

INCORPORATING NALOXONE & HARM REDUCTION INTO YOUR ACTIVISM

Questions & points of consideration

- Groups talk about incorporating harm reduction without understanding what that means in practice
- What barriers exist for people who use substances to getting involved?
- What assumptions and stereotypes do you or your group have about harm reduction, substance use, and addiction?
- What assumptions and stereotypes do you or your group have about sharps in public?
- What are your realms of influence both in-person & online? How do your beliefs about harm reduction & people who use substances
- If you post something online, you have to be able to deal with responses and potential consequences
- What steps can you get your organization, union, workplace, cultural group, faith group, family, friends, etc. to get trained on Naloxone and harm reduction? And make sure this training is available for every new person coming in?
- Do you have a regular list of services, resources, and community groups available to everyone in your group to use or share as they need?
- Do you understand what our community services do?
- How are your events accessible and inaccessible?
- What policies do you have/ not have? Do these match the practices in your organization?
- Do you have a clear onboarding process for new members?
- What are your confidentiality practices
- Always be ready for ongoing change and needing to expand your processes
- Conflict can be healthy, especially when we address it
- How do you, your group, your union, or your workplace feel about conflict?
- When conflict occurs, do you have processes for addressing them and does your team know about them & how to use them?
- How is holding people's needs as part of your organizing, rather than an additional accommodation? Can people easily incorporate their boundaries into your organizing?

Worksheet

Niagara community orgs to know

- Positive Living Niagara/ Streetworks
- Start Me Up Niagara
- Withdrawal Management Services (NHS)
- Sexual Health Clinics/Health Bus (Niagara Region)
- Niagara Assertive Outreach Team
- Westview Centre 4 Women
- Niagara Area Moms Ending Stigma (NAMES)
- OPENN
- CASON
- The Soup Kitchen
- Community Care
- Niagara's Mobile Closet



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Organizing & planning tips

Worksheet

- **Consider what the venue/ location you chose:**
 - Will your event displace anyone who lives/ frequents area?
 - Will it increase police/ security presence, who are more likely to harass or be violent with a person who are on/ assumed to have used substances?
- Sharps container on site/ list of local public sharps container and Naloxone
- Designated marshal(s) who will be the police liaison, and are trained to intervene if a person is being harassed
- All volunteers & marshals having a contact sheet
- More detail in event descriptions
- De-escalation, conflict resolution training, incident report/ accountability processes
- **Improving accessibility – In addition to physical accessibility venues, are you able to provide:**
 - Physical accessibility of washroom facilities & location services & washroom options
 - Harm reduction informed/ non-judgemental childcare/ a childcare stipend
 - Transportation money / bus tickets
 - Water & snacks/ a food stipend
 - Location accessible via public transit & which in municipality/ neighbourhood?
 - Location where people who use substances are less likely to be harassed (e.g. security systems are trained in harm reduction, racism, homelessness/houselessness, etc.)
 - A sound system, closed captioning/ transcripts, video, Sign Language
 - Who is leading the event? Are they primarily white folks?
 - Trans-inclusion practices (e.g. pronouns, gender-inclusive washrooms, etc.)
 - Practices & options around sober and non-sober spaces
 - Have a list of community resources on hand a designated person with that info
 - Do you have AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) policies at your organization/ workplace? What are the limitations on these policies in terms of how we think of accessibility? How do these policies include and exclude people who use substances and/lived experience of addiction?
 - Does your team have training and ongoing discussions about ableism, sanism,
 - Meeting time frames – when do you start & end your meetings?
- **Training your team**
 - Set up a regular Naloxone/ harm reduction training for your team & new members
 - Make sure you have community resources available for members & participants