BEDROCK SOCIETY

Belonging, built on sturdy foundations

Founding Board Town Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 · BREWING AUGUST, VANCOUVER

WELCOME

Thank you for coming

It’s wonderful to see so many of you here.



Illustration by Lorne Perry

This may well be the start of something pretty special.

· LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ·

We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations...

WELCOME

A note about the art

Everything you'll see tonight was made by people, by hand.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Lorne Perry

LOGO DESIGN

Shell Mcdonald

LOGO ILLUSTRATION

Steph Faye



Lorne Perry's studio

THE SHAPE OF THE EVENING

Tonight…

1	**Why this, and why now?**	Why belonging has gotten harder, and why that matters now
2	**What Bedrock would be**	What Bedrock is all about
3	**How Bedrock is structured**	What's gone wrong elsewhere, and how Bedrock is different
4	**From concept to community**	Where things stand, the road from here, and some bigger dreams
5	**Imagine it**	A taste of an ordinary gathering
6	**The founding board**	After a short break: what we're asking, and other ways to help
7	**Your questions**	As many as we have time for

BEFORE WE START

- Everything you'll see tonight is a working draft
- Any question is welcome, and there'll be lots of time for them at the end. If something's really burning, just ask
- Feel free to get up for more food or drinks at any time
- Photos and recordings will be taken tonight. If you'd rather not be in them, please let us know

BEFORE THE BIG IDEAS

Hi, I’m Laurence



On a mountainside at sunrise



Troubadour service, BCGEU picket line, 2025



Welcoming the newest member of the family, 2026

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PART ONE

Why this, and why now?

A crisis of loneliness and belonging...

Loneliness is getting worse, and anxiety and depression are rising.

IN CANADA

6 in 10

Canadians report little or no sense of community.

YMCA Canada / Angus Reid, 2024

YOUNG CANADIANS



Their happiness has fallen more steeply than almost anywhere else measured.

World Happiness Report, 2024 · C.D. Howe Institute, 2024

HERE IN VANCOUVER

Possibly even more

With sky-high housing costs and a famously guarded social scene, there's good reason to think we feel it more here.

Why is it happening?

The reasons are multifaceted. Here are a few...

Institutions have thinned

Often for good reason, but at real cost

Screens took the hours

They feel like connection, without much of it

Costs squeezed the room

Less money, and less room, for gathering

Third places are fading

Closed, costly, or designed out of our cities

The world feels less steady

Heaviest on people facing it alone

Who’s bearing it?

This touches just about all of us.

Children	**Less of a village than their parents had**
Young people	**Steeply declining happiness**
Couples	**Asked to be each other’s everything**
Parents	**Doing more, with less help**
Seniors	**Loneliness, too often the default**

People know something's missing

What people have tried, and each has real value.

Clubs and meetups

WHAT IT GIVES

Real friendship, and real fun.

WHERE IT CAN STRUGGLE

- Not always there for the big moments, or when life falls apart
- And the bonds can fade when health, age or money make it hard to keep coming

Cohousing

WHAT IT GIVES

Real, intentional neighbourliness. A genuinely lovely way to live.

WHERE IT CAN STRUGGLE

- In Vancouver, the cost of a home puts it out of reach for many
- And there are only so many communities to go around

People know something's missing

Communes and intentional communities

WHAT IT GIVES

The boldest version, and deep belonging.

WHERE IT CAN STRUGGLE

- Most ask more than an ordinary life can give
- Without sound structure, they come apart, or worse...

Secular congregations

WHAT IT GIVES

Closest to what we're after, and proof of real demand.

WHERE IT CAN STRUGGLE

- Many stayed audiences rather than communities, and quietly faded

We'll come back to these.

· THE GAP ·

Most of what exists either asks too little to become durable, asks more than ordinary life can give, costs too much to access, or lacks the structure to stay healthy.

· TRADITIONALLY ·

This gap was mostly filled by faith communities: durable, intergenerational, in-person, holistic sources of belonging, shared meaning, practical guidance and solidarity.

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PART TWO

What Bedrock would be

How it fills the gap

Bedrock is...

a different kind of community organization: like a neighbourhood church, but grounded in shared values instead of religion.



Illustration by Lorne Perry

Our values

The common ground we share, and the work we hope to do: the heart of Bedrock.

Family, Community, and Belonging

Stewarding and strengthening the webs of care that hold us.

Human Dignity and Thriving for All

The inherent worth and equality of every person, and the conditions that let each of us flourish.

Living Sustainably

Working towards harmony with living things and the natural world.

Being Good to Each Other

The ongoing work of showing up for each other and acting with character and integrity.

Our values



Contribution and Service

Vocation, volunteerism, and giving back. The tangible ways we contribute to our communities and society.



Seeking Truth

A commitment to science, evidence and honest inquiry.



A Fair and Free Society

Power is shared, checked, and accountable to those it affects.



Meaning and Fulfillment

The celebration of love, joy, spirituality, wonder, beauty, ritual, story, laughter, movement, music, art, sport, food, play and everything else that makes a life worth living.

So what would we actually do?



Illustration by Lorne Perry

Gatherings, twice a month

Coming together in celebration of our values.

A short talk

On something that matters day to day, from someone who knows it well, so we create a culture that finds wiser ways through modern life together.

Music and mindful practice

Songs that speak to our values, that people love to sing, and a moment of reflection together.



Illustration by Lorne Perry

Gatherings, twice a month



Illustration by Lorne Perry

The democratic business of the society

Time for proposals to be presented

Social time, for adults and kids

Time to catch up, and for the kids to play together.

A shared meal

Nothing brings people together like it: a potluck, or something catered on special occasions.

On top of the gatherings

We'll build a great community.

- Friendships that grow on their own
- Events that are just for fun
- Showing up for each other in times of need
- Marking the seasons, holidays and milestones
- Volunteering and giving back, together
- Advocating for our values together, especially as times get tougher
- A place of connection, where people, groups and organizations organically find common ground

· A FAMILIAR RHYTHM ·

If this looks familiar, it’s meant to.

Communities like these are how people have always lived well together, and made it through hard stretches. What’s new is that many of us no longer have one.

What Bedrock gives

"...we build a place of belonging, shared meaning, practical guidance, and solidarity."



Belonging

a real place that is simply there

A dependable gathering with people who know and welcome you.



Shared meaning

values held in good company

Shared values expressed through songs, traditions, and work the society does.



Practical guidance

wiser ways through modern life

Expert talks, heard together, on relationships, parenting, money, ageing and grief.



Solidarity

there for the good times and the bad

People who show up through hardship, regardless of health or finances.

What describes it...

A living community that fills much of the role of a faith community.

Durable
rather than temporary

In person
rather than mainly online

Connected
a meeting place for all

Intergenerational
rather than age-segregated

Holistic
rather than single-purpose

Accessible
financially and physically

Protective
of its people and values

Deeply grounded
in shared values

A sturdy foundation of belonging and support underneath its members' lives.

Who is it for?

Anyone who shares our fundamental values, and agrees to the liveable expectations we ask of each other.

- Young people
- Parents and families
- Couples
- Single, by choice or by chance
- 2SLGBTQIA+ folks
- Seniors
- People living with disabilities
- People of every culture and faith background
- First Nations
- Newcomers to the city

Someone we forgot? The list isn't exhaustive.

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PART THREE

How Bedrock is structured

The last century is full of intentional communities and secular congregations, with far more unsuccessful examples than successful ones.

Mostly, for the same few reasons.

Where similar efforts have struggled

Founder capture

or an informal clique in control

Real power ends up with a charismatic founder or an inner circle, and members have no way to check it.

No conflict resolution

so might makes right, or it festers

Without a fair way through disagreement, informal power wins, or it festers until people drift away.

Burnout

with the work on too few shoulders

A handful of devoted people carry everything, until they can’t.

Where similar efforts have struggled

Growing too fast

or overreaching financially

Multiple chapters, buildings, staff and debt taken on before the community can carry them.

No succession plan

so it ends when its leaders tire

Nothing in place for when the founders step back, so it goes with them.

An audience

attendance that never became commitment

Ask little of people and they come and go. The communities that last ask real commitment.

Each of those patterns has an answer, written into how Bedrock is built from the start.



A real legal society

Governed by its members, under BC law



A clear governance structure

Written down, so power stays checked



Liveable expectations

That turn an audience into a participatory community

A BC society, in the full legal sense

- Incorporated as a society under the BC Societies Act
- Directors are vetted and chosen by the members for fixed terms, and members can remove any director
- The constitution and bylaws are public, and change only by a two-thirds member vote
- Directors owe legal duties to the society and its members

Nobody owns it, nobody profits from it, and the society is legally governed by its membership.

Clear, written-down governance

Some of what's in the draft documents.

Directors

- Members choose their board, and can remove any director
- Nobody is paid to be a director
- Authority is well defined, reviewable and removable
- Conflicts of interest, financial or relational, are declared up front: the director steps out of the discussion and the vote, and the minutes record it

Decisions

Members hold authority over the society's bylaws, constitution and policy.

Money

Donation-funded, with yearly statements to members. Significant funds always go back to the membership, and members can request an audit.

Clear, written-down governance

Records and privacy

Governance, finances, conflicts of interest and major decisions are written down, but not files on its people.

Safety

Safeguarding policy built into the society before it's needed.

Conflict

A defined process for raising concerns, followed by mediation.

Public positions

Only by member ballot, at a supermajority. It commits the organization's voice, never a member's conscience. None in the first year, while foundations are built.

Liveable expectations

WHAT WE ASK OF EACH OTHER

Come once a month

to one core gathering. Exceptions are granted liberally for illness, disability and other life circumstances.

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT

Give some time

Service within the community, like checking in on an elder member

Or chip in instead

A contribution in lieu of being there, on top of your usual giving

What you can count on: somewhere that's simply there, with people you can count on being invested.

Liveable expectations

WHAT WE ASK OF EACH OTHER	WHAT YOU CAN COUNT ON
Chip in toward the cost, as you're able.	Gatherings that have what they need, and you won't be priced out when money's tight.
Make an effort to contribute, as you're able.	You'll have a role, a growing culture you're part of, and a place that doesn't burn out on a few people's energy.
Help hold the values. Take them seriously, while leaving room to live them in your own way.	You'll have a place of strength for people who share them, and practical ways to practice and celebrate them together.

Liveable expectations

WHAT WE ASK OF EACH OTHER	WHAT YOU CAN COUNT ON
Show up for people, as you're able.	You can count on others making the same effort when you need it.
Agree to a one-page code of conduct. How we treat each other, the community, and the organization.	You'll have clear expectations, ways to avoid problems, and ways to work past them when they come up.
Engage in democratic processes.	You'll be part of an organization that's truly shaped by its members, and keeps getting better over time.

· THE TIME IT TAKES ·

1 to 3 hours a month

on top of one gathering, from everyone who's able

It doesn't have to be **the** priority.
But probably should be **a** priority.

Who counts as a member

1

Come and see

A short engagement period first, so people know the community is for them

2

Join

Sign on to the one-page code of conduct and the basic expectations

3

Leave freely

Leaving is free of judgement, and the door stays open for return

4

PART FOUR

From concept to community

Where things stand today

Right now it’s a website, a set of draft governance documents, and a really wonderful idea.

What exists

- A developed concept, a public website and social media
- Draft mission, values and governance

AND REAL INTEREST

This room filled eleven days out

with a waitlist, a mailing list, and a following that keeps growing.

The road from here

YEAR 0 TO 1

Getting started

- Incorporate as a BC society
- Essential governance, finance, conflict and safeguarding policies
- First gatherings, building to a dependable rhythm
- Decide how to welcome new members
- Avoid rushed growth

YEARS 1 TO 3

Stable Bedrock

- A recognizable rhythm, and friendships beyond the gatherings
- Thick connections, and an organization that means something to people
- Volunteer teams, committees and mutual care, working in practice
- Community life no longer dependent on the founding board

YEAR 3 AND BEYOND

Bigger dreams

Some of our bigger dreams. More on those next.

Some big dreams...

Not plans. Whether or not we get there, it'll still be a worthwhile community.

A growing shared culture

Songs, stories, readings, rituals and celebrations, made and chosen by our members

Guidance worth trusting

From experts and lived experience, on parenting, aging parents, partnerships and more

Programs for every stage of life

Kids and teens, young adults, couples, parents, and seniors staying connected

Support that catches its people

Practical, organized, funded, and offered without shame when a hard stretch hits

Some big dreams...

A voice for good

Organized and confident enough to show up in civic life for what we believe in

Chapters in other cities

So members who move can walk into a gathering in a new city and feel at home

Places of our own

A hall for weddings and celebrations of life, a kitchen, a library, gardens to tend

A community that lasts

Kids who grow up here, one day choosing to raise their own kids here

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PART FIVE

Imagine it



It’s a Saturday morning in June 2029…

Illustration by Lorne Perry

Turn to someone new...

Today’s speaker is introduced...

A moment of stillness



Illustration by Lorne Perry

Bedrock Society

A SHORT BREAK

Let’s take five

When we’re back: the founding board, what we’re asking, and then your questions.

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PART SIX

The founding board

Why Bedrock needs a founding board

1

Test whether the idea survives serious scrutiny

More voices in the room, asking whether it makes sense

2

Turn one person’s proposal into a shared project

Something that lives and breathes by its members

3

Establish legitimate shared leadership

Required by law, so everyone can trust that this is democratic

Who we're hoping to find

- Share the values and vision
- Ask hard questions, and disagree respectfully
- Work well with others, and follow through
- A mix of backgrounds and ages, younger people included
- Probably a slightly larger board than smaller

USEFUL EXPERIENCE

Boards · Nonprofits · Finance · Law · Safeguarding · Faith communities · Organizing · Events

No single director needs all of it.

What the work would involve

- Review and reshape the concept, purposes and values
- Review the governance documents, and set essential policies
- Incorporate as a BC society, and set up basic finances
- Plan the first gatherings, and how to welcome new members
- Act as leadership in the early stages of the society

3 to 5 hours

most weeks. Some will have more to give and some less, and that’s okay.

- A volunteer role

Not an honorary or advisory title. Directors become the legal stewards of the society, with real duties and accountability under BC law.

Some roles on the board

Examples, not a fixed list: the founding board decides how to share the work.

THE THREE OFFICERS

Chair or president

Runs the board's meetings, and keeps the work moving between them.

Secretary

The minutes, the registers of members and directors, and the filings with the BC Registrar.

Treasurer

The books and the bank account, and the yearly statement to members.

AND OTHERS WE'LL LIKELY NEED

Membership and welcome

How new people find us and settle in

Gatherings

The rhythm, from venue to clean-up

Care and support

How care is organized

Safeguarding

Protecting kids and vulnerable people

Culture and music

Curating and coordinating songs, readings and traditions

Communications

The website, socials and mailing list

Other ways to get involved

Not ready for a director's duties? There will likely be plenty else to do.

Join a committee

There will likely be several, once the board is formed

Help make the first gatherings happen

Set-up, food, music, welcoming people

Offer advice or specialist help

Law, finance, safeguarding, events, and more

Follow along

The mailing list, and @bedrocksociety.van on Instagram and Facebook

Point us to someone

Who'd be good at this? A name is plenty

Be part of the community

Come to the first gatherings, as it forms

Tentative timeline (give or take…)

AFTER TONIGHT — 1 — **An email from me, with more information**

BY FRIDAY, OCT 30 — 2 — **Email me if you're interested**

EARLY NOVEMBER — 3 — **Follow-up conversations, and the drafts for anyone who wants them**

MID NOVEMBER — 4 — **An initial board is confirmed**

LATE NOVEMBER — 5 — **The first working meeting**

Interested? Email **laurence@bedrocksociety.ca**

And from there, we decide together what happens next.

Thank you!!



Illustration by Lorne Perry



Your questions

Any question is welcome.