

Drug User Groups and Drug User led Advocacy

UPHNS HUB Community of Practice Call

January 26, 2023, 63 participants

via Zoom



THE HUB VISION

To be a vehicle for meaningful change and innovation in drug policy and harm reduction service provision. We believe that this can only be accomplished by centering and advancing the voices, ideas, and innovation of people who use drugs.

What drug user groups are doing to resist the war on drugs

- Actively work to disrupt systems of oppression
- Provide Healthcare Directors with training about the war on drugs
- Starting OPS anyway/anywhere they can
- Working with the legal system to promote decriminalization of drug use
- Sharing knowledge and information!

Structural and social issues experienced by drug user groups in remote and rural areas:

- Keeping your business private
- Lack of services: transportation, SIS, OPS, Shelters, etc.
- Lack of locations for services and groups to meet
- Extreme wait times for services available

For more information on how you can join our UPHNS HUB Community of Practice calls visit our website and fill out the registration form to be added to our email list!

<https://uphns-hub.ca/en/registration/>



HOW COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS CAN SUPPORT DRUG USER ORGANIZATIONS

- Help people coordinate the task associated with daily living.
- Be respectful of people with lived and living experience /expertise.
- Collaborate and share space!



SUSTAINABILITY FOR DRUG USER GROUPS

- There are multiple national organizations that provide grants including health Canada and PHAC.
- It's essential to have a strong foundational format to support members of your drug user organizations.
- Build and form important social networks that help keep people safe.



PEOPLE WITH LIVED AND LIVING EXPERIENCE/ EXPERTISE

- People with lived and living experience/ expertise can connect well with those in similar positions. They are able to advocate for the needs and wants of people who use drugs based on first hand experience.

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