

# YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN OUR CONVERSATION CIRCLE ON

Eliminating barriers to participation for people experiencing poverty



DATE 1: February 17, Friday (3 to 5 p.m.)

DATE 2: February 22, Wednesday (4 to 6 p.m.)

PLACE: Richmond Centre for Disability

(100-5671 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC)

Do you want to...

**MAKE A CHANGE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES AROUND LIVING IN POVERTY?**

- Come join our conversation circle aimed at activating community individuals to eliminate barriers to participation in society
- Share your stories and experiences in a safe environment
- Refreshment provided; bus tickets available upon request
- RSVP to [ella@rcdrichmond.org](mailto:ella@rcdrichmond.org) or call 604-232-2404

For more info on Eliminating Barriers Project, visit [www.richmondprc.org](http://www.richmondprc.org)



## WHAT IS A CONVERSATION CIRCLE?

**Conversation** comes naturally to humans beings. It is at our core as human beings to connect with other people and we do this through conversation. **Circles** naturally slow people down, allow people to focus, create equality, and connect.

The power of the **Conversation Circle** comes from the sharing of ideas and thinking together in a safe environment that nurtures innovation, curiosity, and exploration. In the circle of conversation the questions are often more important than the answers. *Reflective thinking is the outcome. Curiosity is the instrument.*

A Conversation Circle is a place to slow down our thinking to enable our collective minds to connect. It is a simple method to truly connect with others; an opportunity to be heard and to truly listen. It is a place of great understanding and knowledge expansion. A Conversation Circle is not a debate; it is about listening, not talking; about sharing, not taking sides; about engaging people where they are – not where you want them to be.

### Guiding Principles:

- Gather in a circle so we can see and acknowledge one another as equals
- Create a safe space for the conversation
- Invite inquiry and respect the questions
- Stay curious about each other
- Let go of assumptions and be aware of judgments
- Speak the truth from your own experience
- Recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners
- Slow down so that we have time to think and reflect

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RPRC

The Richmond Poverty Response Community (RPRC) is a coalition of Richmond residents and agencies working together to reduce poverty and its impacts with research, projects and public education.

Their new project “Eliminating barriers to participation for Richmond residents experiencing poverty” aims to help those living in poverty develop a self-advocacy network to tell their stories; educate local service providers on the wide range of issues contributing to poverty; and create opportunities for like-minded folks to meet to discuss and affect positive changes in policy promoting barrier-free participation.