We spoke with 83 people in 13 focus groups in 12 BC cities.

**Develop best practices for health authorities on how to engage with peers**

**Empower and inspire peer leadership**

**Practice peer engagement in our research project**

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**What we learned from listening to people who use drugs**

**Access to Harm Reduction**
- People who use drugs take it on themselves to hand out clean supplies
- People can’t always get the supplies they need, when they need them

**Stigma and Trust**
- Stigma and discrimination make it harder to get supplies and services
- People who use drugs often experience stigma. They are labeled and judged.
- Trust makes it easier to get services, but it takes time to build trust

**Peer Community**
- People look out for each other
- Building peer-run organizations empowers people who use drugs

**Readiness for Engagement**
- Government and leadership need to provide resources and support for peer engagement

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**Participant Quotes**

“They run out of pipes, they run out of pipes” (Northern Health participant)

“The Methadone doctor here...was so compassionate, so awesome, like I was clean, like he was great and then the [new doctor]...here now...he makes you feel...you walk out of that office and you wanna go get high” (Interior Health participant)

“When you have groups like these guys are talking about, that’s when you unite and you go to city council and you go to these places and you ask and then you ask again and again, and maybe one day something becomes of it” (Island Health participant)

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**More Info?**
- towardtheheart.com/ezine
- Search “peerology” online

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**The Peer Engagement & Evaluation Project (PEEP)**

**Peer Engagement**
- involving people who use drugs in designing service

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**BC Centre for Disease Control**
**Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies**
**UBC Institute for Advanced Studies**
**Provincial Health Services Authority**
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**HRSS**