

The Shambhala Community Plan

-- in one page --

At the first Shambhala Congress in Halifax in November 2003, more than 200 participants from all parts of our community formed into topic groups, generated a wide range of ideas, and called for immediate follow-up on issues affecting the well-being of our mandala. This plan extends that process of community engagement to all Shambhalians, culminating in the next Shambhala Congress to be held right after Shambhala Day 2005.

To spearhead and coordinate further community consultation this year there will be a new supreme governing body of Shambhala -- the Mandala Governing Council. This large, inclusive body with representatives from major constituencies in the mandala will govern under the authority of the Sakyong and be chaired by the President. The Council will coordinate and present final proposals to the Sakyong and the Shambhala Congress 2005. The composition of the Council will be announced once it is formed after Shambhala Day.

Working Groups and Advisory Groups will be set up in the coming weeks to address major issues already identified by the community. The topics are:

Practice and Education	Social Engagement
Mandala Structure and Governance	Environmental Policy
New Economic Model	Communications
Community Care	Outreach
Shambhala Conduct	Diversity and Accessibility
Membership Policy	Congress Planning
Leadership and Succession Planning	

To support the Working Groups and Advisory Groups (to be appointed under the authority of the President from the many suggestions already received), community-based Review Groups will be created for all these topics. The Review Groups will be open to everyone in the mandala. These groups will function by email and conference call.

Each Review Group will provide a forum for those with a particular interest in the topic to give feedback and suggestions and to test the analysis and ideas developed in the much smaller Working Groups before recommendations go to the community as a whole. We invite everyone who wants to sign up for a Review Group to do so right away on Shambhala Day. Each centre and group will have a set of sign up sheets ready.

Openness, inclusiveness and participation will be central values of this process of community reflection and renewal. All Shambhala Centres and groups are urged to hold community meetings during the year and establish talking circles to enable wisdom to arise around the experience of the Vajra Regent and other matters of deep concern to people throughout our community.

During this period of community contemplation, it is also vital to recommit ourselves to group practices, such as *nyinthüns* and *dathüns*, so that we can mix our minds together with space, with the mind of the lineage, the mind of the Buddhas and the mind of the Rigdens.

Full details of this consultative process are set out in the full plan. Please go to: www.Shambhala.org and click on *Congress*.