



## About “Bridging Divides – A Restorative Approach to Resolving Conflict”

Hastings Sunrise was chosen by the Restorative Collective Vancouver to become the first restorative neighbourhood as an integral part of Vancouver becoming a Restorative City ([peaceofthecircle.com/restorativecity](https://peaceofthecircle.com/restorativecity)). Advancing the restorative neighbourhood initiative is a collaborative effort with three lead organizations: Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC), Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, and Peace of the Circle. As part of becoming a restorative neighbourhood, we have developed the “Bridging Divides” program to assist the community in addressing conflict and harm through restorative practices. The program uses Peace Circles as a way to bring people together, gain understanding, resolve issues, heal, and build relationships.

*Funding is provided by the City of Vancouver and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.*

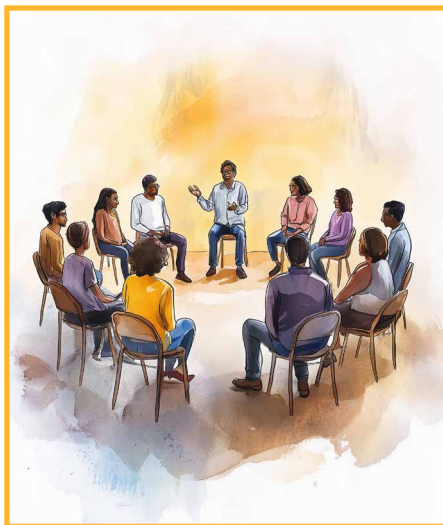


### Who Can Benefit from this Program?

- **Neighbours** – Resolve conflicts, strengthen community ties, and promote a culture of belonging, respect and peace.
- **Workplaces, Organizations & Community Groups** – Improve communication, enhance collaboration, build teams, address challenges, and improve workplace culture.
- **Individuals** – Address issues of concern and promote well-being and safety.

\* Anyone who lives or works in the Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood is eligible to participate in this free program.

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## Why Choose Peace Circles?

- **Builds Understanding, Empathy & Connection** – Everyone is given an opportunity to be heard. Encourages honest dialogue and helps people see each other's perspectives.
- **Resolution & Repair** – Where there is conflict or harm, it creates opportunities for resolution, healing, and reparation.
- **Strengthens Relationships** – Builds understanding, trust, and moving forward together.
- **Empowers Individuals, Teams & Communities** – Gives participants a voice and promotes shared responsibility for decision making and outcomes.
- **Facilitated, Respectful Experience** – Provides a confidential and non-judgmental opportunity for discussion and transformative results.

## How Peace Circles Work:

There are four stages to the process that participants are guided through: suitability, preparation, gathering of the parties, and follow up. It is voluntary and if parties agree to meet, the gathering includes:

1. **Sitting in Circle** – People coming together in a circle, creating a space where everyone's voice and experiences are valued.
2. **Talking Piece** – A symbolic object is passed around, ensuring each person has the floor to speak without interruption.
3. **Active Listening** – Participants listen to one another, encouraging respect, empathy and openness, where everyone feels heard and understood.
4. **Collaborative Solutions** – The group works together to find pathways to shared understanding, decision making, healing, resolution and restoration.

Trained facilitators, who we call peacemakers, thoughtfully guide and work with participants to co-create this process tailored for each situation.

## What does "Bridging Divides – A Restorative Approach to Resolving Conflict" offer?

The program offers an alternative to adversarial approaches. Rather than separation, polarization, or punishment, the focus is on dialogue, understanding, and building healthy relationships. Peace Circles are a structured and flexible process for supported conversations that can be applied to various topics and situations: resolving conflicts, disagreements, workplace and neighbour disputes, community building, cultural and social dialogues, and much more. They offer opportunities for learning, healing, accountability, and repairing harm. Through Peace Circles, we encourage collaborative problem-solving to restore and promote peaceful relationships and deeper community ties.

### Get in touch with us to learn more or to request a Peace Circle:

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