



*To believe you have a legacy worth sharing is to say YES to yourself  
bell hooks*

## Do You Think of Yourself as an Elder? As someone engaged with issues affecting the well-being of current and future generations?

Particularly at this time of urgent and intersecting crises, the need for wise and caring elders has never been greater. The **SPEC Elders Circle** offers support and training in Claiming Our Role as Elders (CORE) and is launching a project designed for elders who participate, or wish to participate, in organizations as a Guiding Elder. If this sounds attractive to you, please read on and contact us for more information about criteria and guidelines.

### ***Why are Guiding Elders important?***

Happiness and aging researcher, Arthur Brooks, says the crystallized intelligence of elders balances the fluid intelligence of younger ages. Every workplace needs the capacities of a seasoned elder to balance the speed and creativity of younger colleagues. We can think of that as blending innovation with reflection, speed with deliberation, exuberance with wisdom.

### ***Who are Guiding Elders?***

Guiding Elders are typically volunteers. They may also be paid staff who care about the overall well-being of organizations. They take an interest in how organizations behave and communicate, their ethical practices, models of leadership, commitment to diversity and equity, and the effectiveness of their programs. They also care about the day-to-day challenges that organizations face and how they support the well-being of society.

### ***What will be offered***

Four topic specific modules will be piloted free of charge in December through February focused on developing Guiding Elder knowledge and skills. These modules include communications, organizational behavior, and a youth panel. We will offer a CORE Training for Guiding Elders in the Spring of 2023.

**If you would like to learn more, wish to participate, or are an organization interested in this project, please let us know at [Elders@spec.bc.ca](mailto:Elders@spec.bc.ca). We'll keep you informed, answer any questions, and offer you an opportunity to register.**

