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Finding Home:

Belonging, Connection & Community

A diverse group of participants gathered in the Morris Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University, in downtown Vancouver on February 22nd. This unique gathering brought together about 150 people, First Nations, Métis, immigrants, refugees, seniors, youth, artists, and researchers from community, government, business and educational organizations.

It was a day of discovery and collaborative learning as participants explored through dialogue, personal reflection and plenary sessions

the meaning of 'Finding Home', in themselves, in community, in the world.

Senator Romeo Dallaire told of experiences in Africa, in Canada and within himself, "Humanity is in conflict with itself, frictions are what bring us to war". Dallaire felt that people can make a difference, the task is not simple but if we learn to value the human rights of others as much as we value them for ourselves peace can come. It may take a 200 year plan to bring that kind of transformation,

but it is possible.

Jessie Sutherland, innovator of the Finding home initiative said that "awareness without action is useless and action without awareness is dangerous". There is conflict between the peace builders, which needs addressing. The participants then talked in their small groups about a recent conflict they were part of, and identified the core value being undermined, and then told the group what personal act, and when, they were going to take to address the conflict.

It took the concept from



Dido (sitting) leads a group of drummers at the "Finding Home" event

the other being at fault to it". In closing she said, "what am I as an individual going to do about "As individuals you can make a difference".

VOICES FROM HEAVEN



SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR



Soweto Gospel Choir Visits Vancouver

By Tony Montague

The 26-member Soweto Gospel Choir doesn't boast any divas or stars. All the young men and women in the ensemble, founded five years ago in South Africa's most famous Black township, enjoy equal status. Everyone gets to step out front and sing lead at some point, and according to musical director Lucas Deon, that's what gives the choir its exceptional sense of com-

munity and camaraderie.

"We come from several different churches and tribal groups, and it's very important to build a deep mutual respect and to find joy in each other's company," says Deon. "You can hear and see that spirit in everything we do - onstage and off-stage. We always intended it that way, and I think it really gives an extra dimension to our music."

The SGC's international success has

been amazing. Its performances of traditional African chants and spirituals, Christian hymns, and occasional popular songs have drawn rave reviews and packed houses all over the world. The choir sings mainly a cappella in great swelling harmonies, often punctuated by cries and ululations and accompanied by hand clapping. The more rhythmic num-

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