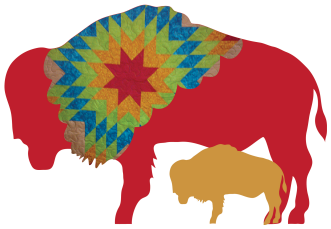
Decolonization DialogueSharing Circle & Living Well Together Art Show

A Collaborative Research Project for Women
March-June 2015



"Decolonization is the process whereby we create the conditions in which we want to live and the social relations we wish to have." – Harsha Walia, Briarpatch Magazine, Jan. 2012

We are seeking women of all backgrounds/ages who are interested in talking together towards gaining understanding and sharing knowledge/ideas about decolonization.

Participant Criteria:

- Interest in the topic of decolonization; desire to learn about it and explore it.
  - (or, interest in related themes: reconciliation, justice, equality, colonization)
- Willingness to participate in group-learning.
- Community minded.
- Belief that sharing and learning together is a way towards personal and community change.
- Availability on Thursday evenings March – June 2015 (6-9pm)
- Previous artistic experience is NOT required!

Project Summary:

- Sharing circles will be facilitated by Kelly Bernardin-Dvorak (Jonah Counselling & Consulting) and Maria Epp (artist)
- The participants will take an active role in directing the dialogue and overall project, but the topic (decolonization) is fixed.
- Sharing Circle will take place for 7 weeks, followed by 4 weeks of Art-making. (March/April = Sharing Circle; May/June = Art-making & Art Show)
- Art-making is creative expression that represents the learning that took place through dialogue and relationship in the Sharing Circle.
- The project will conclude with an art show in June 2015, which participants will be able to invite their family and friends to. The art show is as a way of sharing the knowledge that was gained together with our larger community.
- Location: Sharing Circle, Art-making, & Art Show will all take place @ Flatlanders Studio, Main and Sutherland (3rd floor of the Winnipeg Centre Vineyard Church)
- Bus Tickets are available to assist with transportation.
- Each sharing circle will begin with a light meal of soup and bannock.

Interested?
We'd love to hear from you!
Please call Kelly (Jonah Counselling & Consulting)
204-998-0843

Email:
kelly@jonahconsulting.ca

Screening interviews will take place:

Friday Feb 20 2-6pm Saturday Feb 21 2-6 pm Sunday Feb 22 2-6pm

Space is limited.

What others have said:

"I was an ally and an advocate (for race and equality issues) before. But now I feel so much better equipped, so much more informed." – participant

"I joined this group with awareness of my own race and what its like to be me. In the circle, I learned about other experiences of race and culture. Racial differences were really reduced for me, because of this experience. I'll keep this knowledge with me forever." –participant

"Decolonization is about our healing, as a nation. All of us. Some of us have to heal from the legacy of colonizing. Some of us have to heal from the legacy of being colonized. Individual and collective work is so important." – participant

"The thing about the sharing circle is that it's the OPPOSITE of silence and apathy." – participant

"I had no idea how much the sharing circle and the art show would fit together, but they really needed each other." – participant

"Art is a multi-tool for healing the relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada." – art show visitor

"I was inspired thinking of the work these women have done together. They've engaged in dialogue and art about living well together – and they're actually doing that: <u>they are</u> living well together, as settlers and indigenous people." – art show visitor