

Third Peace Gathering, Grand Forks, BC

By Maxine A Ruzicka



Third Annual Peace Gathering, Grand Forks Constructing Peace...Together

An essential element of the mission of Rotary International is to empower Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. Rotary in Action Peace Principle is, “We are not responsible for World Peace... but we’re responsible for our piece of peace, our piece of world peace and our own inner peace. The key is to overcome ignorance and arrogance through education and interaction.”

The Rotary Club of Grand Forks became a Peacebuilder Club and a member of Rotary District 5080 Peace Committee in February 2022. Since then, we have been a community collaborator in the pursuit of peace and social justice. We are thrilled to invite our Rotary friends to the third annual Peace Gathering in Grand Forks BC, on April 20, 2024, 9 am to 3:30 pm.

We continue to be a part of a larger Collaborators Table that includes the Bahai Community, the USCC Doukhobor community, Boundary All Nations Aboriginal Council, community artist Rocio Graham, Boundary Peace initiative and representative from Grand Forks Secondary School. We have met every two to three weeks since October to consult and plan all aspects of the Gathering. This year’s theme is Cultivating Peace ... Together.

The program will start with a Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Indigenous Drumming and Prayers. Michael Karlberg will open the day as the first keynote speaker and after a refreshment break, he will be followed by Lorelei Higgins, our second keynote speaker of the morning, followed by a Talking Circle in the afternoon. We are delighted to have community artist Rocio Graham join us again this year as we construct a community art piece during the Gathering. We will also be inspired with music from internationally acclaimed harpist Caroline Mackay, as well as the Grand Forks Choral Society and members from the Doukhobor Choir.

Enjoy a lunch of Borshch and Bannock. There are no fees for registration or lunch, but donations are kindly welcomed.

Constructing the World We Want to Live In



Michael Karlberg is a professor of Communication Studies at Western Washington University. His interdisciplinary scholarship examines prevailing conceptions of human nature, power, social organization, and social change – and their implications for the pursuit of peace and justice. Along with many related articles, is the author of the books "Beyond the Culture of Contest" and "Constructing Social Reality," in which he examines some of the most significant obstacles to human well-being today which are habits of Western thought that have been exported around the world. These habits include dichotomous conceptions of truth and relativity, cynical conceptions of knowledge and power, and conflictual conceptions of science and religion. He is currently working on a book tracing the evolution of thought about social justice and the means of pursuing it.

Creating a Shared Path Forward



Lorelei Higgins has an MBA, specializing in leadership. She is a Métis Canadian Cultural Mediator, a Rotary Peace Community Lead for the City of Calgary's Anti-Racism Program. She has worked on community-based projects locally and internationally with government agencies, non-government organizations and the business sector. These projects centre on peace and conflict transformation, Indigenous matters and the elevation of female voices in leadership. Lorelei has worked across the globe in communities in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. She is a consultant with Mediators Beyond Borders International and Canadian Equity Consulting.

Registration forms are available at the GF Public Library, Dave Dale Insurance, and the USCC office; or online at <https://form.jotform.com/240605518644254>; or email: peaceconference.gf@gmail.com

Pre-registration is required and closes April 15. This is a no-fee event. Donations are appreciated.

Supported by the Rotary Club of Grand Forks, USCC, the Boundary Bahá'í community, BANAC, and the City of Grand Forks through the Civic Arts Grant

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. (Vision statement Rotary International)