



SPEC Elders Circle Reclaiming Elder Wisdom

SPEC Elders Circle Project Launch, June 23, 2016

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Feedback and Evaluation Summary

Attendance: 40 participants, plus 6 members of support team
This exceeds our target of 30 participants.

Evaluations: 24 returned (60% of participants)
Evaluations were very positive, with respondents rating the event as 83% effective in “connecting engaged elders” and 78% effective at “exploring ideas for the SPEC Elders Circle.”

Dinner served late cut into our action-oriented time at the end of the evening.

In addition to the general themes that emerged from the facilitated conversations at the event, we heard ideas and interest from individuals afterward, and received 15 specific ideas for future Elders Circle events on the feedback forms. We saw/heard of participant interest in:

- The Core Organizing Team
- Volunteering
- Working on specific SPEC campaigns
- Continuing to talk and go deeper on these topics
- Building local community

There were some different areas of focus for the participants, which we should take into account for future events.

For example, some participants held very different positions on the scales of:

Action-oriented vs conversation-oriented

and

Campaign-oriented activists vs community-building people

***Please see notes on following pages for details of facilitated conversations and feedback forms.

Facilitated Conversation Comments

Participant comments are organized into the following themes:

Community-building

Elders Circle organization/ ways of being together

Areas of focus/teaching/activism

Community-building

- Coming together to create community—to break separation
- Sharing historical perspective
- Reclaiming lost traditions
- Learning from each other—sustainable practices
- Remembering history: what worked, what didn't
- Mutual encouragement and energy
- Fostering respect, honesty and warmth in interpersonal relationships
- Homegrown neighbourhood parties
 - All ages
 - On the street
 - Without consumption

Elders Circle organization/ ways of being together

- Over time, membership changes.
 - Be clear on primary goals.
 - Rules of behaviour/practices are important.
- Move meetings around the city.
- The importance of acknowledging the elders' mistakes and supporting the new directions

Areas of focus/teaching/activism

- Explore society's relationship to technology
- Reviving the old ways of (non) consuming
- Sustainable practices: living in pre-consumer times is a contribution by any elder, not just environmental activists
- Using our power as consumers
- Cut energy use in all sectors by 90%: residential, commercial, industrial, transportation
- No more flying—cut energy use by a factor of 10!
- Water conservation: sharing ideas
- Advocacy: changing laws, building codes, etc
- Ban open burning estab...

Feedback Form Summary

(Comments are given verbatim.)

Total forms returned: 24

Survey Range:

0=Not at all 4= very effective

1. How effective were tonight's events at connecting engaged elders?

Average: 3.3

Median: 3

<u>Rating</u>	<u># of votes</u>
0	0
1	0
2	2
2.5	1
3	12
4	9

Comments:

- Very inspiring that lots of people are concerned about our community
- The evening's leader could be an elder?
 - Have us stick to the ...
- We need to learn to communicate effectively. Right now ideas are bubbling over – release from being bottled up too long.
- Great the amount of moving around in a short period—small and large groups
- When we finally got to the affinity group, there wasn't enough time.

2. How effective were tonight's events at exploring ideas for the SPEC Elders Circle?

Average 3.1

Median: 3

<u>Rating</u>	<u># of votes</u>
0	0
1	0
2	5
3	11
4	8

Comments:

- SHOCK – cut carbon use by 90%!
- Very satisfying and nice to meet new people.

3. General comments:

- Thank-you so much for all the work that went into organizing this.

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- World Café could have been a bit more organized; E.g., by having people be ABCD&E. Then all Ds move 1 table right. This makes for more continuity because “remembering” is by more than just the “host.”
- Need more time for coalescing ideas.
- It would be good to have more focus
- Thank you so much. From VA
- The mic is difficult for me to hear everything.
- Ran out of time for last session—ideas.
- Thank-you? No, thank you!

4. Please share your ideas for future Elders Circle events.

- My readiness on volunteer jobs
- Ongoing discussion
- Use the existing network of community centres and libraries to disseminate ideas and to facilitate ongoing gatherings.
- One event focusing on ways to improve connectness in local neighbourhoods.
- Great facilitation –Ease / flow of evening
- Sorry nothing comes to mind in the moment
- I'd work on the human environment.
- Alternate venues throughout lower mainland.
- Commercial air travel must end now.
- More opportunities to take it deeper.
- More interaction with other groups to make larger overgroups. Less and larger meetings.
- Walking meetings
- I liked the idea of moving circles as a way that can also attract people from different parts of the city, different cultures, different economic realities to engage together –Including storytelling somehow as well.
- Water conservation education expanded.
- Focus on climate crisis – what people can contribute to make SPEC

Contact Us

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