

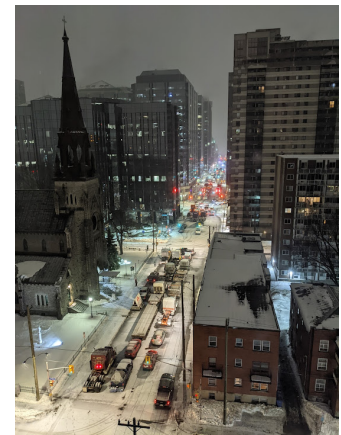
# The Reformed Physicist

Musings of a Federal Data Scientist

## A night with the untouchables

I live in downtown Ottawa, right in the middle of the trucker convoy protest. They are literally camped out below my bedroom window. My new neighbours moved in on Friday and they seem determined to stay. I have read a lot about what my new neighbours are supposedly like, mostly from reporters and columnists who write from distant vantage points somewhere in the media heartland of Canada. Apparently the people who inhabit the patch of asphalt next to my bedroom are white supremacists, racists, hatemongers, pseudo-Trumpian grifters, and even QAnon-style nutters. I have a perfect view down Kent Street – the absolute ground zero of the convoy. In the morning, I see some protesters emerge from their trucks to stretch their legs, but mostly throughout the day they remain in their cabs honking their horns. At night I see small groups huddled in quiet conversations in their new found companionship. There is no honking at night. What I haven't noticed, not even once, are reporters from any of Canada's news agencies walking among the trucks to find out who these people are. So last night, I decided to do just that – I introduced myself to my new neighbours.

At 10pm I started my walk along – and in – Kent Street. I felt nervous. Would these people shout at me? My clothes, my demeanour, even the way I walk screamed that I'm an outsider. All the trucks were aglow in the late evening mist, idling to maintain warmth, but all with ominously dark interiors. Standing in the middle of the convoy, I felt completely alone as though these giant monsters weren't piloted by people but were instead autonomous transformer robots from some science fiction universe that had gone into recharging mode for the night. As I moved along I started to notice smatterings of people grouped together between the cabs sharing cigarettes or enjoying light laughs. I kept quiet and moved on. Nearby, I spotted a heavy duty pickup truck, and seeing the silhouette of a person in the driver's seat, I waved. A young man, probably in his mid 20s, rolled down the window, said hello and I introduced myself. His girlfriend was reclined against the passenger side door with a pillow to proper her up as she watched a movie on her phone. I could easily tell it's been an uncomfortable few nights. I asked how they felt and I told them I lived across the street. Immediate surprise washed over the young man's face. He said, "You must hate us. But no one honks past 6pm!" That's true. As someone who lives right on top of the convoy, there is no noise at night. I said, "No, I don't hate anyone, but I wanted to find out about you." The two were from Sudbury Ontario, having arrived on Friday with the bulk of the truckers. I ask what they hoped to achieve, and what they wanted. The young woman in the passenger seat moved forward, excited to share. They said that they didn't want a country that forced people to get medical treatments such as



*The Convoy on Kent Street.  
February 2, 2022.*

vaccines. There was no hint of conspiracy theories in their conversation with me, not a hint of racist overtones or hateful demagoguery. I didn't ask them if they had taken the vaccine, but they were adamant that they were not anti-vaxers.

The next man I ran into was standing in front of the big trucks at the head of the intersection. Past middle age and slightly rotund, he had a face that suggests a lifetime of working outdoors. I introduced myself and he told me we was from Cochrane, Ontario. He also proudly pointed out that he was the block captain who helped maintain order. I thought, oh no, he might be the one person keeping a lid on things; is it all that precarious? I delicately asked how hard his job was to keep the peace but I quickly learned that's not really what he did. He organized the garbage collection among the cabs, put together snow removal crews to shovel the sidewalks and clear the snow that accumulates on the road. He even has a salting crew for the sidewalks. He proudly bellowed in an irrepressible laugh "We're taking care of the roads and sidewalks better than the city." I waved goodbye and continued to the next block.

My next encounter was with a man dressed in dark blue shop-floor coveralls. A wiry man of upper middle age, he seemed taciturn and stood a bit separated from the small crowd that formed behind his cab for a late night smoke. He hailed from the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. He owned his own rig, but he only drove truck occasionally, his main job being a self-employed heavy duty mechanic. He closed his shop to drive to Ottawa, because he said, "I don't want my new granddaughter to live in a country that would strip the livelihood from someone for not getting vaccinated." He introduced me to the group beside us. A younger crowd, I can remember their bearded faces, from Athabasca, Alberta, and Swift Current Saskatchewan. The weather had warmed, and it began to rain slightly, but they too were excited to tell me why they came to Ottawa. They felt that they needed to stand up to a government that doesn't understand what their lives are like. To be honest, I don't know what their lives are like either – a group of young men who work outside all day with tools that they don't even own. Vaccine mandates are a bridge too far for them. But again, not a hint of anti-vax conspiracy theories or deranged ideology.


I made my way back through the trucks, my next stop leading me to a man of East Indian descent in conversation with a young man from Sylvan Lake, Alberta. They told me how they were following the news of O'Toole's departure from the Conservative leadership and that they didn't like how in government so much power has pooled into so few hands.

The rain began to get harder; I moved quickly through the intersection to the next block. This time I waved at a driver in one of the big rigs. Through the rain it was hard to see him, but he introduced himself, an older man, he had driven up from New Brunswick to lend his support. Just behind him some young men from Gaspésie, Quebec introduced themselves to me in their best English. At that time people started to notice me – this man from Ottawa who lives across the street – just having honest conversations with the convoy. Many felt a deep sense of abuse by a powerful government and that no one thinks they matter.

Behind the crowd from Gaspésie sat a stretch van, the kind you often see associated with industrial cleaners. I could see the shadow of a man leaning out from the back as he placed a small charcoal BBQ on the sidewalk next to his vehicle. He introduced himself and told me he was from one of the reservations on Manitoulin Island. Here I was in conversation with an Indigenous man who was fiercely proud to be part of the convoy. He showed me his medicine wheel and he pointed to its colours, red, black, white, and yellow. He said there is a message of healing in there for all the human races, that we can come together because we are all human. He said, “If you ever find yourself on Manitoulin Island, come to my reserve, I would love to show you my community.” I realized that I was witnessing something profound; I don’t know how to fully express it.

As the night wore on and the rain turned to snow, those conversations repeated themselves. The man from Newfoundland with his bullmastiff, a young couple from British Columbia, the group from Winnipeg that together form what they call “Manitoba Corner ” all of them with similar stories. At Manitoba Corner a boisterous heavily tattooed man spoke to me from the cab of his dually pickup truck – a man who had a look that would have fit right in on the set of some motorcycle movie – pointed out that there are no symbols of hate in the convoy. He said, “Yes there was some clown with a Nazi flag on the weekend, and we don’t know where he’s from, but I’ll tell you what, if we see anyone with a Nazi flag or a Confederate flag, we’ll kick his fucking teeth in. No one’s a Nazi here.” Manitoba Corner all gave a shout out to that.

As I finally made my way back home, after talking to dozens of truckers into the night, I realized I met someone from every province except PEI. They all have a deep love for this country. They believe in it. They believe in Canadians. These are the people that Canada relies on to build its infrastructure, deliver its goods, and fill the ranks of its military in times of war. The overwhelming concern they have is that the vaccine mandates are creating an untouchable class of Canadians. They didn’t make high-falutin arguments from Plato’s Republic, Locke’s treatises, or Bagehot’s interpretation of Westminster parliamentary systems. Instead, they see their government willing to push a class of people outside the boundaries of society, deny them a livelihood, and deny them full membership in the most welcoming country in the world; and they said enough. Last night I learned my new neighbours are not a monstrous faceless occupying mob. They are our moral conscience reminding us – with every blow of their horns – what we should have never forgotten: We are not a country that makes an untouchable class out of our citizens.

 David / February 3, 2022 / Uncategorized

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## 75 thoughts on “A night with the untouchables”

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 Deb

February 3, 2022 at 3:57 pm

Very proud of you David. I am honoured and blessed to be your sister! Honest conversation, compassion and curiosity- you have accomplished all of that and so much more in your walk-a-bout. I wish I had had the pleasure to accompany you that evening...though know, in my own way, I am engaged in a similar journey.

Deb

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 **Sandy**

February 4, 2022 at 6:17 am

That Miss is. Profound report by your Brother.

I know you are very proud of him, anyone who reads this should also be proud Of your brother David. Bless you both...

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 **madonna lynn scott**

February 4, 2022 at 2:12 pm

Wow! this brought a tear to my eye .Very well written .Excellent !

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 **Alan Mack**

February 3, 2022 at 4:34 pm

Excellent! Too bad we haven't seen similar articles elsewhere. BTW, I'd hate you to lose any street cred so you may want to change 'dully' to 'dualie.'

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 **David** 🇺🇸

February 3, 2022 at 5:14 pm

Thanks! I certainly don't have any street cred – I live in a condo, do math/code for a living, and ride my bike everywhere!

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 **Scott**

February 3, 2022 at 10:12 pm

Very well said David. They are not the crowds we think they are, they are just sick of these government mandates. They're has to be a better way

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 **James Scott**

February 4, 2022 at 2:04 am

Hi David.

You'll have to ask one of those warm hearted truckers to give you a ride in their big rig.

I think you would enjoy it immensely.

And thankyou for sharing your story about the truckers. Hope you don't mind that I shared it on Twitter, to the delight of many.

Wish I could have made the trip.

Jim

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 **Michael E. Burgess**

February 4, 2022 at 3:13 am

I teared up reading this, Good on you for stepping out of your comfort zone to find another.

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 **Ruth**

February 4, 2022 at 3:52 am

Thank you for sharing this. I'm a South African that usually works for 6 months in the UK each year doing Care Work. The UK made it mandatory last year for all care workers to be vaxed and its shocking to see how many carers have lost their jobs because of this. Most of these carers are not anti vax, but for their own reason don't want this injection that has yet to be proven safe and so many had to leave the jobs they loved. So seeing the Canadian truckers standing up has given me hope for the future, and I have such respect for what they are doing.

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 **Joanne**

February 4, 2022 at 2:10 pm

Thanks for your great article! Well said.



**madonna lynn scott**

February 4, 2022 at 2:17 pm

genius...

congrats on a very excellent piece .I especially liked the answer that you got from our native brother about healing ....this is what our prime minister needed to do ...what's wrong with him?

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**Teresa**

February 4, 2022 at 2:20 pm

Thank you David for stating the truth unlike MSM who are not reporting truth but as you say conspiracy it is with them. I'm not anti vax but anti bully anti segregation and discrimination from our own leader who speaks negative words against those who chosese not to to talk to. May your blessings be many and I cant thank you enough for this honest accounting 🙏❤️

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**Tina**

February 4, 2022 at 4:15 am

Ok this comment wins the internet today. lol they'd likely give him some slack. 😊

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**Martin Jurek**

February 4, 2022 at 7:31 am

We'll written, almost made me cry.

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**Priscilla from Alberta**

February 3, 2022 at 6:02 pm

Reading this, I want to stroll through Ottawa like you did and talk with those brave men and women who are fighting for our freedom. This is the quiet side of the protest, not the party and they have dug in and are there, quietly making their statement. Our nation was divided by those corrupt politicians and disgusting mismanagement. These men and women bedecked their vehicles with flags of our country and declared they would not be divided. Men and women of all races and creeds came together and have shown that love and unity should prevail despite the ugly words of the politicians and the media. They came from across the country to unify and call for freedom. God bless every one of them. I pray that one day soon we will be free again and their long wait will have bourne fruit.

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 **Joanne**

February 3, 2022 at 10:56 pm

Thank you so much for your open mind and taking the time to get to know the people involved in this. Despite the hateful and divisive words our PM/ media spews, these are hard working & peaceful Canadians genuinely concerned about the future of our country.

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 **Ernie Jurkat**

February 3, 2022 at 11:37 pm

I really liked your blog; it is one of your best. I think you should get it published in a magazine, such as Macleans.

The title is perfect. You talk about your own feelings and you paint good pictures of the truckers, but let the readers form their own impressions about the “untouchables”.


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 **Barb**

February 4, 2022 at 7:04 am

I totally agree...when I started reading I thought this is too long to read BUT it was consuming, well written and I was there walking with him learning about a gentle but firm cause, respectful and uplifting. The commitment these people have made bring a tear to my eyes and I pray they stay safe and attain their goals, we will remember them always as our heroes...those that fought a fight for our freedom. Love you guys and gals.

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 **SHARO**

February 4, 2022 at 12:09 am

Well David! You are an incredible writer. It was like I was on that walk with you. I wish I could be there with all those beautiful brave souls in Downtown Ottawa fighting for our freedom. Big love to you and all who are doing their part to make a difference in our beautiful Country.


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 **Jim McClure**

February 4, 2022 at 12:10 am

Thank you.


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 **Tara Manuel**

February 4, 2022 at 12:22 am

Beautiful David! Your fellow Canadians need to hear this message.

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 **madonna lynn scott**

February 4, 2022 at 2:19 pm

Amen!

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 **Dave**

February 4, 2022 at 12:36 am

As an Albertan that wanted to, but was unable to make the journey to Ottawa, Thank you for taking the time to hear some of the messages. The main stream media is painting this in a way to make everyone hate the people in the convoy and discredit their reasons for doing this. It's people like you that will get the true message out so Canadians can hear what is actually happening.

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 **Tony Sbrocchi**

February 4, 2022 at 12:44 am

Absolutely fantastic story. Truly reminds us all of what being a "Proud Canadian" used to feel like. Thank you for looking past what the MSM feeds you, and took the time to see for yourself.



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 **Eric**

February 4, 2022 at 12:45 am

Thank you for taking the time to do what you did and write about it. Super!! I am sure it made you proud to be a Canadian!! Pity you may not be able to reach the world with this but I would love to see it through. Getting rid of the mandates and restrictions will give us back our rights and freedoms exactly as the Canadian charter of rights was intended to protect!

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 **Katerina**

February 4, 2022 at 1:04 am

Beautifully written!

I'm a wife, daughter and mother to 3 beautiful children.

I am not anti-vaxx.

I want nothing more than my children to grow up the way I did.

With freedom to choose and associate however they wish.

My husband and I are proud to be CANADIAN again. We haven't recognized our beautiful country for years.

The energy is palpable and people are united from all across our country, every color and creed. It's beautiful.

Thankyou for writing this.

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 **Mary Keller**

February 4, 2022 at 2:11 pm

What a beautiful reply to a beautiful story Katerina. ❤️ I agree with everything you wrote! I am not anti-vax either. What I am against is government leaders who have decided that those of us who choose to exercise our God given rights and make decisions about what goes into our bodies are somehow lacking humanity. I see it as the opposite. It's not easy to choose not to follow the mainstream. This "fringe minority" has given me so much hope for humanity. These people are there to peacefully say NO to mandates that have eroded our freedoms. They have united Canada and woven a beautiful cloth that represents Canadians of all walks of life, race and religions and reminded us of our core values and what it means to be Canadian. I am so proud of these amazing Canadians 🌞 and am grateful to them for giving us hope that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a free country! 🙏

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 **Kelly**

February 4, 2022 at 1:33 am

Thank you David for your courage to write this when our media will not.

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**Dinah**

February 4, 2022 at 1:53 am

thank you for this. I see the story from the convoy participants, and see the videos of them cleaning ice from sidewalks, picking up litter etc. Being together, happy, singing O' Canada.

Then you see the clips and stories from the Main News Media. Hear the hatred and derision from politicians. This is a group of white nationalist, nazi lovers , trump lovers that desecrate the city and keep everyone awake all night honking their horns.

It is great to see a report from someone actually living there and what the actual experience is.

If only this was reported accurately by the mainstream media.

These people are there fighting for the rights and freedoms of all Canadians, this is about more than vaccines.

Thank you ever so much

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**Barb**

February 4, 2022 at 7:11 am

Absolutely...some how this should be published everywhere...trudeaus paid media of course won't it should appear on Rumble, True North, Rebel news, CounterSignal and local newspapers in your area all across Canada. So well executed and written about THE REAL CANADIANS .

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**Susan**

February 4, 2022 at 2:18 pm

This is mostly what "Trump lovers" look like, too. Sure, a few idiots attach themselves to any group that is getting publicity, but we're salt-of-the-earth, clean-up-after-ourselves, just-leave-us-alone, hard-working people, too

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**Wolf Kirchmeir**

February 4, 2022 at 2:10 am

You discovered the obvious: Most of the people in the convoy were/are good people frustrated that covid-19 has turned everything upside down. Like the rest of us, they've discovered that freedom has limits. Sadly, they've been used by the extremists who want to smash everything. Those nihilists don't care squat about them. They just want to impose their will on everyone. Including the truckers you

talked to.

I hope they have a good ride home.

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 **Paul**

February 4, 2022 at 2:10 am

Brilliant article, at the heart of the matter, these are ordinary people pushed to the limit after two years of government mismanagement, and it's time to move on in life.

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 **Rachel**

February 4, 2022 at 2:28 am

This is an emotional read. Thank you for being so brave and curious to explore what this is really about



 **Shawna Dennis**

February 4, 2022 at 2:28 am

Thank you. Many of these working class Canadians drove across our vast country to be heard. We should listen.

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 **blissing me**

February 4, 2022 at 2:52 am

Love it but the subtle slights at anti-vaxxers were a little obvious.  
Some of us are anti-experimental injections and would like to see the long-term data.  
To associate this stance with 'deranged ideologies' is dismissive at best.

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 **Kevin**

February 4, 2022 at 2:54 am

Well done David. You've described the truckers as I imagined they would be, truly genuine people brave enough to show their concern for this country. You've done what our PM won't. Thank you for that.

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 **Carey**

February 4, 2022 at 2:55 am

Thank you so much for the honest heart felt story. It's people like you that call it the way it is!! This is why like you am proud to be a Canadian !!

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 **Roy Craigen**

February 4, 2022 at 3:04 am

I have been in trucking my entire life. As a kid I drove a truck and loved it. My career took into dispatcher and then a 20 year management and executive management of large international fleets. We have 300,000 Professional Drivers in Canada and almost all of them are as described in this article. David you are to be commended for taking the time and the effort to this. I honestly believe if anyone went out and met with these Professional Drivers they would be welcomed the very same way.

Well Done by All Involved!

Roy

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 **Patricia Greber**

February 4, 2022 at 3:04 am

I hope to be able to come and be a part of the convergence of Canadians. It fills my heart, thank you for sharing your experience.

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 **Kyle Greer**

February 4, 2022 at 3:11 am

Fantastic letter to the citizens of our country and the world for that matter. Thank you for taking the time to explain what is really happening and who these people really are. You are a true reporter of fact.

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 **Gabriele Hoegner**

February 4, 2022 at 3:31 am

Thank you for an honest and informative article on what is really happening. The MSM is all opinion pieces and everything is negative and derogatory. True leadership in the government would have had the leader actually speak with them and let them

know that they matter.

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 **Laurianne Gabruch**

February 4, 2022 at 3:48 am

Love your experience! Trying to keep watching from Saskatchewan, and appreciate any and all insight. Thank you for sharing!

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 **Tina**

February 4, 2022 at 4:20 am

Thank you for your candid and honest recount of your evening. Thank you for taking the time to meet your new neighbours. Thank you for listening. And thank you for enduring the horns. There is nothing but 100% respect for those of you living in Ottawa and dealing with the onslaught of new residents. We appreciate you. There are 2 trucks from P.E.I you'd likely be hard pressed to find them in the mix but they're definitely there. 😊

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 **David Duval**

February 4, 2022 at 4:20 am

Thank you David! You have inspired an old man with your patriotism and sensitivity to Canadians who feel they have no voice in our political process.

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 **Vote Quimby**

February 4, 2022 at 4:32 am

Thank you, from a parent of a jab-injured teenager ❤️

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 **Mary Keller**

February 4, 2022 at 2:34 pm

So sorry to hear this. I hope and pray that your child recovers.

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 **Bruce Berry**

February 4, 2022 at 4:58 am

Thank you for showing that you have the same heart and humanity that the truckers are showing us all.

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 **Lori McConnell**

February 4, 2022 at 5:14 am

What a delightful, sincere and refreshing read. Thanks for making the time to meet with these important Canadians and for sharing. For those of us who can't attend in person, reading of your encounters was the next best thing.

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 **Matt N.**

February 4, 2022 at 5:14 am

Beautiful.

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 **Matt**

February 4, 2022 at 5:16 am

Thank you Sir, for your unbiased opinion. Its a shame the media we fund would never publish a piece like this.

From a proud Albertian

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 **Julius**

February 4, 2022 at 5:20 am

I am so incredibly grateful to you for meeting with our truckers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this essay and for hearing our voices!

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 **Brandon**

February 4, 2022 at 5:27 am

Absolutely sublime. This article knocks it out of the park. Should be shared

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 **Norahpaul Bastien**

February 4, 2022 at 5:36 am

Thank you David for Sharing. My husband and I prayed for Protection and Safety of the Truckers and Everyone Standing for Freedom.

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**Arie Intveld**

February 4, 2022 at 6:24 am

It's taken 6 years for a hateful, deceitful, vindictive PM to divide Canadians and destroy the very fabric of Canadian society.

It's taken a group of gruff yet caring, hearts-on-their-sleeves truckers, plus their extended family of supporters, a mere 2 weeks to get Canadians back in touch with their humanity. All it took was a whole bunch of diesel exhaust, plaid flannel shirts, PocketWarmers and ... a determined Canadian message. A message that is now resonating around the world.

David ... if only more Canadians would just get reacquainted with their humanity and Canadian values the way you did. Thank you for reaching out to your new "neighbours" and for writing about your experience so eloquently.

"Ideologies separate us; dreams and anguish bring us together." - Eugene Ionesco

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**Mary Keller**

February 4, 2022 at 2:14 pm

Well said Arie!

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**Sharon Scheidl**

February 4, 2022 at 6:33 am

Finally! Some truth about these determined, brave people. We have never believed all the rhetoric from Govt and the media about all the nasty bits, the extremists and hangers on. That was their way of making these people with their legitimate concerns seems dangerous and "other". The PM needs to man up and do the right things here, but he does not have the courage that these truckers have. Thank you! You did what all the MP's and the journalists should have been doing all along. Talking with these people. Well done.

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**Kirk Morrison**

February 4, 2022 at 6:41 am

Wow! What a story! Kudos for a) taking the risk of going out to meet the truckers and b) putting your story out there. You've taken a trip across our great country in one night.

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 **Marilyn**

February 4, 2022 at 6:58 am

A beautiful piece of writing – honest and heartfelt. Thank you for venturing out to meet our true Canadian heroes. You have a warm and open heart as do they. Please keep spreading your story of truth, comradery and respect. Our politicians could learn from you.

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 **Mauro Vaiani**

February 4, 2022 at 7:18 am

I would have loved to be around on this night you spent with the rebels. The fact the power is dehumanizing any dissenter should be alarming for every free mind and freedom lover.

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 **Cam**

February 4, 2022 at 7:42 am

Thank you for taking the time to understand what is happening to Canadians the governments and many citizens have decided to vilify and denigrate purely because they made a different medical choice. Intolerant Canadians have a lot to learn from you, David. God Bless.

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 **Oliver . H**

February 4, 2022 at 8:04 am

Later at night, reading this beautiful story brought me back to my memory 9 years ago when first arriving in Canada, all of kindness and peaceful society, neighbourhood. Experienceing same kind of silent night, snowing street with glamour light of lamps, I was starting the trip to working place at wake of 6am. We brace for Canada dream , dilligent and working hard, supporting each others.

Shame these fat rats with easy money but hiding in cottages mansions, mocking and defaming the brave souls. The country now was stolen.

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 **Anne-Marie**

February 4, 2022 at 8:07 am



Years ago, I lived in Ottawa for four years. My two favorite places were the downtown market and the museum of Fine Arts. I don't like big cities, but I had to take refuge there for a while and I met some beautiful people who became family.

All this to say that when I read about the truckers driving to Ottawa, my heart jumped. I have been eagerly following the whole thing few times every day. I wish I could be there with you guys and I envy you.

This is the Canada I want: people who share in simplicity and desire to bring happiness. People who have a common vision and goal. We want a sane and knitted together society, one that values each and everyone, one that takes care of each other.

Thank you David, I too, was walking with you, holding your hand and cheering with emotion and satisfaction. I could see what you saw... felt what you felt... the hesitation, the curiosity, and the awe.

And I agree, you are a talented writer, as you are able to bring color, feelings, smells, tactile and on and on to your narrative.

God bless you David.

Anne-Marie

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W

February 4, 2022 at 9:18 am

Thanks for posting the truth of the matter, despite the obvious media induced fear you were experiencing.

You were able to fight that fear and walk over to where those scary "racist misogynist" far right extremists were congregating. That was brave.

Maybe you'll find the courage to do more of that sort of investigative citizen journalism in future.

W

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Ginger

February 4, 2022 at 11:50 am

Thank you. That was lovely.❤️

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 **Ben**

February 4, 2022 at 2:09 pm

A beautiful piece of reportage about this most important movement. A movement that may spark something that will change the world and end this covid madness.

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 **Michele**

February 4, 2022 at 2:10 pm

These people have expressed exactly how my family feels here in the U.S. We are not anti-vaxxers in my house but we don't feel the government should push a medical treatment, especially one that, prior to 1/6/2021, many said they would NEVER take. And one that has not been proven and is really still experimental. Vax if you want, but don't force people to take it or else. Thank you for sharing this. I am so inspired by these Canadians for doing what we all need to do, stand up and let our voices be heard. And I am so glad you took that walk and really heard what they are saying. People are coming together, it's the governments who has divided us.

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 **Christine Bode**

February 4, 2022 at 2:14 pm

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and compassion, and for speaking your truth and sharing what the truckers are saying. I'm so proud of all of you. I can not be in Ottawa for multiple reasons. I lost my livelihood because of the pandemic and I'm not vaccinated so have been living almost as if I were under house arrest in my home, until the time comes when I can't pay the rent anymore. My gratitude for everyone who takes the time to think about what Canadians really stand for and who are willing to have calm and considerate conversation about their views, is great. Brainwashed people who are spewing hate and vitriol through social media to anyone who chooses not to be vaccinated for their own valid reasons, are a difficult bunch to deal with. I think about Jesus and try to lead with love, even though some days it's really hard not to feel angry. I just want a new Prime Minister who cares about everyone and a new government who actually work for the people of Canada, and not to line their pockets and those of their friends. This country and this world really needs to change to shift the focus on humanity and what it means to be human.

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 **Dave M**

February 4, 2022 at 2:15 pm

Thank you for taking the time to walk around and talk to the truckers. It saddens me to see the media and our Prime Minister slander the people and their actions. These are brave tax paying voters. They

are Canadian citizens who've had enough. To think that our political leaders and the legacy media don't bother to investigate before they slag the Freedom Convoy is depressing to say the least. You are a brave man and I wish more people from Ottawa would take the time to do what you did. I think the truckers are uniting Canada in a way that nothing else has.

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**Anne Vyn**

February 4, 2022 at 2:19 pm

Absolutely beautiful!!

Thankyou for giving voice to these genuine Canadian Truckers who are representing SO many of us across this beautiful land.....the True North, strong and FREE!

They are making our hearts swell, bringing tears to our eyes, and giving us Hope for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Finally, after 2 years of government overreach, we are proud to be Canadian again!

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**Mike freeman**

February 4, 2022 at 2:31 pm

Loved your story. Thank you for putting in the effort to get to know some of the around you. Not very many people do that anymore.

Your story about the protest was better researched than any from cbc/legacy media.

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**Mary Keller**

February 4, 2022 at 2:32 pm

David, thank you for opening your heart and going for that walk! Your essay made me cry. I'm sure it is not easy living in Ottawa right now and it would be easier to just lash out. We've had 2 years of restrictions and so much negative fallout from those restrictions. Our freedoms have dwindled and there has been no end in sight and no hope that our freedoms would be restored. It took a bunch of salt of the earth courageous truckers to finally stand up for us. It would be amazing if someone in the main stream media would share your essay and get the word out that these are kind, decent people who just want to be heard. We need dialogue instead of hateful rhetoric and name calling. We need to end All of the mandates, move forward and heal from the traumas of the past 2 years. Ottawa citizens please be patient and encourage your mayor and the leader of this country to listen to the truckers. Let's move forward and get back to our lives, find a humane way to protect the vulnerable and let's start treating each other with respect again. Thank you again David and God Bless.

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**Betty Majore**

February 4, 2022 at 2:34 pm

Thank You kind sir for telling the truth for telling as it is. God Bless you.

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 **Trev**

February 4, 2022 at 2:36 pm

Thank you for sharing this story, the truth and for your courage to step outside your comfort zone to meet some wonderful Canadians from across our great country.

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 **mac**

February 4, 2022 at 2:37 pm

Excellent reporting, David. Thank you for writing this. Your national anthem says that Canadians “stand on guard” to keep your country “glorious and free.” Well, it looks to me like you had a first-hand opportunity to meet some of those guardians of Canada, and they sound like the pick and flower of your country. As an American I couldn’t be more proud of the stand against tyranny taking place in Canada. I hope we can manage to find enough people with courage to do something equivalent here.

May God bless all of the Canadian truckers and the people supporting them, and guide your cause on to complete victory!