

# FREEMASONS CIVILITY INITIATIVE

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **WHO**

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon has recognized the need to promote civility in our society. With the support of the National Civility Center, Freemasons are asked to demonstrate to others how to act in a civil manner in all our dealings.

The National Civility Center Board of Directors is comprised of several Freemasons, most notably MW Bro Don Stutt for our Grand Lodge and MW Bro. Russ Charvonia PGM of California. RW Bro. Ron Yates and RW Bro. Barry Burch are members of the National Civility Center Task Force.

British Columbia and Yukon is the only grand jurisdiction in Canada supporting this programme, at this point, joining twelve other Grand Lodges in the USA.

### **TITLE**

The Freemasons Civility Initiative supported by British Columbia and Yukon Freemasons. It is hoped that all Freemasons throughout the jurisdiction will take up the cause.

### **WHEN**

Commencing in January 2017 a civility presentation will be offered to lodges in our jurisdiction. In May 2017 we will be promoting *May is Civility Month* in British Columbia and Yukon. Details on *May is Civility Month* will be made available in March 2017

Brethren are encouraged to engage their family and friends by demonstrating our masonic way of life that essentially exemplifies civility.

### **WHAT**

Freemasons, demonstrating civility in their daily lives and in their dealings with others sets an example for others to follow. This idea has spread to a dozen states and, with British Columbia and Yukon, is now in Canada. We hope to spread the word in our jurisdiction.

This initiative was created by Freemasons in British Columbia and Yukon for British Columbia and Yukon Freemasons their families, friends and communities.

### **WHY**

Civility is essential for the success of any society. It is grounded in respect and in an attitude of inclusiveness. When we practice it we remind ourselves about the impact of our actions on others while contributing to the well being of our family, community and society at large.

All we have to do is look at society in general to see how much it needs civility. Living our lives as Freemasons is the best example for others to see civility in action

Our masonic virtues are the content of our character, the elements of our human spirit. They grow stronger whenever we apply them. The social investment of our Masonic virtues to the challenge of improving civility is the generational moment we have been waiting for to have a positive influence on society.

*Are lodges and brethren required to participate?*

No however the Grand Master and the Civility Ambassador Team encourage you to do so.

*How do we involve more people and not just fellow Freemasons?*

By spreading the word through our family and friends and by acting as Freemasons in our daily lives. *May is Civility Month* is our way of communicating the need for civility to the public. When met with hostility because of a difference in opinions what path should we follow? Restate your position in calm manners and gestures.