





# Harm Reduction Innovative Solutions Virtual Conference November 16 & 17, 2021

<b>Monday November 15, 2021</b>		
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>Joe Buffalo Documentary</b> <i>Pre-Conference Documentary Viewing and Facilitated Discussion with Joe Buffalo</i>	
<b>Tuesday November 16, 2021</b>		
10:00 am- 10:15 am	Opening Remarks Logistics, Virtual Training Etiquette, Housekeeping	
10:15 am – 11:00 am	<b>Adverse Childhood Experiences: Implications for Harm Reduction</b> <i>Keynote Address with Dr. Christopher Mushquash</i>	
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break	
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Community Mobilization and Policy through Non-Traditional Media &amp; Means</b> <i>Jason Mercredi Prairie Harm Reduction</i>	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm & 1:55 pm – 2:40 pm	Concurrent Workshops Series 1 and 2 <i>Each of the below panel presentations will run twice allowing delegates to attend 2 of the 3 sessions</i>	
<b>Overdose Prevention Innovations</b>	<b>Innovations in Infectious Disease</b>	<b>COVID Harm Reduction Innovations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifeguard App</li> <li>• FAST Overdose Reporting</li> <li>• ComCap Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV Self Testing</li> <li>• BETR Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warming/Cooling Shelter</li> <li>• Care Bus</li> </ul>
2:40 pm – 3:00 pm	Evaluation and Wrap up Day 1	

<b>Wednesday November 17, 2021</b>	
10:00 am- 10:15 am	Check in, Welcome
10:15 am – 11:45am	Concurrent Workshops Series 2
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
<b>Courage for Change: Innovations in Anti-Human Trafficking Service</b>	<b>Harm Reduction Innovations in First Nation Communities</b>
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Hope and Healing</b> <i>Joe Buffalo</i>
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Synthesis of Information Learned</b> <i>Stan Wesley</i>
1:45 pm- 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Community-led Compassion Clubs: The Next Step in Harm Reduction</b> <i>Jeremy Kalicum &amp; Eris Nyx, Drug Users Liberation Front</i>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing Remarks, Evaluation

***Please note all times listed on agenda are in EST***

# Harm Reduction: Innovative Solutions

## Session Summaries and Presenter Biographies

Monday November 15, 2021

**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

### Joe Buffalo

*Pre-Conference documentary screening and facilitated discussion with Joe Buffalo*

Joe Buffalo is an Indigenous skateboard legend. He's also a survivor of Canada's notorious Indian Residential School system. Following a traumatic childhood and decades of addiction, Joe must face his inner demons to realize his dream of turning pro.

Documentary Awards and Notable Selections

SXSW - Audience Award

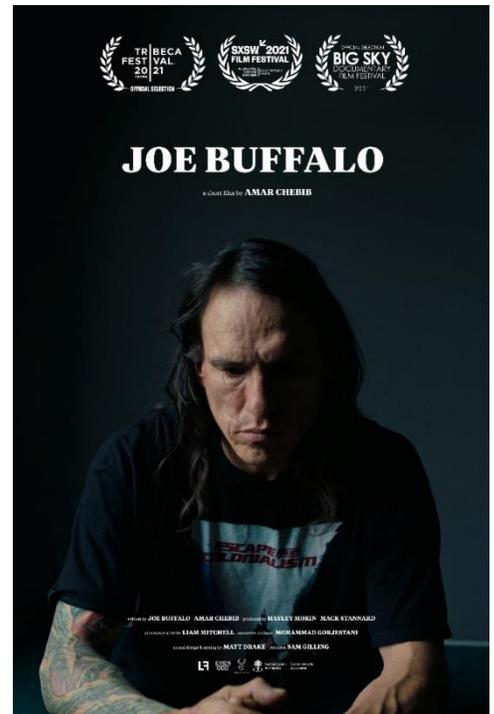
CALGARY UNDERGROUND - Jury & Audience Awards

NORTHWESTFEST - Best Canadian Short

REGARD - Jury & Audience Awards

TRIBECA - Official Selection

Telefilm Canada's "NOT SHORT ON TALENT" @ CANNES 2021



Tuesday November 16, 2021

**Opening Plenary Session- 10:15 am – 11:00 am**

### Adverse Childhood Experiences: Implications for Harm Reduction

*Keynote Address with Dr. Christopher Mushquash*

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) increase the risk for a range of negative health outcomes throughout the lifespan. Mental health and addiction problems can also be understood in the context of exposure to ACEs. In this presentation, Dr. Mushquash will discuss the implications of childhood adversity for the treatment of mental health and addiction problems. From a harm reduction perspective, what can understanding ACEs contribute to the robust range of approaches currently being utilized to support individuals experiencing harms?



**Dr. Christopher Mushquash C. Psych.** is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, and Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University and the Division of Human Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. He is the Director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research at Lakehead University. In addition to his academic appointments, Dr. Mushquash is a registered clinical psychologist providing assessment, intervention, and consultation

services for First Nations children, adolescents, and adults at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. Dr. Mushquash is Ojibway and a member of Pays Plat First Nation.

## **Keynote Address- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm**

### **Community Mobilization and Policy through Non-Traditional Media & Means**

*Jason Mercredi Prairie Harm Reduction*

Can Safe Consumption Sites get off the ground without government funding? Can these sites open in conservative provinces with overwhelming public support? Can harm reduction policies be changed for the better in provinces that are traditionally opposed? All three are possible, but the approach needed is not what has traditionally been utilized by non-profits and will require some risks that can produce big rewards.



**Jason Mercredi** is the Executive Director of Prairie Harm Reduction (PHR). He is a co-founder for Canada's National HIV Testing Day, successfully advocated for the deregulation and provincial expansion of naloxone in Saskatchewan, opened Saskatchewan's first Safe Consumption Site, Saskatchewan's first Overdose Prevention Site, was project lead on Canada's first Indigenous language condom campaign, and has fundraised over \$500,000 to operate PHR's Safe Consumption Site since the fall of 2020. Jason is a member of the Chipewyan Prairie First Nation. He is of

Denesuline, Metis and Scottish ancestry and was born and raised in Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Metis.

## **Concurrent Workshops- Tuesday November 16, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 1:45 pm and 1:55 pm – 2:40 pm**

*Each of the below panel presentations will run twice allowing delegates to attend 2 of the 3 sessions*

### **Session 1 Overdose Prevention Innovations**

#### **Lifeguard App**

Lifeguard App continues to expand upon its lifesaving functionalities to automatically contact emergency responders if a user becomes unconscious or unable to function in the event of an overdose. In addition to a timer which will alert Emergency Responders to an overdose, the Lifeguard App also includes Support systems to help keep users safe including a CPR Guide, Naloxone Guide, How to Guide and access to Crisis Line and Suicide Prevention line. The Lifeguard App has been operational in British Columbia for several years and was launched this past summer in Northwestern Ontario.

**Kevin Yates** was born in Hamilton Ontario. Kevin started street life as youth there, then moved to Vancouver BC at 17, and spent most of his lived experience on Hastings Street in the Downtown East Side. Kevin has lived in Thunder Bay ON. off and on for 16 years. Kevin has mostly worked as a cook in restaurants. He started his outreach journey as a custodian at Shelter House and moved up to Support Worker. He works now as an Outreach Worker at NorWest Community Health Centres where he works on developing and promoting the



Lifeguard Digital app and as part of the COM CAP project teaming up with EMS to provide services directly from EMS to our Outreach team on overdose calls.

**Michelle Kolobutin** is a mom of three with a Master of Science from University of Waterloo. Michelle currently works as Coordinator of the Managed Alcohol and Harm Reduction Programs at NorWest Community Health Centres in Thunder Bay. Michelle has 15 years experience working with underserved/vulnerable populations, including in the emergency shelter system, running a mobile Needle Exchange Program and Drop-in for the Sex Work Community in Hamilton, Ontario; working with underserved individuals at risk of and living with cancer, as well as individuals living with HIV/AIDS, drug users and individuals experiencing mental health challenges. Michelle is an advocate of access to health and education. She enjoys spending time in the kitchen, skateboarding with her kids and spending time outdoors with her dog Wally. She would like to acknowledge her white privilege and share that she lives on the traditional lands of the Robinson-Superior Treaty.

### **FAST Overdose Reporting**

In February 2021, the FAST Overdose Reporting System was launched in Thunder Bay. The FAST Overdose Reporting System is a mechanism to collect real time data from community organizations whose staff are connecting with people who use substances. This system is designed to provide community organizations with timely information about overdose trends in their communities by collecting real-time information on substance-related overdoses and incidents from local service providers. An overview of the development of this system in Thunder Bay and a summary of data received since the launch will be provided.

### **Cynthia Olsen**

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Cynthia has worked for 20 years in the areas of Child & Youth Mental Health, Adult Mental Health & Addiction, and most recently coordinates the City of Thunder Bay's municipal 5-Pillar Drug Strategy. The Thunder Bay Drug Strategy is the City's official plan to reduce the harms associated with substance use and is a multi-sector collaboration of over 35 organizations and community members, including individuals with lived experience. Cynthia co-chairs the Thunder Bay Housing & Homelessness Coalition, is the Vice Chair of the Thunder Bay Drug Awareness Committee, Co-Chairs the Opioid Surveillance & Response Task Force, and Chairs the Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Planning Table. Cynthia has a Diploma in Child & Youth Work from Confederation College, and a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology Degree from Carleton University. Cynthia is a recipient of the 2016 Northern Ontario Visionary Awards for the top 20 young professionals under 40.

### **ComCap Project**

In response to the ongoing overdose crisis in Thunder Bay District, NorWest Community Health Centres (NWCHC) in partnership with Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS) and other valued community partners collaborated and developed care pathways for SNEMS to engage with NWCHC peers when responding to an individual who has experienced an overdose. The intent is for Peers to connect individuals who have experienced an overdose to resources and supports, mental health and addictions treatment services with the intent of decreasing overdose related deaths.

## **Session 2 Innovations in Infectious Disease**

### **HIV Self Testing**

In the session Phoenix will be reviewing information pertaining to what the research program hopes to achieve with the implementation of the HIV self test kit roll out in Ontario. As well, Phoenix will also review the unique barriers we are facing in the NW region which is affecting our distribution in comparison to communities south of us.

**Phoenix Schweitz** is the Director of Harm Reduction for Elevate NWO (AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay) Thunder Bay ON. Phoenix has been with the agency since April 2019

Even though thoroughly involved in Harm Reduction at the agency, Phoenix also oversees the regional peer program with Peers in TB, Dryden, Fort Frances, Kenora and Sioux Lookout. Phoenix is responsible for overseeing the program as well as Peer development and training. Also perform work through the GMSHA (Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance). Phoenix holds certification for the MDRAO (Medical Device Reprocessing Association of Ontario).

### **BETR Project**

The Building Enhanced Treatment Responses Initiative is a response to the epidemiology of HIV and Hepatitis C infections in the Thunder Bay District. The goal of this project is to build capacity in primary care for treating HIV and Hepatitis C. The presentation will cover the model and the successes and challenges of this project.

## **Session 3 COVID Harm Reduction Innovations**

### **Warming/Cooling Shelter**

From January 4th to April 30th, 2021, P.A.C.E. – People Advocating for Change through Empowerment Inc. operated a warming center seven days a week, twelve-hour a day in order to give our vulnerable population somewhere to go to escape inclement weather. We provided peer support, a warm bowl of soup, a hot beverage and warm, dry clothing to our guests.

Also, from July 1st to August 31st, 2021, we operated a cooling center, providing water, cold treats, sunscreen, hats, and a place to cool down.

These programs were very successful, serving upwards of 150 people per day.

### **Severe Weather Plan**

The City of Thunder Bay Severe Weather Response Plan was developed as an action plan under the Thunder Bay Municipal Emergency Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the Plan is to aid in preventing negative health impacts of severe weather conditions on the residents of Thunder Bay, during the pandemic response. The Plan includes a particular focus on preventing direct impacts of cold and heat exposure on people experiencing homelessness. The Plan is a supplement document to community partners' plans and be utilized to coordinate responses at various activation levels, based on severity of weather and the status of COVID-19.

**Georgina McKinnon**, Executive Director at P.A.C.E. – People Advocating for Change through Empowerment Inc.

In the last half of the '80's I was a needle addict living in Elliot Lake, ON. In 1989 I moved to the Inco mine site in Shebandowan, where I cleaned up with my families support and became a secretary with MacIsaac Mining Enterprises. In 1992 the MOH contacted the Shebandowan Local Services Board looking to form an Emergency First Response Team, which I became an active part of. From that, Atikokan Hospital offered to work with the MOH to train us as Primary Care Paramedics through both the MOH and Confederation College. I worked for Superior North EMS as the Coordinator/Lead Hand at what is now Conmee Ambulance Services. In 2001 I ended that career and went to work for The Canadian Red Cross as an advanced First Aid Instructor and Coordinated the Seniors programs that the Red Cross offers in Thunder Bay and District. I was also the Chief of the Shebandowan Volunteer Fire Department from 2009 until 2016, when I moved into Thunder Bay. Since moving to town I have worked for St. John Ambulance as an Advanced Instructor Trainer and Marketing Coordinator. In July 2018 I accepted the position of Executive Director for P.A.C.E. It has been a whirlwind of careers and life experiences that have brought me to where I am today. P.A.C.E. offers me the ability to do what I believe I was meant to do.... help people when and where they need it. I am grateful for all the opportunities that have been afforded to me and couldn't be happier with my choices than I am today. My story is proof that an addict can make better choices and become productive members of our society and I am proud to share my life with the people that come to P.A.C.E. and inspire them to do the same.

My name is **Sara Dubray**, I am the system advocate worker for P.A.C.E. my background is in social work.

I have been with P.A.C.E for going on three years and previously was in child protection, although there was a lot of help needed in family services, I have found my place here working with mental health and addictions within our vulnerable sector in our community.

Helping individuals navigate day to day life with adequate support is my sole and main purpose

I was a child that grew up with addictions and mental health that was surely passed on to myself as a young adult. I have suffered my own addictions and mental health, with most of the time no one to turn to. I have been judged because of the predicaments I was in that came from my childhood with no control as to how things unfolded for me. I however broke a cycle, reached for help trusted my own process to be healthy, I have educated myself in many ways to help people in the best way I can, so no one has to feel alone in the lowest parts in their life.

I am living proof with support and hard work you can have the life you deserve, and I will be that support for our members here at P.A.C.E. and our community.

The City of Thunder Bay Severe Weather Response Plan was developed as an action plan under the Thunder Bay Municipal Emergency Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the Plan is to aid in preventing negative health impacts of severe weather conditions on the residents of Thunder Bay, during the pandemic response. The Plan includes a particular focus on preventing direct impacts of cold and heat exposure on people experiencing homelessness. The Plan is a supplement document to community partners' plans and be utilized to coordinate responses at various activation levels, based on severity of weather and the status of COVID-19.

**Jacob Porter**, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, and **Julie Wiejak**, Policy & Research Analyst both represent the Infrastructure & Operations Department with the City of Thunder Bay. As part of the Severe Weather Plan

Working Group, Jacob and Julie integrated their prior experiences with emergency planning, gap analysis, and climate risk mitigation into the severe weather response plan creation.

### **Care Bus**

In March and April of 2021 NorWest Community Health Centres, in partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board and People Advocating for Change Through Empowerment, implemented a Care Bus. The bus connected individuals to emergency shelters, warming centres, addiction and mental health services, harm reduction services and health supports in the community, both physically and through staff on the bus.

The bus created an opportunity for individuals to be safe and warm, sleep, and have direct access to supports and referrals, basic first aid, and pathways to medical support at NorWest Community Health Centres. Masks and winter clothing were available for individuals to wear and take with them as well as harm reduction supplies, snacks, water, hygiene supplies, and other provisions

**Kyle Arnold** was born and raised in Victoria, BV. He is the oldest of 5 children. Kyle spent 17 years as an intravenous drug user, in and out of prison. He has been living in recovery for 2.5 years. Kyle enjoys fishing and hanging out with my partner and 8-year-old stepson. Kyle works on the streets with the hard-to-reach population. Kyles biggest passion in life is my recovery and giving back to the most vulnerable population and individuals living with addiction. Kyle work as a Harm Reduction Worker at NorWest Community Health Centres in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

**Jennifer Lawrance**, MA (Leadership, MS, BSc (Nutr), Director of Health Services NWCHC\_ is a health leader with over two decades of experience across all sectors of the health system in Northwestern Ontario. Her values align with the values and intent of the CHC model. She was born in St. Lucia, and having lived and traveled fairly extensively, her experiences have been very influential in shaping her perspective and who she is today. She is a mother of two, and enjoys running, cycling, hiking, and camping, gardening, and reading in between kids' activities and fun.

## **Wednesday November 17, 2021**

### **Concurrent Workshops- 10:15 am – 11:45 am**

#### **Courage for Change: Innovations in Anti-Human Trafficking Service**

This survivor and community led report is a pathway for new collaborative and integrated working relationships in Ontario. This workshop will look deeply at what is needed to help Indigenous women and girls safely exit from human traffickers and gangs.



**Collin Graham** is from Ochiichagwe' Babigo' Ining Ojibway First Nation. He grew up in Thunder Bay, ON. Collin has been an advocate in community development for over 20 years. Mr. Graham currently works at the Ontario Native Women's Association as a Community Development Manager. His past work includes working in the Sexual Health sector, in the Mental Health sector, as well as working with youth. Collin is a huge

advocate for the youth and empowers the 2S-LGBTQ community through experiential learning.

Collin obtained his diploma through Confederation College and graduated in the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Program. He completed the Life Skills Coaching Human Relations and Family Management Counselling Program in White Rock, British Columbia.

Collin is passionate about deconstructing colonialism at different levels through community, as well as on an individual basis. “It’s important that we have conversation with ourselves and to look at how we play a part in upholding structures of power.”

Collin is known for using humour as he believes it’s a pillar of resiliency amongst Indigenous communities and be used as a healing tool.

## **Harm Reduction Innovations in First Nation Communities**

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) was established in March 1990 and is for health service delivery and client advocacy. SLFNHA works under the direction of First Nations’ leadership, in accordance with its goals of self-government and self-determination, to represent and address the health needs of the 31 First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout area. SLFNHA’s Harm Reduction Services were established in January 2013, to respond to the emergence and steady increase of prescription drug abuse specific to opioids, and related harms (i.e., sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections) in First Nation communities served by SLFNHA, as directed by First Nation leaders in the Sioux Lookout area.

During the session, presenters will provide an overview of the effects of prescription drug abuse in First Nation communities. An overview of the available SLFNHA’s harm reduction services, discuss community harm reduction strategies and some of the challenges communities face.

**Carla Duncan** is from Muskrat Dam First Nation, her permanent home with her family of three children and husband. She has been an employee with Confederation College working with the Indigenous Student Support Service program for the past three years. Also, for the past few years, Carla has been doing part time – relief support services for the Muskrat Dam Suboxone Program in the Muskrat Dam. Also, she has worked in different capacities at the Family Treatment Centre in Muskrat Dam, from management to financial administration support services. She is currently working at Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority with the Harm Reduction Program!

**Byron Blandon** and his family, immigrated from Colombia to London, Ontario on June 2000, where he completed his secondary studies. He attended Fanshawe College, where he studied biotechnology and then Transferred to Lakehead University, to study Nursing and Psychology. He has been residing in Sioux Lookout since April 2011.

In 2015 Byron joined the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority where he started working as the Hepatitis C Program Coordinator. He has been working as the Harm Reduction Coordinator for the past 4 years under SLFNHA’s public health system, Approaches to Community Wellbeing. As a Harm Reduction Coordinator, Byron provides supportive consultation to First Nation communities who would like to develop community-based harm reduction programs (Needle Distribution Services & Opioid Overdose Prevention

Program), provides education, resources, training, and capacity to front line workers and community members at large.

**Tianna Jacobson-Wournell** grew up in Sioux Lookout, Ontario where she continues to reside and work for the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. Tianna has been working in public health as part of the Approaches to Community Wellbeing department for the last four years. Tianna is currently the harm reduction programs health promoter. She supports community requests by creating resources, radio scripts, webinars, teleconferences, and workshops related to opioid overdose prevention, safer needle pick up, STBBI prevention and anti-stigma. Tianna enjoys getting out on the land with her four dogs and has recently taken up roller skating.

Harm reduction saves lives!

## **Keynote Address- 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm**

### **Hope and Healing with Joe Buffalo**



Joe was born at Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and was raised in a large traditional Cree family feasts and ceremonial lifestyle and at age 7 was initiated in traditional hunting and fishing by Treaty 8 Elder.

After decades of addiction and alcohol abuse and not dealing with all the unresolved childhood trauma that had been inflicted on him throughout his life, Having rock bottomed on the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, He also came quite close to suicide and back to back overdoses until finally taking the necessary steps towards healing. By digging into his culture and falling back on the old ways of ceremony with his elders from back home, he was able to seek guidance that way. Skateboarding also acted as a tool throughout all this.

Joe attended Grade 6 and 7 at St. Mary's Salesian Catholic Boys School in Edmonton; shortly after Joe attended the Lebret Indian Residential School located in Qu'Appelle Valley, Treaty Four Territory, Saskatchewan. After having moved to Ottawa in late 92' right after His fifth year of residential school, it took awhile before he was able to adapt to the city life. Then moved to Montreal from 99'-09' all while still being a sponsored amateur skateboarder. Slowly figuring out life through trial and error.

Until finally realizing his dreams of becoming a professional skateboarder. It wasn't a straight shot trajectory and involved having to sober up and clean up my act. I knew the steps to take, in order to change, I was just too scared of making them on my own. Having a support system in place helped immensely. Being as close to the Creator and putting prayers down daily is also super helpful for my day to day.

For past 35 years, **Joe Buffalo** has gained a following in the global skateboarding community through a wide range of national and international affiliations is now an Actor/Professional skateboarder and co-founder of Nations Skate Youth, a Vancouver based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower indigenous youth to embrace their right to self-determination through the positive impacts of skateboarding.

Joe was named "Dancer" in a Plains Cree Sun Dance Ceremony; and a member of Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Treaty Six Territory and is a fourth-generation residential school survivor who attended St. Mary's Salesians Catholic Boys School in Edmonton and Lebret Indian Residential School in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

Joe gives full credit to his healing and leadership development to his ancestors on both sides of his family; he honours his parents and grandparents, and great-grandparents who attended residential schools. Joe honours his great-grandfather Hereditary Chief John Tootoosis, a treaty activist who organized the National Indian Brotherhood, now the Assembly of First Nations and he is a descendent of Yellow Mud Blanket, brother of Chief Poundmaker, original signatory to Treaty No. 6 of 1876.

Joe's great-grandmother Harriet Buffalo, a residential school survivor was the youngest daughter of renown World War 1 sniper Henry Louis Norwest, who died and buried in France: for many years, Joe's family organized family memorial feasts in remembrance and honour of their ancestor Henry Louis Norwest.

[www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/henry-norwest-metis-marksman-1.4044782](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/henry-norwest-metis-marksman-1.4044782)

## Community-led Compassion Clubs: The Next Step in Harm Reduction

*Jeremy Kalicum & Eris Nyx, Drug Users Liberation Front*

Formed in response to the ever-mounting overdose deaths in British Columbia and across Canada, the Drug User Liberation Front looks to provide tangible solutions to this devastating crisis. We are an organized collective of people who use drugs empowered to make change through direct action, courage, and conviction, and fueled by the memories of the countless friends, families, and loved ones whose lives have been taken by an unjust, broken system of laws and policies. <https://www.dulf.ca/>

In the face of a devastating loss to the increasingly toxic drug supply the Drug User Liberation Front (DULF) is leading Canada's next frontier in harm reduction by utilizing the tools of direct action, civil disobedience and community organizing. DULF's Presentation will follow the history of grassroots drug user liberation movements moving innovative ideas from conception to action and culminate by exploring the rationale, operation, and outlook of DULF's existing and unsanctioned Heroin, Cocaine and Methamphetamine Compassion Clubs.



**Eris Nyx** is a queer multidisciplinary artist and community organizer living on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people. Currently working with the Coalition of Peers Dismantling the Drug War, the Downtown Eastside SRO-Collaborative, and the Black Lab Arts Society, Nyx advocates for police and prison abolition; new models of antipsychiatry to replace the current regime of psychiatric theory and practice; ending the war on drug, and fighting against the intersectional harms wrought by colonization, capitalism, and other system of oppression.

**Jeremy Kalicum** is a community-based activist and co-organizer of the Drug User Liberation Front. As a current public health student, Jeremy specializes in public policy and Drug Policy. Working as a drug checking technician at the BC Centre on Substance Use Jeremy helped bring drug checking technology, such as FTIR spectrometry, to people who use drugs (PWUD) in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Previously, Jeremy also served as the Director of Operations for the BC / Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors, a provincially mandated initiative to bring the voices of PWUD in British Columbia to all levels of policy discussion and service delivery. Currently, with the Drug User



Liberation Front Jeremy is using direct action to push for community-controlled access to a safer supply of drugs.