

Charter and Constitution
Of
Edmonton Assembly of Rocky Mountain Soto Zen Buddhists
(Rocky Mountain Zen)

The founding members of the Assembly of Rocky Mountain Zen (listed below), as of November 9, 2021, establishes themselves as a Soto Zen Buddhist Community in Edmonton, Alberta and Lethbridge, Alberta, under the articles contained in this document, which shall serve as its Charter and Constitution.

Article 1 Rocky Mountain Zen identifies as a Soto Zen community, receiving and endeavoring to transmit the Buddhist Dharma from our Great Teacher Shakyamuni Buddha through the two eminent ancestors Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji.

Article 2 Rocky Mountain Zen teaches that each of us, as children of the Buddha, come into this world endowed with the Buddha-Mind (busshin – the awakening that turns ordinary beings into buddhas). Yet we often fail to recognize this reality, being susceptible to the three poisons: greed, anger, and delusion (ignorance). With repentance, and taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and the Sangha, our minds will come to rest, our lives will experience harmony and light, and we will rejoice in being of service to society. We will also experience the deep faith that will allow us to stand up to hardship. We profess that, to discover happiness and a life worth living, is the teaching and practice of Soto Zen Buddhism.

Article 3 Rocky Mountain Zen seeks to walk the path of the Way based on the teachings, forms, and manners of the larger Japanese Soto Zen School, and further, to respectfully and gently transmit the teachings of Soto Zen to the community around us.

Article 4 Rocky Mountain Zen also seeks to ally itself with Zen Peacemakers International.

Article 5 Rocky Mountain Zen seeks to build filial connection with all practitioners of the Buddha's teaching, and friendship with all people of good faith throughout our community and world.

Article 6 Rocky Mountain Zen, as part of the missionary tradition of Soto Zen, will engage in activities to advance its religious teachings in the community, hoping to benefit its practitioners, and other individuals we engage with, to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Rocky Mountain Zen does not advocate aggressive proselytization and rejects fundamentalist approaches to expressing the teachings of the Buddha.

Article 7 Rocky Mountain Zen seeks to support activities that inspire, train, and mobilize those conducting humanitarian, peacebuilding, social, and civic action based on the sixteen traditional Bodhisattva Precepts and the three tenants of the Zen Peacemakers: Not Knowing, Bearing Witness, and Taking Action.

Article 8 In furtherance of the articles of this Charter-Constitution, the members of Rocky Mountain Zen shall establish a set of bylaws to execute its activities.

Article 9: This Charter and Constitution may be amended by majority vote of all registered Members of the Assembly in good standing in attendance at a duly constituted business meeting where no less than 28 days notice of the proposed amendment was provided to all registered Members of the Assembly either in writing or by suitable electronic means.

The undersigned founding members of Rocky Mountain Zen were present during the meeting of incorporation, held on November 9, 2021, and agree to the articles of this Charter and Constitution

The undersigned are other founding members of Rocky Mountain Zen who reviewed this Charter and Constitution and have agreed to the articles contained therein