

SHAMBHALA



October 21, 2014

To:
Centre Directors
Group Coordinators
Directors of Societal Health and Well-being
Center Desung

With the Sakyong's full encouragement, we are embarking on a mandala-wide effort to understand, prepare for, and respond to a global phenomenon with profound implications for us all: the aging of the world's population. Your participation in this "Aging in Shambhala" [survey](#) is a first step.

The survey is designed to identify aging-related issues, questions, and challenges that you are seeing in your Centre/Group, as well as to gather approaches and resources you may have found in working with them. The goal is to create a sustainable way to gather and share this information with the growing number of us who need it.

For survey purposes, "aging" is defined as the later part of life in which human beings experience the physical, psychological and/or social changes that accompany the process of getting older.

Please note that the survey does not extend to death and dying, which is addressed separately in the "Death, Dying, and Hospice Care" affinity circle moderated by Jacquie Bell.

The survey's scope includes "aging" as wisdom and experience, frailty and illness, physical, mental, or emotional; "aging" as it touches us, whether as individuals, community members, caregivers, family or friends. Resources from both within and beyond the Shambhala mandala are most welcome.

As members of the Shambhala International Working Group on Aging, we are honored to explore with you a path to promoting the Shambhala vision of an awakened society for all ages and abilities. If you have any questions, please

don't hesitate to call upon us. We are grateful to the Shambhala Trust for their generosity in funding the initial phase of this project.

Again here is the link to the [survey](#). *The deadline for responses is November 21 for U.S. and Canadian Centres (November 30 for other Centres.)* However, if you can fill it out right away, that would be most appreciated.

With kind regards,

On Behalf of the Shambhala Working Group on Aging

Ann Cason
Donna Hanczaryk
Andrea Sherman
Lady Jane Ward
Jack Bodner

Please note: We acknowledge that there may be some language difficulties and apologize that, due to time and resource constraints, the survey is being distributed only in English.