

Breakout Room Discussions

BREAKOUT ROOM:

*Currently, what does Indigenous engagement look like in your CAT or organization?
And where do you see opportunity for improvement?*

- We shared a variety of forms of Indigenous engagement within our CATs. Including the perspective of an Indigenous person who reached out to join a CAT. That is not always easy for people to do, and I think (as a non-Indigenous person) that really reminded me that we must always be taking steps to try to be approachable and create culturally safe and welcoming spaces.
- Mission: several members identify as Indigenous
- Partner with Mission Friendship Center (2 outreach workers and an addiction worker) They provide the Mission CAT with a space to operate and members to facilitate an addictions group. Provide space & personelle in kind and opportunities for cultural learning.
- Peer coordinator for Mission CAT from Indigenous community
- Took a few years to build a consistent relationship. The CAT is on track with engagement but is always looking for additional opportunities
- Abbotsford: room for additional engagement from Indigenous members
- Chilliwack: 11 reserves within Chilliwack. 1 reserve directly represented. Several CAT members identify as Indigenous
- Possibly recruiting Indigenous outreach workers as members of local CATs to support engagement with local Indigenous communities
- Victoria: Partnership with Cowichan tribes for cultural awareness events
- Encourage Indigenous members to come to the centre of these discussions
- Very challenging for these members to be active, so trying to meet them where they're at (e.g. having events like BBQs, pow wow, ribbon skirt group)
- Welcoming vulnerability and acknowledging learning journey
- Encourage members to ask for help when they need it
- Talk to people around and take advantage of community networks
- MOCAT hoping to start Women's Group to create culturally safe environment
- Opportunity for improvement – having discussions and bring awareness, be open, be the voice
- Listening to indigenous members
- Approaching things in a trauma informed way
- Integrate cultural activities and healing
- At least 75% of UNDU is indigenous; at least 87% of those who access services are indigenous
- Indigenous representation involved at PG CAT; representation from FNHA
- Opening well, being mindful and respectful.

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- Comox Valley CAT: Indigenous representation; training in CAT around Indigenous harm reduction and cultural safety
- Engagement with Elders providing support; cultural activities
- White Rock: some challenges with Indigenous CATs; built relationship with local FN; building connections.
- FRAFCA in Surrey
- Representation from FNHA
- HOPE CAT: We collaborate with our indigenous communities as well as our teams with Harm reduction, Housing, Substance use supports and always with a trauma informed lens and including everyone. We could always improve by recruiting more peers.
- One CAT representative present described working quite closely with the local Indigenous Harm Reduction Team on: monthly grief support sessions; regular peer art sessions bringing together Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peers (feedback from peers that this does bridge cultural gaps). Indigenizing IOAD this year more than last year. Having Elders present at CAT meetings and events when possible. Also, about half of our leadership committee is Indigenous, as well as many of our peers. Working with them to visit schools to talk to students about substance use.
- Room to improve: more regularly check in with our Indigenous peers and partners on how they feel comfortable (or don't) in our meetings and activities and what we could do to improve this for them. Always take part in learning opportunities to better understand Indigenous peoples.
- Perspective that community actions teams could improve by learning from Indigenous People what a holistic approach to the drug poisoning crisis would look like; this would benefit all people, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous because the current main approach of Naloxone training is not simply enough. The same is true for Interior Health
- Keep trying to reconnect with Indigenous partners even if you get the feedback that you have engaged in an unsafe way in the past.
- Spread more resources like the ones shown in today's session so more widespread- often see people offending Indigenous peoples by accident
- Be more intentional
- The clear definitions of Cultural Safety vs Cultural Humility was really helpful even after having done several courses where I learned about these terms, this clarity and reminder was meaningful