
MOUNTAINSIDE HARM REDUCTION SOCIETY



2022

www.mtnsidesociety.ca

CHILLIWACK OPS - > MOUNTAINSIDE HRS

Rebranding, kickstarting incredible programs, welcoming an innovative founding Board of Directors, and hiring some incredible staff members!

Chilliwack Overdose Prevention Society had an interesting start, with minimal inconsistent income and an inexperienced board of 3 full-time front line harm reduction workers who were unsure of proper societal practices. They incorporated as a BC Society in 2020 and received their first grant from the Chilliwack Community Action Team in the Spring of 2021. Because the organization was comprised of full-time support workers, there was minimal time or energy to bolster organizational capacity or create any internal governance structure.

In the Fall of 2021, Sarah reconnected with an old colleague from Rain City Housing, Tanis Oldenburger, who was working through the pandemic as a Peer Coordinator for the Community Action Initiative (CAI).

Tanis was able to mentor the Chilliwack OPS Board to apply for the Provincial Peer Network Year 3 grant application and subsequent adjudication processes. The grant was awarded at the end of 2021, which would allow the organizations to hire Tanis to do some much needed housekeeping. The PPN Y3 funding would allow Chilliwack OPS to evolve into Mountainside Harm Reduction Society, who would go on to have an incredibly successful year in 2022 with numerous other partnerships and funding opportunities. In March 2022, the organization held its very first official Annual General Meeting (AGM) and also started down an exciting road to creating a peer-led mobile FTIR drug checking operation with Fraser Health and the BC Centre on Substance Use.



MOUNTAINSIDE
Harm Reduction Society

2022

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2022

Our most foundational process to date, was the success of our 2022 AGM which allowed us to create a youthful and forward-thinking founding Board of Directors, comprised of people with lived and living experience as well as front line work experience in overdose prevention & harm reduction!

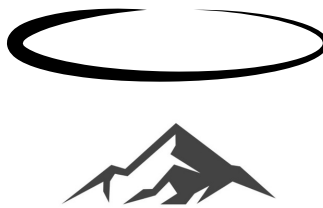


AGM22 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Agnew and Tanis Rose Oldenburger were elected as Co-Executive Directors, Treasurer & Secretary respectively. Cody Chance, from Chilliwack Citizens for Change was elected President, Will McLellan as Vice President; LaJune Rabang from Shxwah:y Village Band Office - Indigenous Engagement Lead; David Waltho, support worker from Ruth & Naomi's - Sergeant at Arms; Haley Hodgkinson, of Chilliwack Community Services - Youth Engagement lead. Other founding board members include: Becky Walls (Rain City Housing), Cassie Neufeld (PLEA), Claire (Gus) McDowell (GSN), Laina Fascilla (FHA), Lee Phillipson (PCRS), and Megan Walter (HATS).

CONSTITUTION W/ SOUL

We began to create a Constitution immediately after our 2022 AGM, with input from all Board Members, we decided to include a quote from Kiah Jayne Ashley. Kiah was a friend and colleague to directors Tanis, Cassie & Laina



Mountainside Harm Reduction Society

Mission, Vision and Values: A Constitutional Manifesto

"EDUCATE patiently. ADVOCATE passionately. INSPIRE consistently. LOVE unconditionally."
- Kiah Jayne Ashley, sunrise August 1990 - sunset March 2021

Mission

- **Develop** an innovative range of mentorship, training, and employment opportunities for PWLLE/PWUD while providing low barrier access to harm reduction and peer support, services and engagements, which are driven by essential overdose prevention and response practices.
- **Engage** in relevant community collaboration to influence positive industry-wide changes that can help us radicalize our authentic approaches to ameliorating the fatalities due to the toxic drug supply crisis.
- **Educate** industry colleagues, leaders and community members regarding the benefits of harm reduction practices and the value of lived experience expertise in order to combat stigma and discrimination towards PWUD.

Vision

- **A unique range of innovative low-barrier services** tailored to the diverse needs of each individual and which go above and beyond what other community service providers have the capacity to offer.
- **Compassionate non-judgmental workspaces** where growth within the organization is predicated on one's autonomous accountability and capacity to contribute in a positive and constructive manner.
- **Transparent, trauma-informed communication and conflict resolution** which encourages the creation of individual and organizational wellness plans to mitigate the potential for punitive interventions.

Values

- **Inclusivity:** Services and engagements that enhance the lives of ALL PWUD, including peers who are experiencing compounded marginalizations in our community. Mentorship and employment opportunities for PWLLE/PWUD living with concurrent barriers and honouring the value of all lived experiences by utilizing these acquired expertise in all decision making processes.
- **Bravery:** Showing our radical resilience through sharing personal lived experiences in an open, honest and trustworthy way; to effectively embrace common factors within the living experiences of our peers, creating opportunities to form equitable friendly bonds.
- **Respect:** Demonstrate trauma-informed, non-judgemental humility while conducting ourselves in community. Recognizing and Honouring one another's reality, experiences, and individual autonomy.

Acknowledging the **disproportionate representation of Indigenous people** in overdose statistics, **Mountainside Harm Reduction Society** conducts our affairs with gratitude and reverence for the Indigenous peoples and cultures of the stolen traditional territories upon which we operate, specifically the **Sto:lo Coast Salish**, or 'People of the River' in the **Ts'elxweyegw** (colonially known as Chilliwack) River watershed and throughout the Fraser Salish region.

Mountainside's Manifesto: Mission, Vision & Values for a Peer-led organization operating in the Fraser Salish region of British Columbia, is dedicated to the many lives whom we have lost due to the toxic drug supply crisis. These overdose deaths are preventable.

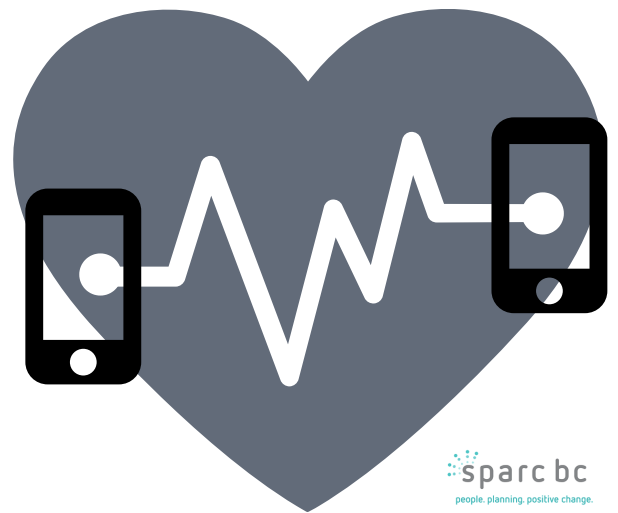
15K

& 100 SMART PHONES

The Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of BC partnered with MSHRS on their Fraser Health wide Connet2Care cell phone distribution initiative. MSHRS proposed that they utilize the BC Coalition of Organizations by & for PWUD or Provincial Peer Network (PPN) to distribute smart phones throughout the province, in a low-no barrier manner. We began with an initial funding of 15k and 100 smart phones

CONNECT 2 CARE . BC

In the Spring of 2022, we distributed an initial 100 smart phones which we received from SPARC. This distribution occurred through partnerships that forged amongst the Provincial Peer Network (PPN). Various groups in the provincial peer network who expressed interest in partnering on this initiative, received anywhere from 2-10 cell phones, depending on capacity, along with a micro grant of between \$300-800 to pay peer workers to support the distribution process as well as facilitate research surveys which contributed to our reporting & data!



Cell Phone Distribution by Health Authority

Of the 1st 100 cell phones:

- 10 went to Vancouver Island
- 10 went to Vancouver Coastal
- 15 went to the Interior
- 20 went to Northern Health
- 45 went to Fraser Salish

Through this innovative program, we were able to distribute smart phones to PWUD and peer support workers throughout BC. MSHRS also provided basic tech support and opportunities for existing peer workers who were connected to our partnered organizations. They became paid contractors to aid in the distribution of cell phones as well as help to facilitate the paid research interview with each cell phone recipient. This project plan allowed MSHRS to put cell phones as well as cash into the hands of numerous peers in a low to no-barrier manner.

50K

FNHA HARM REDUCTION

First Nations Health Authority was able to provide us with this funding to help with stage 1 of our peer-led drug checking project. This was a partnership with Fraser Health authority, who delivered the core operations funding for our Check'It program. FNHA's initial contribution allowed us to train additional peers on the FTIR, who were not necessarily ready for employment with our team of technicians but needed the experience.



The entire 50k did NOT go towards this program, but has helped immensely to support our core operational costs in order for our team and board to focus on strong partnership engagement as well as development of the society and its leadership team so that we could better support this project. We retained part of these FNHA Harm Reduction funds into early 2023 to help train our new technician(s) and pay for some extra harm reduction supplies, such as the hammer pipes which have been an incredibly successful addition to our harm reduction supply distribution. We also received a \$2,000 supplement from the First Nations Health Authority to help support our August 31st International Overdose Awareness Day event. Expenses were shared with CCAT & Shxw̓ha:y. We are incredibly grateful for the 2022 support from FNHA which has allowed for a unique and autonomous, collaborative and gradual development of this organization. We have applied to renew our FNHA Harm reduction grant in 2023 !



2K

AUGUST 31

The First Nations Health Authority's International Overdose Awareness Day event supplement allowed MSHRS to pay our peers to staff our drug checking operation as well as the fully operational on-site Safe Consumption space, which was complete with access to Safe Supply, courtesy of the DULF - Drug User Liberation Front!



International Overdose Awareness Day was an incredibly successful partnership between us, the Chilliwack Community Action Team and Shxwha:y Village. We had food trucks, and bouncy castles for the kids as well as a great turnout from other CAT partners. Many organizations who serve PWUD in our community showed up with their tents and staff to participate in the networking event! Indigenous Elders lead conversations & crafts. We even held a live butterfly release memorial activity which was absolutely beautiful and allowed for some collective grieving. The name of the event and the theme of the speeches and activities was "No More Stigma, No More Shame."



160K

PEER-LED DRUG CHECKING

Fraser Health's funding covers the core operational expenses for our peer-led drug checking pilot program. Thanks to a unique arrangement and a strong collaborative MOU, the BCCSU agreed to take fiscal agent role between FHA and MSHRS, providing financial administrative support every quarter.

This funding was awarded for the months of July 22–March 23. It was also meant to be a 1-time pilot project to create a sustainable model for peer-led drug checking across the Fraser East region. We are very excited to announce that our funding for this program has been renewed until March 2024! The exponential growth of this program and the incredible success we have had this year is largely due to the strong support that we receive from both Fraser Health and the BC Centre on Substance Use.

We are so grateful for BCCSU to have held our funds throughout 2022 in order for us to grow our financial administration capacity. The BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) also facilitates our teams' access to a provincial Community of Practice through the BCCSU Drug Checking evaluation study. Monthly working groups with technicians and peers across BC have been really effective for our staff to find community and help problem solve as a team.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

WHEREIN THE BCCSU

- WILL PROVIDE FISCAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT TO MOUNTAINSIDE
- WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO ONLINE TRAINING WEBINARS AND TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION
- WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE DCBC DRUG CHECKING DATABASE
- WILL ANALYZE AND EVALUATE THE DATA COLLECTED

WHEREIN FRASER HEALTH

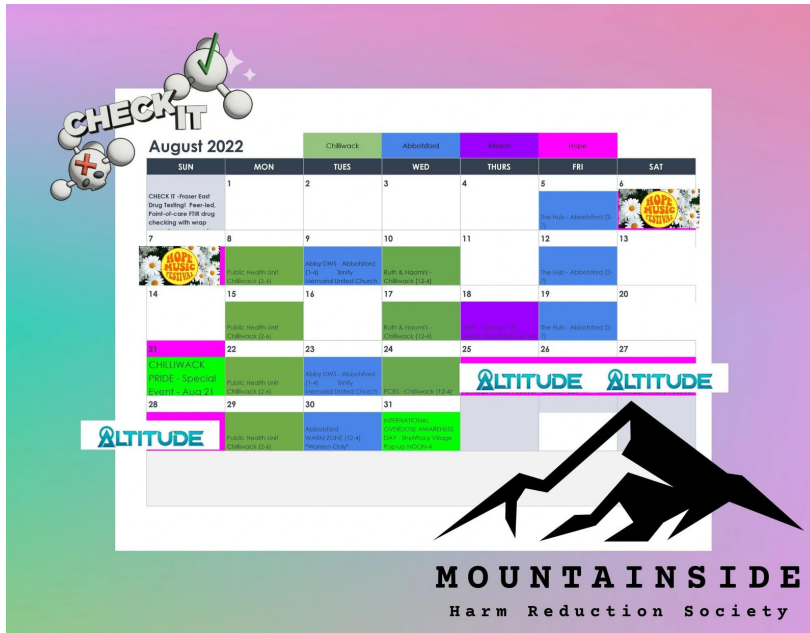
- WILL PROVIDE PILOT PROJECT FUNDING TO MOUNTAINSIDE
- WILL PROVIDE THE FTIR AS WELL AS BTNX FENTANYL AND BENZODIAZEPINE TEST STRIPS
- WILL REGULARLY MONITOR DATA COLLECTION WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION
- WILL COORDINATE AND PROVIDE FTIR TRAINING, TECHNICAL AND INTERPRETATIVE SUPPORT

WHEREIN MOUNTAINSIDE

- WILL CREATE FINANCIAL REPORTS, PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AND PRESENTATIONS
- WILL PROVIDE POINT-OF-CARE DRUG CHECKING SERVICES AS PER SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH RELEVANT PARTNERS
- WILL COMMIT TO ENTERING ALL DRUG TESTING DATA INTO THE DESIGNATED DATABASE.
- WILL ENSURE THE FTIR IS OPERATED, STORED, AND TRANSPORTED ACCORDING TO USER AGREEMENTS

CHECK 'IT

PEER-LED DRUG CHECKING ACROSS THE EASTERN FRASER REGION



Under the intrepid leadership of Will in his Project Manager role, the Check'IT program expanded from a tentative, hesitant little operation unsure of itself and its place in the world, to a fierce, confident results-oriented mobile drug checking service. In just a little under eight months, the team has gone from three Directors in a part-time role

to one Director acting as full-time Project Manager, two employees earning the equivalent of full-time wages, and two trainees, one of whom has just started and one of whom took her final exam March 26th. The program also provided harm reduction for two festivals, a dozen special events, and increased locations serviced from half a dozen to almost 20. We also set records for samples checked in one day (34), one month (178) and passed our 1000th sample analyzed just last Friday. Mountainside could not be more proud of Check'IT which is clearly our flagship program, and with a new grant of almost a quarter million dollars set to infuse us any day now, we will look to add more locations, staff and hopefully even another FTIR.



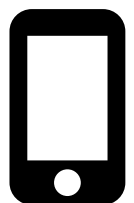
27K

& 150 SMART PHONES

In the late summer of 2022, SPARC was able to provide us with a second round of funding through their uniquely styled Homelessness Action Grant program. This grant was tailored to help bolster the original project which was an incredible success. We could continue as we had been because the infrastructure for this sustainable program model was already in-place.

Cell phone distribution continued well into the fall of 2022, going with the same model: partnering with colleagues at other peer-led organizations across BC, sending packages of cell phones along with a small sum of money in order to pay their support workers to do work on this extra initiative. The turnover rate was quite high from the spring distribution, leaving us with about 10 consistent phone program participants. The turnover for this 2nd round wound up being much more successful, we were also able to get upgraded devices to some of the program alumni, in order for them to continue using the program SIM card and its benefits. We will continue to advocate and apply for more sustainable funding sources, this program is near and dear to our hearts and incredibly rewarding for us. We have seen success stories across the board, namely with folks who have been able to care for their device for an extended period of time, which has enabled massive change in their lives, from service access, family connection, safety and daily routine. We aim to keep working with participants as long as they continue to engage with us on their monthly check-ins. We do these check ins both to offer peer support but also to make sure they are still using their phone before we top-up their phone bill.

As of March 29th 2023, we have FOUR participants approaching their one year anniversary with our program, two of whom are enjoying new phones we purchased for them, and the other two acquired phones given to them by their friends. A total of 33 participants are regularly replying to the check-ins; Will still does one or two per day. Broken down by health authority, there's one on the Island, two in Vancouver, six in the Interior, four in the North, and the remaining 20 are in Fraser region. It looks like these folks are likeliest to stay with the program for as long as they possibly can, for a rough expenditure of around \$1200 every 30 days.



3.5K

BOARD RETREAT

Board of Directors capacity building: 1/2 AGM retreat to Manning Park Resort - October 20-24, 2022



• **MANNING** •
PARK RESORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



We managed to pack 11 adults, two children, \$600 worth of food and one extremely energetic dog into two "Deluxe" cabins during the off-season at Manning Park Resort. Seven of the adults in attendance were directors, two were spouses, and two were staff members. The Board Members spent a large portion of the retreat, huddled around a kitchen table, working tirelessly to hammer out Mountainside's new Bylaws, to get them ready for registration in the New Year after 2023 AGM. All attendees were able to take advantage of the gym, pool and sauna at Loon Lagoon, and take walks through nature between the 3 total business meetings over the 3 day weekend adventure, The weather was beautiful, crisp sunny 2-degree fall days, and overall it was a fantastic opportunity for board, staff and related parties alike to get to better know one another and build capacity within the organization.

Our trip was incredibly successful and we aim to make this team-building retreat an annual event for our staff and board - calling this our annual 1/2 AGM - where we can make any necessary changes to directorship and positions. This year we were able to do plenty of team building as well as enact important business decisions and much needed revamping to our Board of Directors in order to move into 2023 strong and with one mind!

1/2 AGM

FRIDAY OCT 21 -
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2022

MANNING PARK RESORT

In our infancy, our 2022 AGM was a spur of the moment collaboration of willing participants, throughout our busy summer and through some bumpy administrative changes, we had several Board members resign and lose touch with our Board. However, those positions were quickly filled with passionate members!



1/2AGM - DIRECTOR CHANGES

Tanis is now sole Executive Director as well as Treasurer. Vice President, Will McLellan took over as Secretary. Cody remains on the Board, however, not being a PWUD, handed off the Presidency to Laina Fascilla, who works Peer Support for Fraser Health. Shawn Nygard, who is an outreach worker with Pacific Community Resources Society(PCRS) joined our Board just in time to come on the trip to Manning Park. Shortly after, Kristina Cockroft, Indigenous Outreach worker with Fraser Health's IHART also joined our Board of Directors! Sarah, Becky, Megan & Lee resigned from the Board prior to this 1/2 AGM.

13K

Y3 BRIDGE FUNDING

CAI/OERC's Provincial Peer Network (PPN) Year 3 funding pool was able to provide MSHRS with bridge funding as the applications and adjudication for the PPN Year 4 grants will be occurring late (June 2023). Mountainside will be applying for between \$80-\$120k for 2024. This will include both engagement and service funds.

Our PPN/OERC funding from 2021 was largely directed towards our ED salary and other "core operational expenses" we will be able to apply for this style of core funding again for 2023! We also had to recover (with humility) from the theft of a large portion of our PPN funds, which was perpetrated by a previous Director and Treasurer. This event had us spending much of our administrative energy and resources throughout 2022 and we learned plenty of tough but valuable lessons in the process. As for the PPN Y4 funding, we will be applying for what is called the "Drug user led overdose response" stream. This service delivery funding will go towards bolstering and expanding our Connet2Care.BC cell phone program. This funding will be available for 3 more years & we hope to graduate from this low barrier stream.

10K

CAPACITY BUILDING

CAI/OERC's Provincial Peer Network (PPN) Year 3 capacity building funds pool was able to contribute 10k to Mountainside. This was largely to support the ongoing fHRW - Harm Reduction Works virtual peer support meetings. Stipends for these meetings and the BC Coalition meetings were much needed as many of these meetings were attended in kind throughout 2021 and early 2022.

HRW - PPN TUESDAY NIGHTS

HRW BC Tuesday Night Peer Support meetings occurred bi-weekly from October 2021 and alternated with the bi-weekly Tuesday night BC Coalition meetings. These meetings are formatted as an alternative to NA/AA meetings and incorporate our harm reduction values into the script. The capacity building goal here was to teach peers how to host and facilitate these types of meetings in their own communities, mentored by various peer-led groups throughout the PPN. Tanis was a co-chair of the BC Coalition of Organizations by&for PWUD alongside Brittany from VANDU, this coalition meets bi-weekly to discuss common issues and strategies for overdose response in the province. Support style meetings were a refuge for our network.

5K

**BCOHRC FOCUS GROUPS
WORLD CAFE DIALOGUE
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

The BCOHRC is supporting MSHRS through their community connectors initiative to conduct focus groups in Chilliwack, the purposes of which are to highlight and advocate for human rights issues affecting our most vulnerable community members. Other Chilliwack organizations who are enacting focus groups through this initiative are Chilliwack Community Services Immigration department & Chilliwack PRIDE Society!

Our Human Rights focus group event took place on February 28th at the Public Health Unit. After a presentation about the history and the definition of Human rights, along with a discussion about the International declaration of Human rights. We created 4 separate dialogue areas. Each table will have a conversation prompt - community context, solutions, recommendations, & personal experiences. How do human rights relate to our peers every day struggles when accessing substance use services? We also delved into human rights issues when it comes to the barrier to accessing adequate housing, and the restriction places on folks who are housed in shelters and supportive housing units while they are on their insurmountable hunt for stable housing.

Have you battled to access substance use services and housing?
Do you feel that these struggles have violated your rights as a human being?

JOIN OUR DISCUSSION

TUE FEB 28

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner wants to hear about your experiences!!!

PEER SUPPORT & LUNCH

Substance Use

Housing

Human Rights

10AM-2PM

12PM LUNCH

\$100 PARTICIPATION STIPEND

10am-2pm
Tuesday, February 28th
Chilliwack Health Unit
45470 Menholm Rd

To Participate in this Focus Group Please Contact CCAT, Tanis, or Haley

MOUNTAINSIDE
Harm Reduction Society

CHILLIWACK COMMUNITY SERVICES

tanisrose@mtnsidesociety.ca - haley@mtnsidesociety.ca - chilliwackstopoverdose@gmail.com



283K

2022 ANNUAL INCOME

Our 2022 income came largely from British Columbia's Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) through the Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) disseminated by the Community Action Initiative (CAI), First Nations Health Authority & Social Planning & Resource Council of BC! Thank- you funders!

In Canada and more specifically in our home province of British Columbia, we are so blessed to have access to provincial and regional governing body/health authority funding! People who use drugs in British Columbia have advocated for access to low barrier funding for organizations such as ourselves. The BC Coalition of Organizations by&for PWUD, co-chaired by Tanis, our ED & Co-founder; have, over the past 18 months, entered into negotiations with the MMHA and have been able to more than DOUBLE the available funds for peer-led organizations in BC. In previous years nearly 30 organizations led by PWUD have split 1million dollars amongst ournumerous burgeoning groups who are on the front lines of this crisis. Moving forward into 2023, 2023 &2024 our network will have 2.2million (per year) available for peer-led overdose response in BC. This announcement was just made on Monday March 27th & Mountainside is eligible to apply to this funding pool to see sustainable funding for the next 3 years! We have also just renewed our contract wth Fraser health with a healthy \$260k for peer-led drug checking in 2023!!! Our leadership has worked through hardships and moguls this year and has really bolstered an authentic, low-barrier and sustainable financial administration system for Mountainside. We are currently working with Webster & Associates to create the financial statements for our 2021 & 2022 tax filings & are incredibly proud at the results of these two years considering what we have gone through as an organization in its infancy! Please stay tuned in the coming weeks for the official financial summary, for now - a very rudimentary and unofficial financial statement awaits on the next page, by yours truly, TR xo
