

*Community-Based Research Responding to Crises:*

# Centering Community: Health System Innovation in a Poly-Crisis Age

12-1pm Eastern Time | October 17, 2024

**Ginetta Salvalaggio, Associate Scientific Director**  
**Shanell Twan, Community Liaison**  
**Veronica Varewny, Research Assistant**

An E-learning event brought to you by



Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada



Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada

[www.communityresearchcanada.ca](http://www.communityresearchcanada.ca)



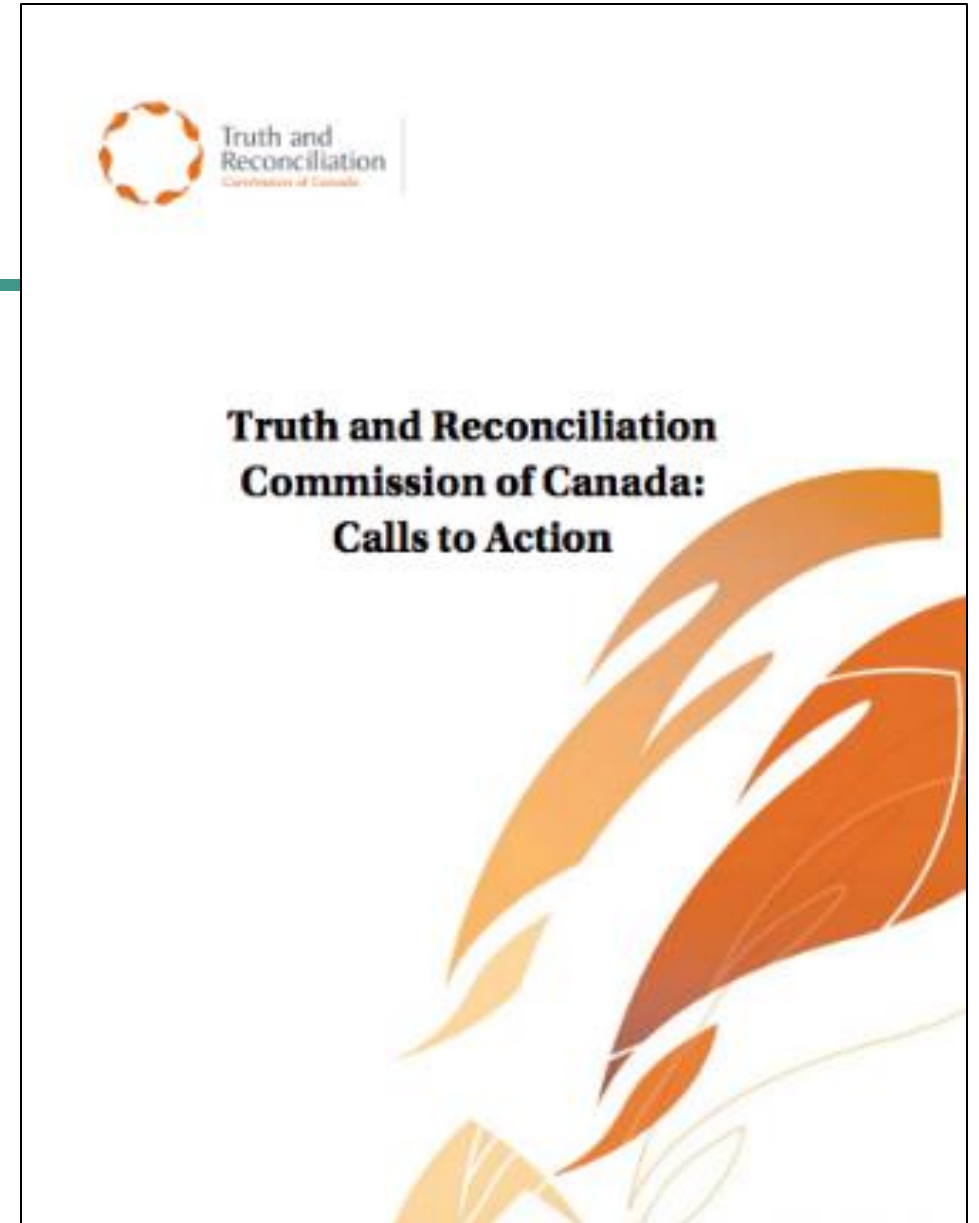
@CbrcResearch



Community Based Research Canada

# Call to Action #18

“We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.”



# Agenda

---



**Opening**



**Presentation**



**Q&A**



**Closing**

# Presenters

---

## Inner City Health and Wellness Program

**Ginetta Salvalaggio**  
Associate Scientific Director

**Veronica Varewny**  
Research Assistant

**Shanell Twan**  
Community Liaison

# Centering Community

## Health System Innovation in a Poly-Crisis Age

---

Ginetta Salvalaggio, Associate Scientific Director  
Shanell Twan, Community Liaison

**OCTOBER 17, 2024**  
**CBR Canada**

**Inner City Health  
and Wellness Program**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**



# People Who Use Drugs are Underserved by Conventional Health Services

---

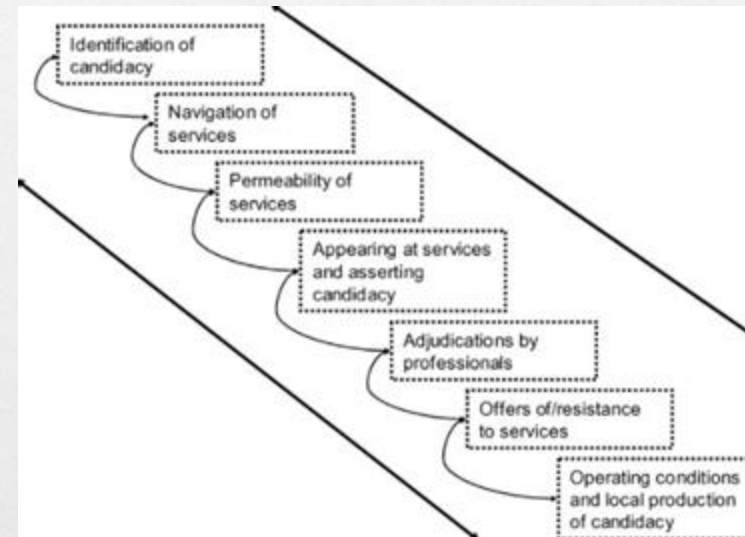
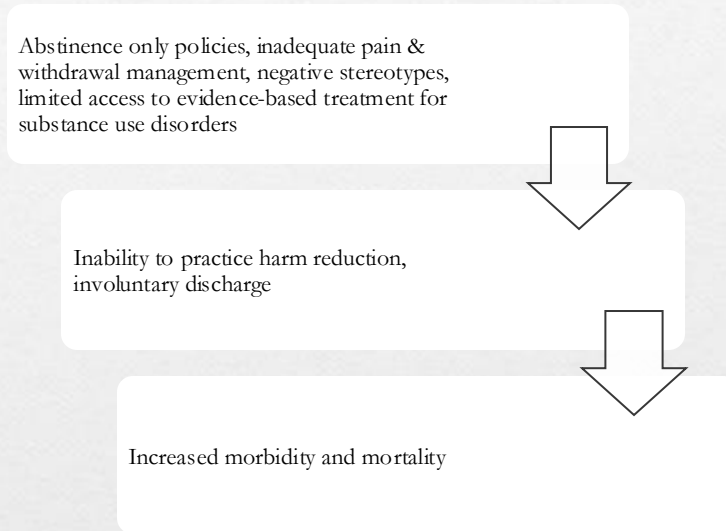
- Focus on acute medical illness
- Crisis orientation – forget about chronic disease and preventive care
- Social complexity
- Barriers to access







# When Healthcare Harms



McNeil R, Small W, Wood E, Kerr T. Hospitals as a 'risk environment': an ethno-epidemiological study of voluntary and involuntary discharge from hospital against medical advice among people who inject drugs. *Soc Sci Med*. 2014 Mar;105:59-66. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.01.010. Epub 2014 Jan 19. PMID: 24508718; PMCID: PMC3951660.

Dixon-Woods, M., Cavers, D., Agarwal, S. *et al*. Conducting a critical interpretive synthesis of the literature on access to healthcare by vulnerable groups. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 6, 35 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-6-35>

# “Nothing About Us Without Us”

---

- Action orientation is critical
  - Patient-oriented outcomes!
- Top down implementation of new services is unethical
- Administrative data, without context, give a partial picture at best (and an inaccurate picture at worst)



# Inner City Health and Wellness Program: Guiding Principles

---

1. The team will take its direction from the needs of the community that it serves.
2. All activities will be driven by the philosophies of reducing harm, respect and empowering people to make healthy choices.
3. The team and its activities will be culturally competent and will focus on relationship building and trust.
4. A broad definition of health (including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) will be used to define outcomes.
5. Research and educational initiatives will be action-oriented and widely accessible.



# How were Community Members initially involved?

---

- Community Liaisons
  - Information sharing
  - Coordination of CAG
  - Recruitment and retention
  - Data collection
- Community Advisory Group
  - Staff hiring and training
  - Program design and troubleshooting
  - QI/Evaluation methods
  - Data interpretation
  - Knowledge translation



# Our early work

---

- Evidence-informed care in an acute care setting
  - Multidisciplinary approach
  - Relationship-based
  - High quality addiction medicine
  - Wraparound social supports, harm reduction, and health promotion
  - Care coordination
- ARCH Implementation Manual available at [www.ichwp.ca/healthcare](http://www.ichwp.ca/healthcare)

# Evolving Context

---

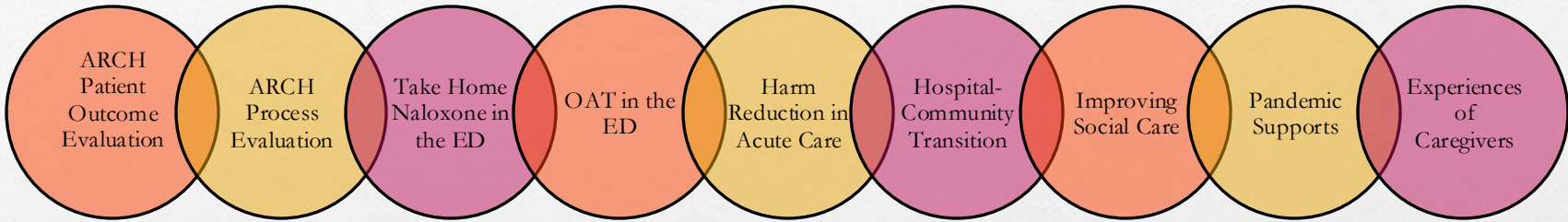
Complex High Needs Populations

Counseling / support unmet need

Community Constraints

Heterogeneous pattern of ED use –  
*Sometimes the first event is an  
overdose*

# Adapting



**Alberta group helps families affected by opioid crisis send photos of loved ones to prime minister**

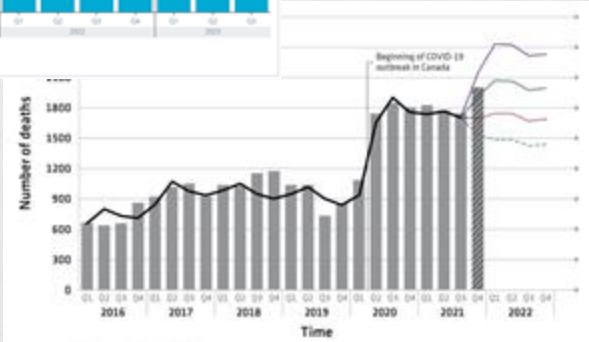
Organizers estimate 100 photos and letters have already been sent to Justin Trudeau's office this week.

Administrators and families affected by Canada's growing opioid crisis are launching a letter-writing campaign this week to pressure the federal government to take action.

**By Elizabeth Cameron for CBC**

Advocates and families affected by Canada's growing opioid crisis are launching a letter-writing campaign this week to pressure the federal government to take action — but instead of words, they're using photographs to convey their message.

The 'Do Something Please Minister Photo Campaign', organized by **Smoke Stop the Crisis (ASTC)** and the **Alberta Foundation for Changing the Face of Addiction (AFCA)**, is encouraging families to send photos of their loved ones who have died from opioid-related causes or who are seeking recovery from substance use to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office in Ottawa.





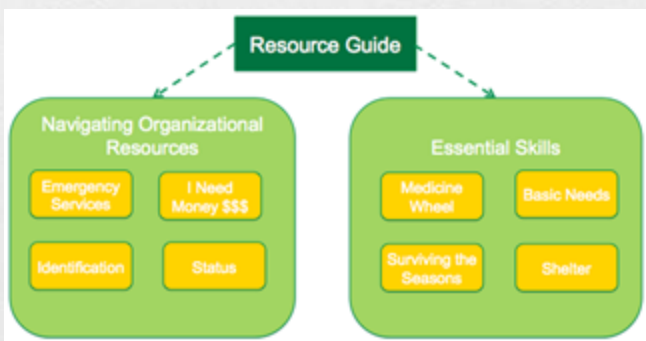
# Rethinking KT

## Keeping ID safe

There are ways to keep your ID safe. When sleeping at a shelter, you can ask staff to store ID in a safe place, you can also tuck your ID into your socks or undergarments while you sleep (this will not be the most comfortable but it will keep your ID safe). You can also store your ID with your other belongings when you check them in at the shelter!

Remember, you don't always need to carry your ID and important documents (birth certificates, citizenship certificates), most times, all you need is a photocopy. Store your ID some place safe so you don't have to carry it with you. There are programs around your city that can store your ID safely and securely for you!

Check out the "ID storage services" section in the attached pamphlet for a list of resources.



# How are Community Members involved now?

---



# Co-Designed Care: The “Un-Survey”

1. Document community-voiced priorities for care
  - Sensemaker micro-narratives
2. Identify community assets that can be mobilized
  - Arts-based asset mapping

Core Team:

- Community members, Academics, Nonprofit KUs, Trainees



# Data Collection

---



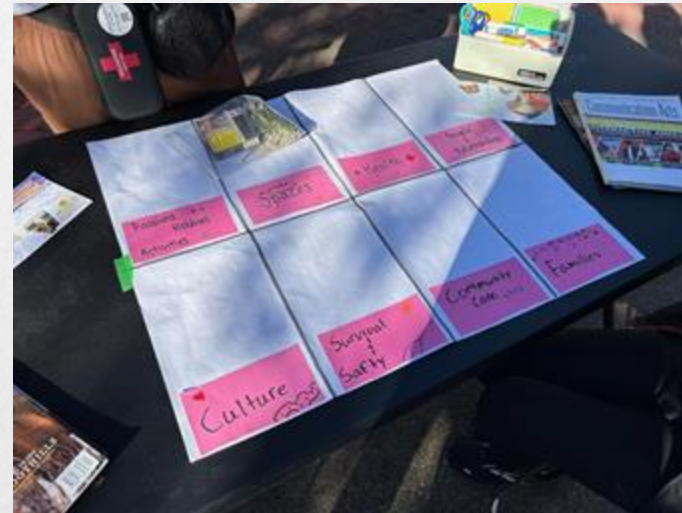


**Divine Intervention** “.. On my birthday a women OD'd. Everyone came to me. I was doing CPR I said "it's my birthday." I squeezed her hand and she said "happy birthday". I will always answer the call. There is no tough love, there is only love. If you give them that love they can change their direction. If you don't show that love then they die. I'm here for a reason even on my own journey. .... Blessed.”

**Caring Counts** “One night I was very suicidal and needed support, someone gave me his only shirt and also his whole wagon to me and that was so nice of him. I could be bitter because of the encampments being taken down and the way I've been treated by police. But I choose love and kindness”

**Don't give up** “3 or 4 months ago I got stroke and I got to the hospital and I'm there waiting for over a day. I was sitting there waiting for my results and a security guard throw me out and I never got my results ... ”

# Collective Safety



# Celebration

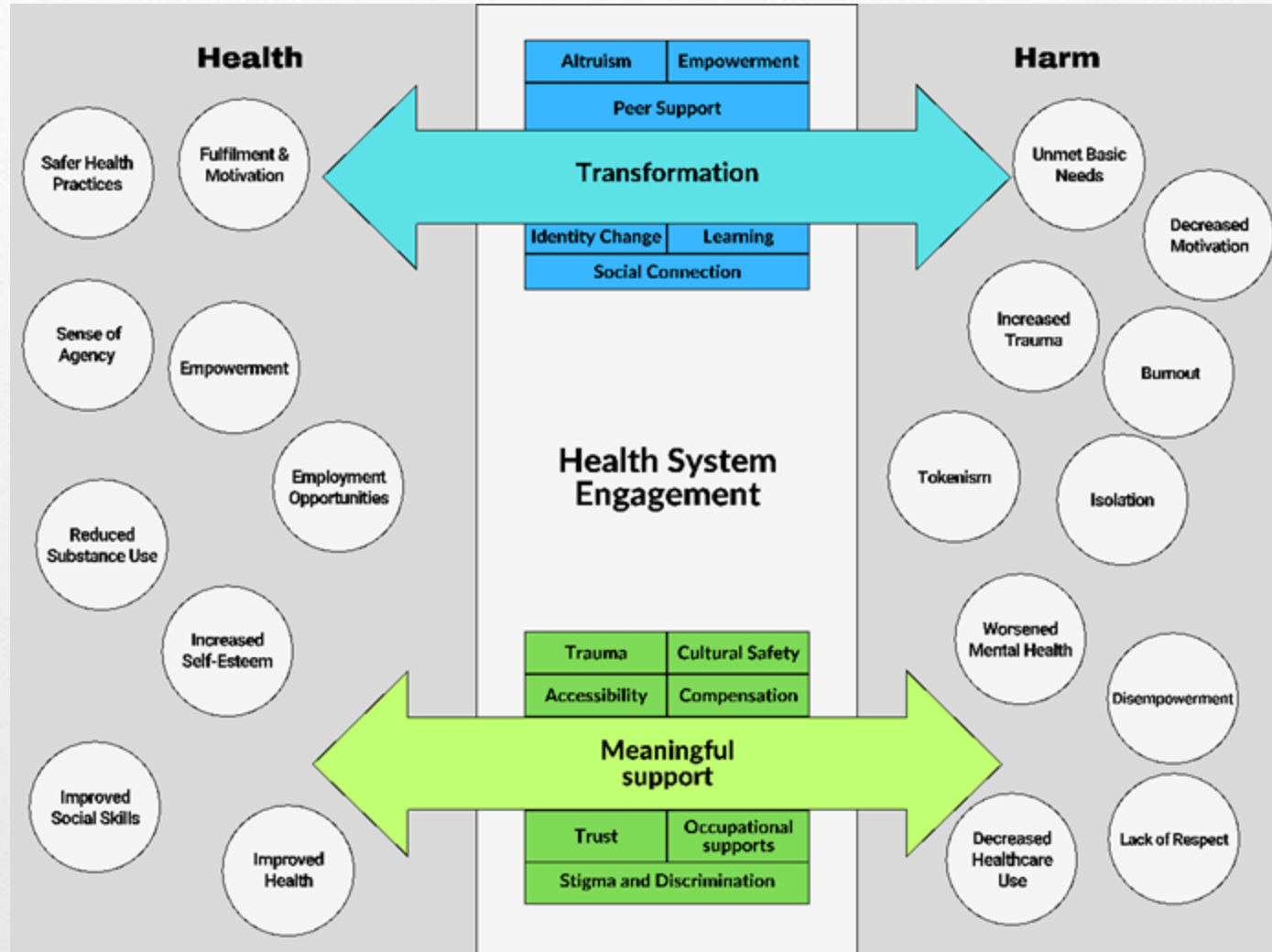




# What matters most to Partners

---

- We are already here, in community, doing the work
- Involve more than one of us
- We need steadfast, committed champions
- Invest time in our relationship
- Visit us, in our space
- We need to trust you – follow-through is critical
- Leverage existing resources – don't reinvent the wheel
- Use plain language
- Recognize the importance of gathering together and celebrating
- Recognize our investment and remunerate us





# Relationship Reduces Harm



# Thank you!

- [ginetta@ualberta.ca](mailto:ginetta@ualberta.ca)
- [www.ichwp.ca](http://www.ichwp.ca)





# Question and Answer

---



# Webinar Recordings



 Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada

[Become a Member](#)

[Home](#) | [Who We Are](#) | [Network](#) | [News and Events](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Resources](#)

**Webinars & Discussions**

Approach  
**Webinars & Discussions**  
Publications  
Case Studies

CBR Canada hosts webinars and live online discussions to bridge capacities and promote research excellence. Below are webinar recordings and event summaries, organized from the most recent to earlier. Upcoming webinars and discussions are posted on the [Events page](#).

[2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#) | [Earlier](#)

# Stay in Touch!



Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada

[Become a Member](#)

[Home](#) | [Who We Are](#) | [Network](#) | [News and Events](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Resources](#)

## e-Newsletters

The CBR Canada e-Newsletter is released every Fall, Winter and Spring, providing updates on the latest news, resources, and opportunities in Canadian-led community-based research.

## Subscribe to the e-News

Don't miss community-based research news and events.

Email Address \* \* indicates required

Powered by [MailChimp](#)

[Subscribe](#)



Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada



# Next E-Learning Event

---

November 14, 2024, 12-1 pm ET

Presented by the Newcomer Research Network  
University of Calgary & Community Partners

More details coming soon!



# Thank You!

[www.communitybasedresearch.ca](http://www.communitybasedresearch.ca)



Community-Based Research Canada  
Recherche partenariale du Canada