Planning Institute of British Colombia (PIBC)

1550-355 Burrard Street

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2G8

January 11th, 2022

**Overdose Prevention through Harm Reduction: Free Training and Consultation for PIBC Members**

Dear PIBC Membership,

The Opioid Emergency Response Center (OERC), Community Action Initiative (CAI) and the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) recognize the urgent responsibilities facing elected officials and government staff today, including COVID-19, public safety, homelessness, and the overdose crisis. There is a sense that the responsibility to address complex social issues has been “downloaded” to the level of municipal governments and local communities. With the understanding that substance use tends to rise during crises and acknowledging the challenges and practical limitations that constrain the work of local government, we also recognize that municipalities are uniquely positioned to shape public opinion and galvanize efforts to reduce substance-related harms in their communities.

As you work to respond to complex realities in real time, we are offering a series of harm reduction training modules for PIBC members who are seeking practical guidance on how to effectively engage people with lived and living experience of substance use and to respond to the overdose crisis. **We are currently able to offer this training at no cost to PIBC members.** Please note this training is an introductory and abridged version of a more comprehensive training that CAI & the BCCDC are offering to local leadership across the province. If there is interest, you may have the opportunity to participate in further training through PIBC or at regional convenings of local leadership.

**Registration:**

**Space is limited to 25 participants** to facilitate rich conversation and the session **will not be recorded**. We will be reaching out to confirm attendance in the days preceding the event – if you register and cannot attend, please email [nchalifoux@caibc.ca](mailto:nchalifoux@caibc.ca) so that we can make your spot available to someone else.

Please register here to secure your spot: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdeytrjotHtaO51z4VclNB_Vfnv4VOzlb>

Once you have registered, please complete the pre-assessment survey, which can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BQRZQTD>

This survey is used to tailor the training to your needs and by our in-house evaluator to understand the impact of this trainings with respect to learning outcomes. Upon completion of this survey and the post-assessment survey, you will receive a resource list to support continued learning and relationship building on this topic and will be entered in a draw to win a $50 Chapters/Indigo gift card.

Please see below the curriculum outline.

**Learning Goals**:

This training explores concepts that directly impact public safety, homelessness, and the overdose crisis, and builds practical skills and knowledge to address these issues with compassion and inclusion.

Learners will be supported to work through harm reduction concepts, apply skills to their local contexts and address common practice issues in a supportive environment, with people who use substances. We will use interactive text-based content along with interactive discussions using breakout rooms, and supplementary resources will be shared after the session.

**Facilitators:**

These harm reduction training modules are co-facilitated by Janine Stevenson (Public Health Nurse), Andrea Derban (Public Health Nurse), and Marnie Scow (Indigenous Facilitator), who collectively have over 20+years of experience in working with individuals experiencing multiple social and health barriers. Biographies and full curriculum descriptions can be shared if there is interest.

**Content:**

This curriculum has been delivered for many years to Health Authority leadership, health professionals, First Nations communities, and peers. This will be an abridged version of a pre-set curriculum, meaning we will not be able to cover every module. We will include time for consultation and support on specific practice questions that members may have related to existing initiatives. Registration and the pre-assessment survey will allow us to tailor the session to the specific learning needs/interests of registrants.Please let us know if there are particular issues or concerns that you would like us to address.

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| **Modules** | **Key learning goals** |
| 1. Introduction |  |
| 1. What is Harm Reduction 2. History of Prohibition | * Why is harm reduction important? * How did we get here? |
| 1. The different lenses of addiction 2. Social Determinants of Health | * Indigenous experiences * Biomedical * Psychosocial * Engaging people with lived or living experience (PLLE) * Two-eyed seeing * Engaging local First Nations |
| 1. Linkages to municipal mandates and harm reduction/overdose prevention 2. Building healthy and resilient communities | * Economic development * Homelessness * Public safety * What does success look like? Sharing case studies and success stories |
| 1. Resources | * Regional and local resources to support harm reduction * Key contacts in your community and health authority (will attempt to introduce participants to local harm reduction leads) |

**Audience:**

PIBC members who are interested to know more about harm reduction and how to engage appropriately and inclusively with people in their communities who face multiple barriers. This learning is particularly relevant for municipal officials and staff who are currently involved, or preparing to be involved, with initiatives related to public safety, homelessness, economic security, and the overdose crisis.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Project Coordinator, Noah Chalifoux: [Nchalifoux@caibc.ca](mailto:Nchalifoux@caibc.ca).

In appreciation,

Janine Stevenso*n, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special projects: RN, BScN, MSN*

*Andrea Derban, Clinical Nurse Lead, RN, BSN*