

# Annual Report

**Reporting entity's legal name:** Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute Inc.

**Financial reporting year:** Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023

**Identification of a revised report:** None

**Business number(s), if applicable:** 81823 2480 RR0001

**Identification of a joint report, if applicable:** None

**Identification of reporting obligations in other jurisdictions:** None

**Entity categorization according to the Act:** Religious charity

**Location:** 46 E Uigg Rd, Vernon Bridge, PE C0A 2E0

## About

Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute ("GWBI") is a monastery for Buddhist nuns, located in Prince Edward Island, Canada. GWBI became a registered charity (number: 81823 2480 RR0001) March 2013.

## Requirement (a) – Structure, activities and supply chains

### Structure

As an incorporated charity, GWBI has a board of directors. In order for GWBI nuns to study and practice Buddhism every day, the monastery has to run smoothly. To facilitate that, the monastery has teams that are responsible for the different functions within a monastery, for example: dharma ceremonies, food preparation, library of Buddhist sutras, Buddhist studies, maintenance of grounds and buildings etc. Each team selects a representative to sit in on meetings that discuss all aspects of the monastery.

### Activities

Currently, Buddhist teachings and traditions are extremely well preserved in Tibetan Buddhism. However, due to political and religious tension, much of Tibetan tradition and culture (Buddhist sutras, teachings, language etc.) have been and will be lost. Many elderly Tibetan Buddhist masters have passed on - their oral teachings lost forever. There is a race against time to preserve this world heritage and culture.

GWBI has embarked on the world's largest translation and preservation project of Tibetan sutras, along with the monks at GEBIS. This project requires nurturing translators on a scale which the world has not seen the likes of in the past centuries: being fluent in the Tibetan language and well-versed in the traditional Tibetan Buddhist curriculum (known as "The Five Great Treatises").

Our vision is to build a world-class monastery that offers females the opportunity to study The Five Great Treatises. To date, GWBI is currently one of seven monasteries in the world and the only monastery outside Asia to give females an equal opportunity to study this curriculum.

By preserving and translating the Buddhist teachings, we make it accessible to current and future generations to come. We believe that these teachings are about the study and training of our mind, irrespective of one's religious inclinations.

As of May 2024, we have held mindfulness sessions at roughly 70 different organizations for over 5,500 participants in North America. During the peak of the COVID pandemic in 2020, we reached out to hard-hit hospitals in PEI, Toronto as well as the United States.

GWBI nuns have also put their faith into everyday practice by participating in community activities (e.g. tree planting, roadside cleanup, interfaith dialogue etc.).

## **Supply Chains**

GWBI is not a manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer. We are a consumer / end user. The following table is a breakdown of the types of goods that GWBI consumes or uses as well as the respective sources.

	<b>Sourcing</b>	
	<b>Bought in Canada</b>	<b>Imported</b>
Books / Sutras	From retailers	Taiwan book publishing company United States
Stationery / Electronics	From online retailers	Taiwan United States
Food	Local retailers / wholesalers / farmers	Taiwan Singapore China
Clothing	Local retailers	Taiwan Hong Kong
Construction Materials and Furniture	Local suppliers	Taiwan China

Requirement (b) – Policies and due diligence processes

**Policies and Due Diligence Processes in Relation to Forced Labour and Child Labour**

Parts of Entity and Supply Chains that Carry a Risk of Forced Labour or Child Labour Being Used and the Steps It Has Taken to Assess and Manage that Risk

The below table shows the risk level of forced labour or child labour being used and the steps taken to assess and manage that risk.

	<b>Sourcing</b>			
	<b>Bought in Canada</b>		<b>Imported</b>	
	<b>Risk of Forced Labour or Child Labour</b>	<b>Steps Taken to Assess and Manage Risk</b>	<b>Risk of Forced Labour or Child Labour</b>	<b>Steps Taken to Assess and Manage Risk</b>
Books / Sutras	NA	NA	Low	Publisher has disclosed their book printing process GWBI mostly choose publishers that share the Buddhist faith and values: compassion, no killing or inflicting pain on beings with feelings
Stationery / Electronics	Low	None	Low	GWBI typically purchases from reputable brands (products last longer so there is less plastic and electronic waste): GWBI relies on these brands to have robust internal supply chain checks to uphold their reputation
Food	Extremely low	None	Extremely low	Food retailer shares the Buddhist faith and values: compassion, no killing or inflicting pain on beings with feelings, has organic

	Sourcing			
	Bought in Canada		Imported	
	Risk of Forced Labour or Child Labour	Steps Taken to Assess and Manage Risk	Risk of Forced Labour or Child Labour	Steps Taken to Assess and Manage Risk
				certification that is compliant with EU, US, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland regulations
Clothing	Low	None	Extremely low	Manufacturers understand our Buddhist faith and values
Construction Materials	Low	None	Low	Manufacturers understand our Buddhist faith and values
Furniture	Local retailers	None	Low	Manufacturers understand our Buddhist faith and values

## Requirement (c) – Forced labour and child labour risks

(see above table)

## Requirement (d) – Remediation measures

In the event that GWBI becomes aware of any forced labour or child labour issues, the following remedies take place:

1. Internal meetings held
  - a. what forced labour or child labour was involved
  - b. the severity of the situation
  - c. how it happened without our knowledge
  - d. an examination of our internal processes to identify the loophole that allowed the unfortunate incident to occur
  - e. changing our internal processes to close the loophole
  - f. updates on implementation of the changes
  
2. Meetings with involved parties
  - a. communication on the improvements we hope to see
  - b. if parties involved do not make changes, GWBI will procure from a new supplier

## Requirement (e) – Remediation of loss of income

During the internal meetings, briefings will be given on the impact of the situation. On a case-by-case basis, the monastery will determine the type of remediation to be undertaken on those harmed.

## Requirement (f) – Training

Not applicable as we are the end user and a monastery.

## Requirement (g) – Assessing effectiveness

Not applicable as we are the end user and a monastery.

## Attestation

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above.

*Yang-Yu, Lai*

Full name: Yang-Yu Lai

Title: President

Date: 2024-05-28

I have the authority to bind Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute.