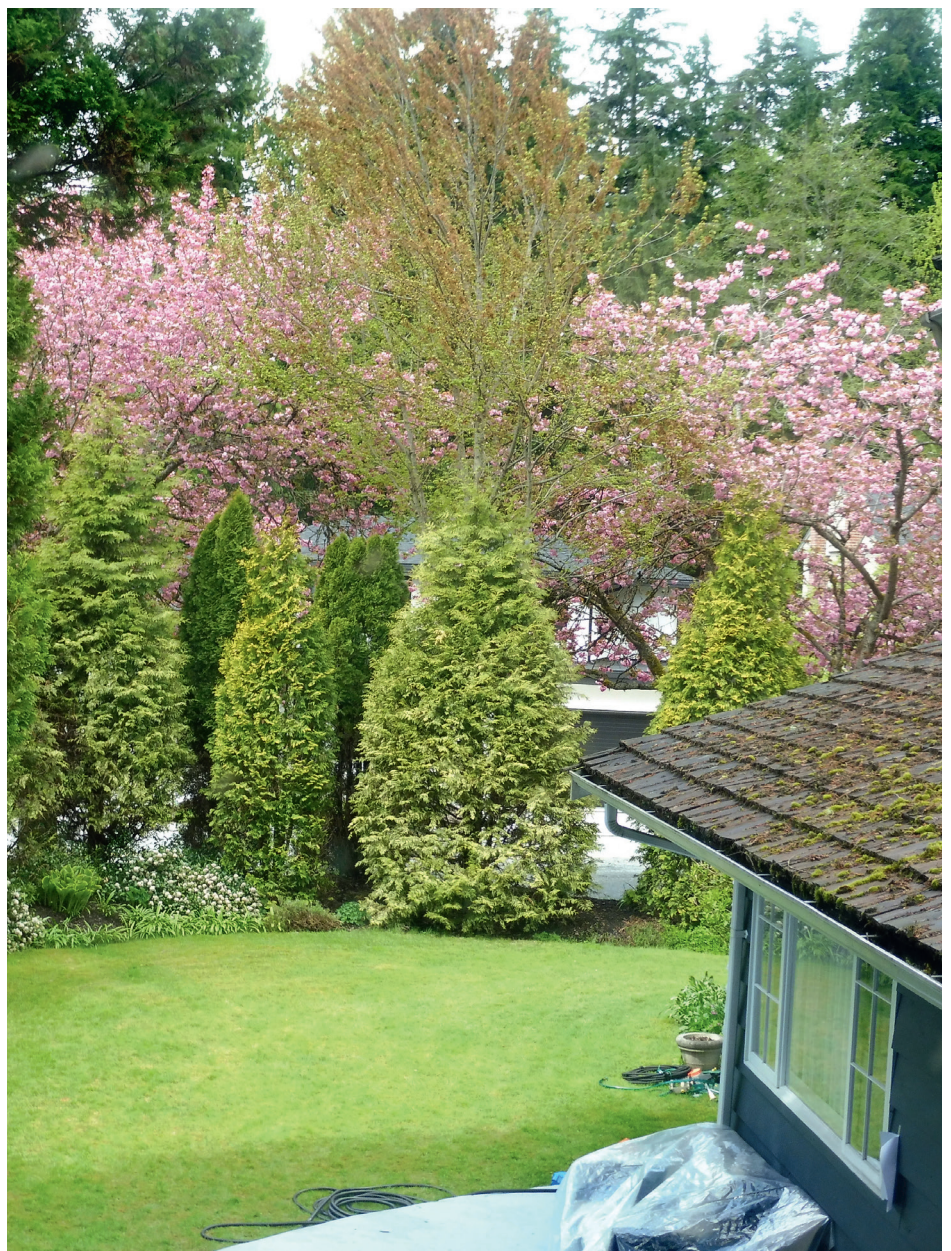
Name: Irene Gilfillan

Profession: homemaker

Age: 65

Place: North Vancouver BC Canada

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Since the end of February 2020, one topic – the coronavirus or COVID-19 – has kept people around the world in check. There is hardly anyone who is not affected by it. People are confronted with drastic measures apparently designed to protect their health. But as these measures are implemented questions arise that go further, for us personally and the world. The situation calls for critical reflections on who we are, what values we consider important and what kind of society we want to live in. The Philosophicum therefore is asking people from different countries to briefly pause and think about the current time, themselves and their society.

You will find the new answers published at regular intervals on our website [www.philosophicum.ch](http://www.philosophicum.ch).

Participants can answer anonymously should they wish and are invited to add a photo of the view from their window.

### **1 What has been the biggest change for you lately?**

- Home confinement
- No outings, shopping, visitors
- Restricted socializing
- Most recent, «sealing» my downstairs rooms with heavy plastic and duct tape to quarantine my son's exposure to Covid 19 from my husband and me

### **2 What are you thinking about these days?**

- when will this all end
- how will life resume, as before or how changed
- I love to travel overseas. Will I ever be able to do this again?

### **3 What has changed in your everyday life due to the measures relating to the coronavirus pandemic?**

- no set times to get up in morning, do things through the day
- no «fun» things to look forward to such visiting friends, shopping or travel
- much more time now for crafts, gardening, dog walking, reading and reflecting on important things in life

### **4 Could the indirect consequences of the coronavirus pandemic have a larger impact on your country than its direct consequences?**

- yes, less trading of supplies, more job losses, bankruptcies and poverty all leading to more sadness and depression
- On the brighter side perhaps, after the whole world dealing with this together maybe there will be more understanding, compassion and «helping your neighbour» than ever before

**5 Are there any changes in your life caused by the coronavirus pandemic that you wouldn't want to dispense with anymore?**

- More frequent contact with my children and extended family

**6 Which changes do you hope will soon disappear from your life?**

- fear of the unknown (virus lurking anywhere or on anyone)
- threat of financial collapse of society and country should this continue
- re-opening of the freedom to travel, go to restaurants etc

**7 Have you gained any new insights about yourself, your environment or society due to the coronavirus crisis?**

- yes, for me how lonely life is without others around to interact with
- for my environment how bluer the sky is without airplane and car pollution and much more wildlife seen around my streets (deer and coyote lately though bears now present too)
- society has recognized the seriousness of this disease and here are really working together doing what the health professionals are recommending to prevent further spread

**8 What does «being human» mean to you?**

- social, valued, loved, wanted, caring, compassionate and being able to enjoy interaction with others

**9 In your view, what could be the greatest stupidity of humanity?**

- ignoring the facts of the seriousness of this threat therefore not following the recommendations of those trying to eradicate this virus

**10 What are your feelings and thoughts about the future in 30 years?**

- hopeful that vaccines will be found to prevent further spread of this and other viruses like it in future
- hopeful that mankind will see this as a «wakeup call» and continue to work together as human beings rather than distinct nations for we all occupy one and the same planet so what one society does will definitely affect the others
- sad for the loss of freedoms and the carefree times of bygone years that newer generations will never know