

The purpose of this special issue is to present a multidimensional peace model as a framework for discussing and working toward peace. The model includes the dimensions of *inner peace*, *social peace*, and *ecological peace*,<sup>1</sup> which are clearly reflected in the articles in this issue. Activists for peace and social justice, peace researchers, religious and political leaders, educators and students in many fields, and concerned members of families and communities can find insight and help in this peace model. Even young children can understand the model, because literature and educational projects for children highlight all three dimensions.<sup>2</sup>

Two of the articles in this special issue—“Fostering a Vital Life Energy Field through Contemplative Practices: A Garden of the Heart for Interbeing, Healing, and Peace,” by Jing Lin, Denise McHugh, Annie Rappeport, Amanda Fiore, Tom Culham, and Rebecca Oxford; and “From Polycrisis to Peace,” by Rebecca Oxford, Sally Anne Perz, and Joyce Schultz—emphasize all three peace dimensions. The article by Carol Griffiths, “Once Were Enemies: The Importance of Interpersonal, Intercultural, International Relationships in the Search for Peace,” centres on questions of social peace, as does the article by Matthew Legge, “What Peace and Conflict Studies Can Offer to Social Change Movements.”

In the next few pages we present the three-dimensional peace model in pictures. Then we describe the model in words, providing further context and readings.

### THREE PEACE DIMENSIONS IN PICTURES

Figure 1 depicts the three peace dimensions as concentric ovals. The arrows show that no dimension is totally separate from the others; the dimensions interact with and energize each other. The basic oval is inner peace, which helps generate and renew the other peace forms, represented by the ovals of social peace and ecological peace. Vital energy flows through inner peace, social peace, and ecological peace. The ideal is compassionate involvement