

Welcome to the Community Circle

A Community Circle is a community meeting with a format which allows all community members to share their views, hopes and concerns with other community members in a safe and respectful setting.

This concept is not new. It is a blending of the Aboriginal Talking Circle, which is based upon the principles of respect and dignity for all inside and outside the Circle, from the Buddhist concept of quiet communications and from the western concern for making sure that everyone gets a chance to share within the time allotted and finally, upon the universal premise that we should first attempt to hear and understand and only after that should we attempt to be heard and understood.

Rules of the Circle

- 1) Each person in the Circle shall get a chance to speak
- 2) Each person shall get and respect an allotted length of time to speak
- 3) There shall be no cross talk or noise from the floor
- 4) The moderator shall notify each person of the amount of time they have to speak and shall advise them when they have one minute left and when they have 30 seconds left.
- 5) When the speaker is finished, the person to her/his right shall be introduced by the moderator and then shall be speak.
- 6) The audience should respect the points of view of all members by keeping noise to a minimum.
- 7) The Community Circle shall last for no more than 40 minutes.

Q & A PERIOD

Following the community circle there will be a 10-minute break followed by a 45-minute Q & A period during which questions may be asked of the panelists. Rather than a mike line up we will issue numbered cards and the mike will be brought to the person holding the next card.

- A. All questioners will be given 1 minute in which to ask the question or to make a point; the mike will then be handed to either one of the panelists or the next card holder.
- B. Answers will be kept under two minutes in length.
- C. Questions should relate to the Framework For Action or the Vancouver Agreement

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from
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House***

CIRCLE OF HOPE COALITION SOCIETY

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