



**Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative  
Our Quest as of July 2023**

*A Community Unity Building Enterprise  
Building a community that is a haven of unity and compassion*

**Our View of Our Community**

Real peace in a community goes beyond resolving conflicts to actively caring for each other's welfare and the welfare of our shared physical environment. By developing our higher altruistic/spiritual natures, we find real happiness, true peace and security in our lives.

Fostering a greater respect for, and understanding of, religious, ethical and spiritual traditions can lead to spiritual and personal growth as well as community well-being.

**Our Purpose**

We recognize our shared humanity and our shared homeland, the planet earth. Together we promote understanding, acceptance and common ethical and moral values to develop the Sooke community as a compassionate haven of peace, well-being and caring for each other and our physical environment.

As a Multi-Belief Initiative, we recognize that we have diverse views of reality. While we do not attempt to reconcile these differing views, we explore commonalities, we build friendships, and we seek to understand views held by others who differ from us.

**Our Values**

Our values are centred on the Golden Rule: "***Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,***" guidance found in all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions.

This is a universal moral teaching that inspires individuals to be truthful, honest, trustworthy, compassionate (as proclaimed in the Charter for Compassion), courteous, tolerant, wise, just and fair in all our relationships.

We are **tolerant and respectful** of the differing views of others without necessarily accepting or agreeing with their views or beliefs, recognizing their right to freedom of belief.

We are **inclusive**, welcoming every person who shares our purpose and values as a participant in our Initiative.

We are **inquisitive**, willing to learn about other religious, ethical and moral traditions.

We are **open and unbiased** in all our interactions.

We are dedicated to reconciliation with indigenous people in our region.

## **Our Organization**

We are a non-partisan Initiative operating within the non-profit Sooke Moon Community Wellness Society. We are volunteers who develop plans, projects and activities for residents in Sooke and the T'Sou-ke Nation.

## **Our Critical Success Factors**

Critical to our Quest is the effective application of our values in all that we do and our ability to communicate, educate and engage people of all ages across our community.

## **Our Strategic Objectives**

- To encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity.
- To endeavour that youth and others in our community are given accurate and respectful information about the diverse religious, ethical and spiritual traditions.
- To promote the adoption of the Charter for Compassion throughout our community by individuals, organizations and public institutions.
- To promote reconciliation with the indigenous people in our region.
- To address, through advocacy and engagement, the five priority themes in our Compassionate Action Plan: homelessness; the affordability crisis; social isolation; inadequate medical services; and the need for greater communication, awareness and collaboration.

## **Our Operating Principles**

To work for the betterment of our region as expressed in our purpose through the development of multi-belief cooperation and activities.

To focus on the common good of our Initiative, not our personal, spiritual and ethical beliefs.

To consciously adhere to and apply the values of our Initiative in all our activities.

To respect the differences in each other's spiritual and ethical paths.

To encourage tolerance and understanding through sharing and education.

To strive for sustainability: environmental, economic, social, personal and voluntary service.

To follow best-practice compassionate meeting protocols (see appendix A) in discussing agenda items, building consensus and making final decisions based the guidelines in this Quest document.

## **Why?**

We recognize that the enduring safety, security, peace and well-being of our community depends upon us all getting along both individually and collectively. We strive to improve our quality of life by encouraging respect and understanding.

## **Definitions of Terms**

**Multi-Belief:** Within the context of this Initiative, "multi-belief" includes all those individuals who commit to the purpose and values of this Initiative. Our intention is to welcome a broad range of well-meaning individuals as active participants.

**Spiritual:** Within the context of this Initiative, this concept encompasses the belief that, in reality, humans are spiritual and physical beings.

## Appendix A

### Principles of Consultation

- 1. Freedom of Expression:**  
Express your thoughts freely; do not belittle the thoughts of others.
- 2. Objectivity:**  
Carefully consider the views of others; do not willfully hold to your own opinion.
- 3. Contribution:**  
Express your views as a contribution to the consultation; do not voice them as correct or right.
- 4. Detachment:**  
A view once expressed belongs to the group; do not be offended if a conflicting view is expressed.
- 5. Decision Support:**  
Support fully all decisions; do not criticize previous decisions.

