BC/Yukon Area 79 Remote Communities Committee
MISSION STATEMENT

To foster unity within the fellowship of Area 79 by creating an awareness of the needs of alcoholics in remote communities. This committee seeks to assist those who are unable to make it to regular face-to-face meetings on a consistent basis. Members may be faced with travel or geographic challenges or may face barriers such as language, cultural considerations and/or anything else that could separate a person who needs A.A. from our lifesaving program of recovery.

Remote Connection Program

This is an entirely different way of carrying the message to those who, because of their location or other challenges, are unable to make it to regular, face-to-face meetings.

A connection is made between the remote person/group and a person/group that is willing to become a host. The host might be considered a "sponsoring" person or group. Meetings should not be too large, so as to lessen any possible confusion on the other end about who is sharing. There are few requirements other than a suitable location and the communication device you plan on using at both ends. Some use telephones while others use computers, and some are using a combination of the two.

The groups are introduced to each other by telephone or email through the Remote Communities Committee chair. At that time, the participants decide the frequency, day and time of meetings, and the format they wish to follow. A commitment is made by both groups to be there to make or receive the connection. The sponsoring group may have a list of members who would like to participate in the meeting, thereby ensuring the remote members hear a variety of experience, strength and hope.

How can you help as an individual or as a group?
- Individual sponsorship by telephone, email or becoming a host.
- Your group can become involved with a remote connection and host a meeting.

Some considerations before signing up...
- People are counting on you. Participants have a responsibility to show up for the time they are committed to.
- Groups of five to seven have been found to work best.
- If you are a large group, consider forming a committee to take on this project and be willing to contact members to remind them of the group's commitment to ensure you have a full complement of members at each meeting.
- Financial commitment: The sponsoring group should cover any charges, and perhaps purchase a speaker phone. It may also be necessary to supply the group you are sponsoring with a speaker phone.
- Be patient. The wheels of A.A. rotate very slowly. Be prepared to wait for your sister group. In most cases it will not happen instantly, but you will eventually get connected.
- Individual sponsorship: Other than the fact that you may never meet your sponsee/sponsor face to face, this does not differ much from normal sponsorship. Almost all communication will be via telephone, email, etc.

Remote Connection Program –Tips for Three-Way Calling with Shaw and Telus

Some remote connections use three-way calling, also known as conference calling. To use the three-way calling feature:

1. Call the first party and inform them you will be placing them on hold and bringing in another party.

2. Press the link/flash button on your phone; if your phone does not have one, use the on-hook button (just like call waiting).

3. When you hear dial tone, dial the number of the person you are trying to reach.

4. When they answer, press the link/flash button (or on-hook) and you will now have the three persons in the conversation.

Like call-waiting, it is better to use the link/flash button for three-way calling if available. Also, if the second participant is unavailable, the customer needs to press the link/flash button twice to get back to the original party. When on a three-way call, call waiting will not work and all incoming calls will be routed to voicemail (or a busy signal if voicemail is not subscribed).

REMOTE CONNECTION SIGN-UP
Please fill out the form below if you are interested in participating in the
Remote Connection Program, as either a Remote Participant or a Sponsoring Group,
and return to the Remote Communities Committee chair or your DCM.

Group/Name	City/District/GSR	Email	Phone

If you have any questions or concerns, contact:
remotecommunities@bcyukonaa.org
Phone 604-435-2181