

Breakout Room Discussions

BREAKOUT ROOM

What are you proud of from 2022 and what has enabled progress with your CAT?

- Grand Forks – Starting to grow, pharmacist has joined the CAT meetings
- Tri-Cities – Making connections, change in municipal leadership have become supportive to the overdose response, joining the CAT. The Acknowledgment has been large.
- Comox Valley – CAT team started right before pandemic, so we had a lot to overcome, connections to make. No peers at the table to start. Worked hard to connect with peers to bring onboard. Now a very strong group of peers engaged. Changed the IOAD title this year to “International Day of Awareness” (RE: toxic drug crisis). This event was much more vibrant in 2022 with about 13 booths with information tables & harm reduction (including 2 peer-led), community engagement way up. Our gathering had a strong Indigenous participation with an Elder from K’ómoks First Nation opening the gathering and a welcome song, Indigenous drummers and singers, and other live music throughout the day. Dynamic event – could see the change in community involvement. CAT started out with no peers, and now have many peers at the table including key members of our steering committee. Two other things – peer outreach group that the CAT supported in initiating has now become 2 vibrant peer groups doing amazing work, all initiated by one peer with a vision. Also recently started a dialogue between CAT peers and MHSU Director to be able to open up communication and work towards more collaborative relationships and hopefully, positive change.
- Hope – We are proud of the community we have built in our peer engagement group. Wisdom of Trauma movie showing in our small town had a great turnout of over 150 people. We have collaborated with the Strengthening Hope Project to focus on the Homelessness in Hope and bring awareness to the community. Proud to say we have Mountain Side Harm Reduction coming to Hope during our weekly OAT clinic, facilitated by our supportive doctor in hope who is part of our CAT team.
- REDUN (Nelson) – We are proud of... being a part of cutting edge initiative for rural BC to follow or be inspired; the Getting to Tomorrow Conference; making sure peers are involved, engaged and heard; bringing Indigenous cultural workshops; brought 3 new computers to REDUN (1 to Nelson, 1 to Grand Forks, 1 to peers); getting youth engaged; inviting Freedom Quest to the GTT (first of its kind); growing our presence at the NTF meetings; getting support from CAI for REDUN planning International OD Awareness Day and all that we do; knowledge exchanges and financial support for peers; being invited into the Dukhabour Hall and really seeing the Provide and love they all share; working as a team and being proud; creating an environment where we can all sit in the same room and have a voice; low barrier acceptance in all Zooms; bridging gaps in between PWLLE and other stakeholders (helps with connection); the Vancouver CAT convening; OPS; Erin talking re OAT. Thank from REDUN (Nelson)!