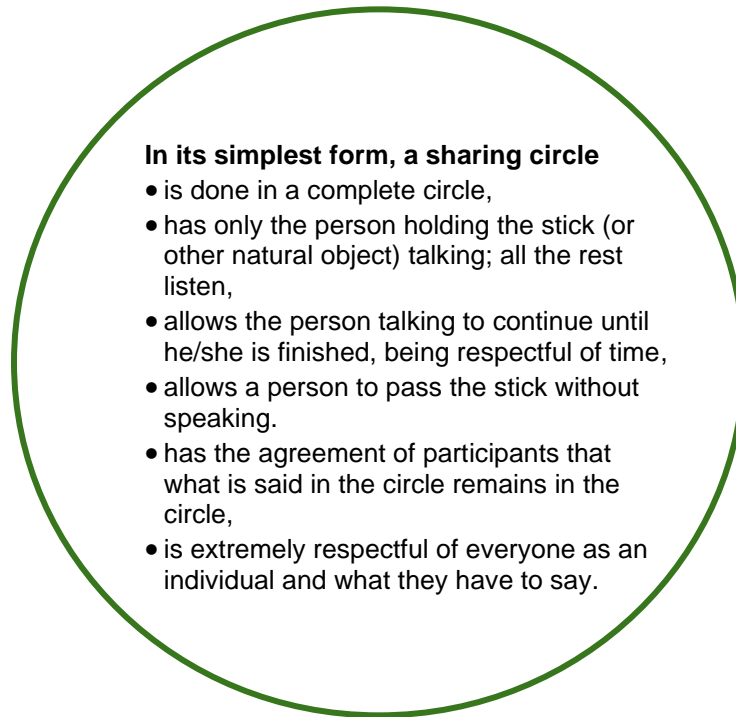




## Virtual Sharing Circles

### ONE

Leading a virtual sharing circle begins with a foundational understanding of traditional protocols. These elements of a more traditional sharing circle are important to retain even in our less formal circles.



Please be mindful that there are protocol variations in different communities,(for example, directionality). Find out about protocols within your local area.

### TWO

Traditional Sharing Circle Teachings Can Teach Us How to Respectfully Participate in Video Calls.



First Nations traditional sharing circles offer many teachings on how to ensure all voices are heard and respected. These teachings can be shared during video calls to help facilitate respectful and effective communication. Teachings from First Nations knowledge keepers and Elders lead the conversations around establishing effective digital etiquette practices in these new digital learning environments. They offer expert insight into how we can effectively and respectfully communicate and share in virtual meeting places.

**Digital Learning ASD-W,  
April 22, 2020 (7:29)**

# THREE

## Traditional Talking Circle: Led by Elders (April 8 2020)



(Wisdom Weavers of the World,  
YouTube)

*This is a virtual Circle that is based on the guidelines of traditional Indigenous talking circles, as they were given to Kuuyux by Rita Pitka Blumenstein. We invite you to experience this potent format of heart sharing and healing in this time of global shift. The Elders open the circle, give guidelines, set the tone, and share from their hearts. Then the space opens for our other-selves to listen and share what wants to be spoken through us... so we may unite and listen together in a larger talking circle to express our hearts in a safe, non-judgmental way, through these times of change.*

**Wisdom Weavers of the World**

**This video is 1:36:47.**

**The first 16 minutes provide an excellent look at the traditional process.**

## Jamie Chalifoux



(Indigenous Education Coach,  
High Prairie School Division)  
offers the following advice:

- Always do at least 2 rounds. This allows participants to pass, but gives them an opportunity to share later.
- Try to balance the positive and negative if fitting to the context.
- The circle can be used to solve disagreements, for problem solving and for accessing learning.
- Once you've started using talking circles, continue using them. Make them part of your routine.

## Kim Barker-Kay



(Consultant, ARPDC)

### Questions from Kim:

- What is the purpose of your circle? Sharing? Teaching? Healing?
- What will your online protocol and agreements be? For example, will you allow Chatbox use during the circle? Perhaps you could pre-arrange for participants to have a natural object to hold during the circle, such as a rock, stick, etc.
- How will you begin your circle? How could you follow the clockwise protocol?
- How will you "set the stage" for participants?