



## PEER ENGAGEMENT & EVALUATION PROJECT (PEEP)

### What is *peer engagement*?

Harm reduction is internationally accepted as effective for reducing harms and addressing health inequities associated with drug use. At the heart of harm reduction is the **process of engaging people who use drugs, or peers, as active experts** in policy, programming, and decision-making arenas – it is a powerful tool for generating sustainable change that is relevant and usable for the community it serves.

### What is PEEP all about?

**Objective:** The goal of this project is to establish an enhanced peer engagement network for BC through the development, implementation, and evaluation of best practice guidelines for peer engagement in programs and policies. The overarching aims of this project are to:

1. Establish peer engagement as the norm in BC and expand the opportunities for voices of peers who have been missing from our table (e.g. those from remote/rural regions).
2. Empower and inspire peer leaders who bring a broader representation of the voices of people in their communities and become part of BCHRSS.
3. In consultation with peers in every health region, develop guidelines that can be implemented and evaluated to establish best practice recommendations.

### What is involved?

This project will build on existing relationships with peers to expand the scope of peer engagement and explore new for more meaningful, sustainable dialogue.

Stage 1 – **Engage** team members (i.e. BCHRSS, peers, BCCDC) and develop protocol

Stage 2 – **Collect** data via focus groups and questionnaires at harm reduction sites

Stage 3 – **Identify and develop** local best practice guidelines for peer engagement

Stage 4 – **Evaluate** best practices in local communities

The resulting best practice recommendations will enable regional service providers to engage peers in their communities in meaningful ways to enhance harm reduction services to better meet local needs.

*Join us as we work with people who use drugs to address the needs of our communities!*



BC Centre for Disease Control  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority