



**National Safer Supply**  
Community of Practice

**FINAL PROJECT REPORT**  
MARCH 2024

# CELEBRATING

**THE MAGIC OF COMMUNITY, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE,  
AND SOLIDARITY BUILDING**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM

Since our national launch in September 2021, we have built an interdisciplinary community of almost 1,700 people from across Canada. Together, we have supported each other to advocate for, learn about, implement, and evaluate a prescribed model of safer supply medication alternatives as one tool to support people who use

In three years, our community has accomplished so much together. This report provides an overview of the resources produced and events held, as well as a description of our membership. The biggest achievement has been the creation of a supportive, strong community of people who are committed to transforming care for people who use drugs.

This past year, our advisory council undertook a process of appreciative inquiry to determine the values and principles that guide the work of the community of practice. This involved a series of facilitated discussions with members that asked people to share stories of times when they were involved in NSSCoP activities and felt energized and proud. They were asked to reflect on the values that were coming up in the stories. From these discussions, a long list was made, and the advisory council members participated in a consensus dialogue to finalize the values. Through this process, the values and principles of the community of practice were identified as being: respect, collaboration, equity, integrity, and curiosity.

## RESPECT

We consider respect as fundamental for engaging in our community of practice. Respect is the feeling of regarding someone well for their qualities and traits, but respect is also the action of treating people with appreciation and dignity. We value all people and firmly believe each person deserves dignity, agency, and independence. This means honoring someone by demonstrating care, concern, or consideration for their needs and feelings. This includes being supportive, fostering people's autonomy and freedom, and nurturing a community of practice built on solidarity, care, and compassion.



## COLLABORATION

Our community of practice is built on interdisciplinary collaboration. Collaboration happens when people, groups, and/or organizations work together to achieve common, shared goals. Our interdisciplinary membership – physicians and physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, people who use(d) drugs, harm reduction workers, researchers, program managers, policy analysts, and activists – come together to learn collectively from one another, build capacity and engage in skill-sharing opportunities, and develop shared practices. As a diverse membership, we uphold all sources of knowledge and value everyone’s individual expertise. Our collaborations also aim to be power aware by continually challenging the intricate power dynamics and imbalances that exist within and across groups. By working collaboratively, we can better share resources, coordinate key messaging, uplift each other’s work, build collective solidarity, and bolster community resistance.

## EQUITY

We strive for equity in all facets of our community of practice. Equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and that some people and groups disproportionately experience higher levels of oppression, trauma, stigma, and social and structural violence. We are committed to acknowledging this and making adjustments in our work and relationships to address these imbalances and injustices. We learn from an anti-colonial, anti-oppression, and anti-racism framework rooted in a spirit of reciprocity and prioritize social justice above all else. We aim to foster feelings of safety, belonging, support, and fairness for all community members holding diverse and intersecting identities, perspectives, and experiences. We equally work to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, and disability justice in our community of practice. This includes providing access to closed captioning and alternative text, publishing documents in various accessible formats, and developing user-friendly content.

## INTEGRITY

Integrity is a practice that includes being honest and showing a consistent commitment to strong moral and ethical principles and values. We know trust is earned and believe that the earnestness of our actions demonstrate our commitment to social justice, equity, and community accountability. This means we are accountable for our actions, take responsibility for our wrongdoings, find ways to remedy our errors, and maintain transparency in all of our work. We also acknowledge relationships are reciprocal and know we can strengthen our community by equitably sharing skills, exchanging resources, and offering mutual support.

## CURIOSITY

Our community of practice thrives on the spirit of curiosity, generosity, progress, and positive change. Curiosity involves being open to exploration, investigation, learning, and critical thinking. By remaining curious, we nurture feelings of acceptance, normalcy, compassion, non-judgement, and understanding among our members. Questioning, analyzing, and challenging assumptions through our diverse perspectives and lenses helps us work towards transforming health care practices and policies to centre people who use drugs as leaders and experts in their own care. This means remaining committed to being compassionately inquisitive, asking difficult questions, sitting with and discussing discomforts, wrongdoings, and injustices, and navigating disagreements with openness, respect, and a desire to understand.

**It’s important to note that the NSSCoP isn’t over. We have much more to do together and a strong foundation upon which we will continue to build.** In the short term, we are operating on a smaller scale but we are maintaining the core elements that keep us connected: our Google Group, newsletter, clinical meetings, program operations meetings, and our weekly interdisciplinary drop-in meeting. We will keep highlighting the research and evaluation findings through our webinars, update the evidence brief, and maintain the website. We hope to secure additional funding to allow us to respond to our membership’s momentum to further develop safer supply and advance comprehensive substance use health care that prioritizes the goals and autonomy of people who use drugs.



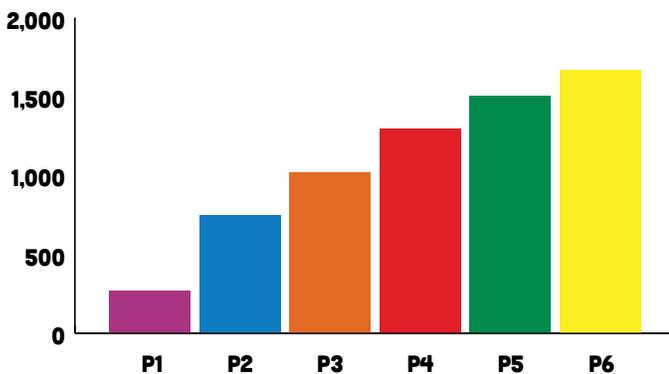
**With gratitude for each of you,**

**National Safer Supply Community of Practice Team  
Rebecca, Alex, Robyn, Fola, and Ashley**

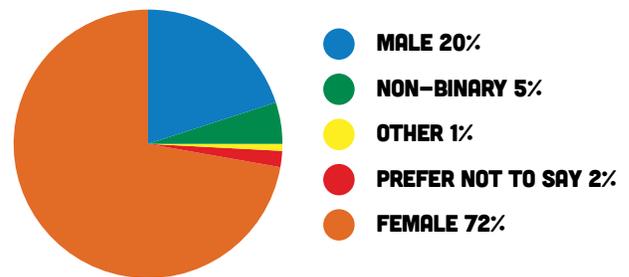
# OUR MEMBERSHIP ( IN NUMBERS )

Our interdisciplinary community of nearly 1,700 people includes pharmacists, prescribers, nurses, social care providers, advocates and activists, people who use drugs, researchers, knowledge translators, program managers and coordinators, policy makers and many others. Members come from every province and territory in Canada except Nunavut, and we even have a few members outside Canada.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH OVER TIME

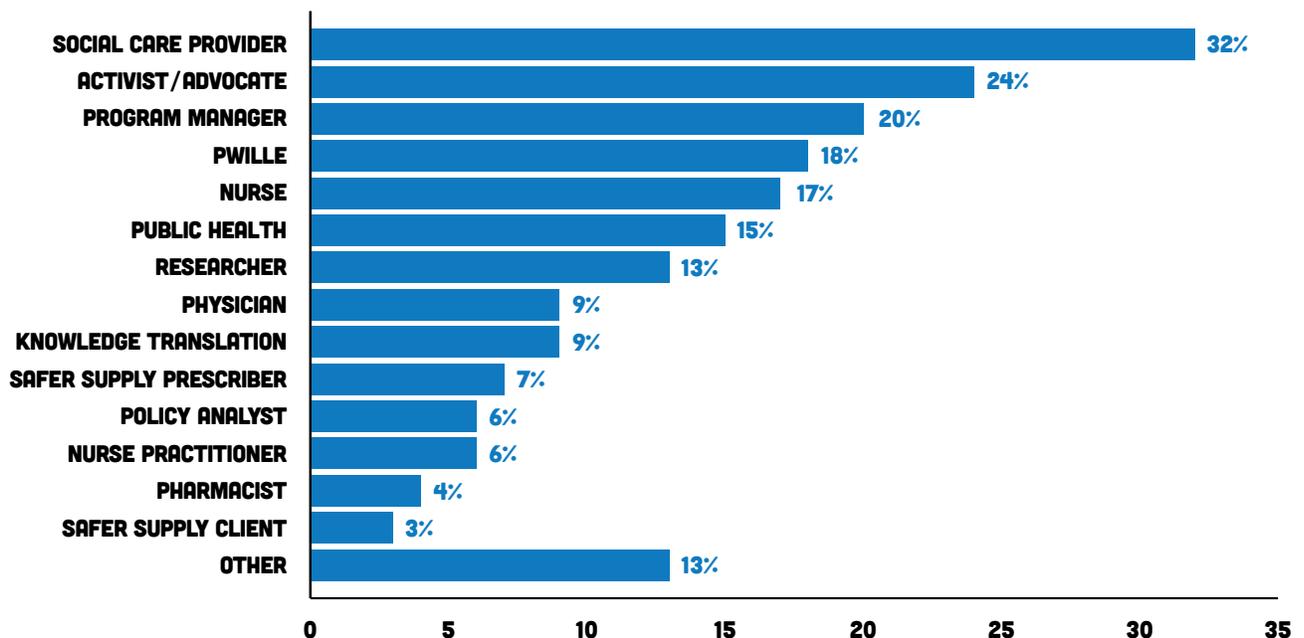


## GENDER IDENTITY



**LANGUAGES:** A large majority of members are English speakers (87%). About a tenth (11%) speak both official languages and 2% are unilingual Francophones.

## ROLES





# COMING TOGETHER

CELEBRATING THE MAGIC OF COMMUNITY, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE & SOLIDARITY BUILDING

**CELEBRATE**

I'M GONNA LET LIFE MOVE ME

CURIOSITY is the Key!

PARTICIPATE in your OWN WAY!

OUR VALUES + PRINCIPLES...

Respect  
COLLABORATION  
EQUITY  
INTEGRITY  
CURIOSITY

**GRATITUDE**

I FEEL LESS ALONE!

PRIDE!

INSPIRED!

EMPOWERMENT

PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS HAVE a VOICE, and a ROLE to PLAY!

SHARE KNOWLEDGE  
STRENGTH,  
EXPERTISE...  
THE POWER of RELATIONSHIP!

KEEP in TOUCH

CONTACT LIST

WE ARE GOING to GROW a FOREST!

SOLIDARITY

SUPPORT

CONTINUED

BE INVOLVED  
STAY INVOLVED!

WEEKLY + MONTHLY MEETINGS!

ONLINE RESOURCES  
ZINE!  
WEBINARS

IN-PERSON COLLABORATION!  
+ EVENTS!

STAYING CONNECTED...  
JOIN GROUPS,  
FIND SPACES...

PROMOTE INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY  
in this SPACE...

WE ARE SAD THAT THIS TAPESTRY is BECOMING UNWOVEN...

CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERSHIP + ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER!

INCLUSIVE, RESPECTFUL + PEOPLE-CENTRED!

SELF-ESTEEM + SELF VALUE

OUR POWERFUL COLLABORATION BEGAN... and GREW!

FIND, OR CREATE OUR OWN RESOURCES!

HELLO@VISUALTALKS.CA

# THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

We offer our special thanks to our advisory council, working group members, role-based group participants, and our regular weekly drop-in attendees who remained so engaged in the work over these past three years! Your guidance, input, and feedback are deeply appreciated and have helped us to improve and transform our work. Please note, some names may be missing but their contributions are no less important! We also recognize that participation takes many forms, and we are grateful to everyone who came to our events, utilized our website, read our newsletter, and shared information about the role of safer supply in providing care for people who use drugs.

## GOVERNING BODY

### Advisory Council

Tahl East, Dr. Catherine Gray, Marlene Haines, Naomi Sirota, Mish Waraksa, Phoenix Beck McGreevy, Sudha Sabanadesan, Tara Hicks, Steve Andrews, Sindi Addorisio, Krishna Ganesan, Michelle Pittman, Lynn Pollock, Nasir Ladak

## WORKING GROUPS

### Access to Pharmaceuticals Alternatives

Tonya Evans, Claire Snelgrove, Andrew Worotniuk, Andrzej Celinski, Tara Hicks, Colin Johnson, Tony Mattei, Steve Andrews, Areen Duqoum

### Recommendations for Clinical Guidance 2022-2024 and Reframing Diversion 2021-2022

Tonya Evans, Mish Waraksa, Andrzej Celinski, Maria Scotton, Nat Kaminski, Tara Hicks, Kate Atkinson, Phoenix Beck McGreevy

### Action for Safer Supply (People Who Use Drugs)

Tahl East, Maria Scotton, Colin Johnson, Jonathan Valelly, Madelyn Gold, SJ, NS, CG, TF, FM, JH, Ashley Smoke

### CME Scientific Planning Committee and Consultants

Dr. Kate Colizza, Dr. Sara Davison, Dr. Catherine Gray, Jess Hales, Katie Langille, Dr. Andrew Patterson, Dr. Andrea Sereda, Dr. Shelley Turner, Patty Wilson, Dr. Tim O'Shea, Dr. Claire Bodkin, Tracey Day, Mark Barnes, Mish Waraksa, KS

## ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

TB, CP, PM, AM, SD, DW, MG, GD, EB, AM, EW, LG, SS, AW, KU

## ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Andrzej Celinski, Tonya Evans, Ashley Smoke, Deanne Sirois, Andrew Worotniuk, Tara Hicks, Steve Andrews, LA, MSG

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

Bob McMillan, Kim Peters, Dr. Adrian Guta, Cassidy Morris, Cathy Eisner, Carolyn King, Katie Langille, Kate Atkinson, Kathy Hardill, Sean Warren, Ashley Schaff, Anthony Desloges, Chris Langford, Carolyn King, Marcie McIlveen, Deanne Sirois, and so many more!

## PARTNER AND COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

London InterCommunity Health Centre, Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs, Alliance for Healthier Communities, Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy, CATIE, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Dr. Peter Centre, Direction 180, Substance Users Network of the Atlantic Region, Ontario Network of People who Use Drugs, Drug Strategy Network of Ontario, Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, Anishinabek Nation, Transform Practice

# RESOURCES

## PUBLICATIONS

2024

### [Availability of Prescribed Alternatives in Canada](#)

This document produced by the NSS-CoP Access to Pharmaceuticals Working Group identifies which pharmaceuticals are currently available in Canada, how the current system of pharmaceutical availability and drug coverage works, and to highlight any gaps where the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD) are not fully met by the current safer supply system. This document seeks to identify regulatory, financial, and other reasons why commonly requested opioid and non-opioid medications may not be accessible for prescribed safer supply clients, along with a breakdown of program costs if these medications were to be offered in a prescribed safer supply context. This information was used to develop a set of recommendations for improving the care of PWUD by expanding the range and accessibility of available safer supply medications.

### [Deprescribing: Frequently Asked Questions and Considerations for Health and Social Care Providers](#)

This document developed by the NSS-CoP aims to synthesize information and research about the deprescribing of medications and its implications on the health, safety, and wellbeing of people who use drugs. It is intended to answer common questions about deprescribing and offer health and social care providers helpful ways to orient their practices in the context of the increasingly more volatile and dangerous unregulated drug supply and the absence of a regulated drug supply. This document also explores the interconnections between deprescribing practices and the ongoing criminalization of drugs, its impacts on the unregulated drug supply, and the escalation in toxic drug overdose deaths.

### [Five Actions for Safer Supply Zine](#)

This pocket-size zine developed and collaboratively designed by the NSS-CoP Action for Safer Supply People Who Use Drugs Working Group offers five actions that people can take to advance and access safer supply in their communities.

### [Prescribed Alternatives Programs: Emerging Evidence](#)

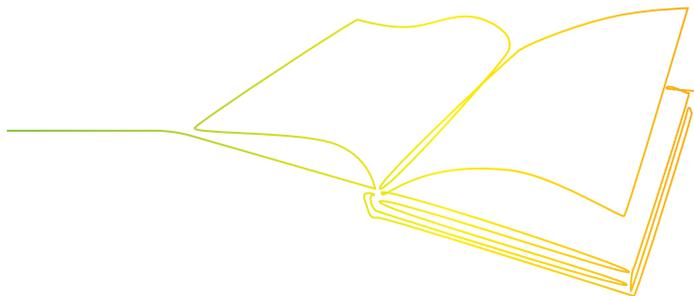
This evidence brief produced by the NSS-CoP summarizes existing and newly emerging evidence regarding prescribed safer supply. It covers who can access prescribed safer supply, evidence from research and evaluation studies, success factors for prescribed safer supply programs, and more.

### [National Safer Supply Community of Practice Resource Library](#)

This resource library maintained by the NSS-CoP offers over 1,800 resources on prescribed alternatives and related topics. It features academic peer-reviewed journal articles, grey literature, knowledge translation and exchange materials, clinical practice guidelines, and other relevant resources.

### [Recommendations for Clinical Guidance for Prescribed Alternatives: Take-Home Doses and Urine Drug Screenings](#)

This document developed by the NSS-CoP Recommendations for Clinical Guidance Working Group aims to synthesize information and expertise regarding take-home dose (THD) and urine drug screening (UDS) practices in prescribed alternatives (PA) and opioid agonist treatment (OAT) settings. The information and recommendations presented in this document are intended to inform guidelines for clinical practices concerning THD and UDS. Evidence-based research is synthesized with the input and expertise of HCPs and participants of PA and/or OAT programs to inform the emerging recommendations for THD and UDS practices.



2023

### [Safer Supply Research Practice and Advocacy: Symposium Report](#)

This report summarizes the October 2023 Symposium in Toronto that brought together researchers, people who use drugs, and health care and social care providers to reflect on the current state of the research and discuss next steps.

### [Prescribed Safer Supply: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This FAQ developed by the NSS-CoP answers some of the most frequently asked questions about prescribed alternatives programs. It provides key messages, evidence-based answers, supporting research, and places to find more information.

### [Key Messages and Discussion Tools](#)

This webpage assembled by the NSS-CoP includes key messages on prescribed alternatives as well as a series of discussion tools, presentations, infographics, and social media campaign packages.

2022

### [Reframing Diversion for Health Care Providers: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

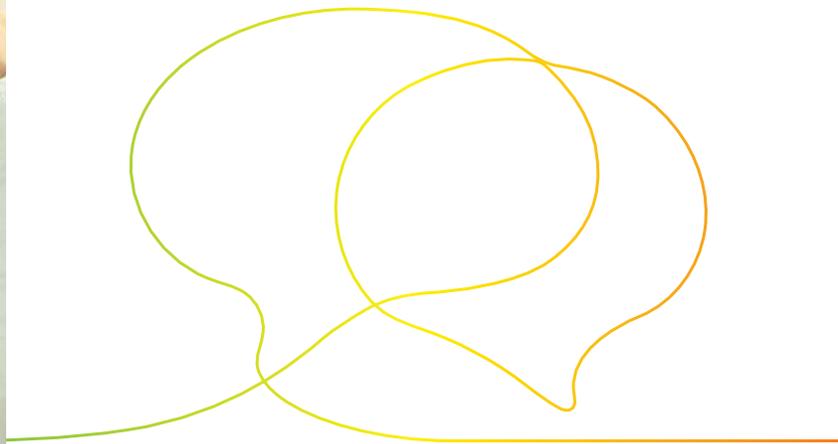
This document developed by the NSS-CoP Recommendations for Clinical Guidance Working Group intends to answer common questions about the diversion of prescribed alternatives and offers health care providers helpful ways to orient their practices to navigate the diversion of prescribed alternatives. This document aims to define, critique, and shape emerging discourses of diversion, to educate health care providers on the different community practices of diversion, and to promote a person-centred care approach to risk mitigation.

### [Safer Supply for Health Care Providers: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This FAQ produced by the NSS-CoP answers some of the most frequently asked questions from health care providers about prescribed alternatives. It also includes clinical guidance documents and resources, emerging evidence on prescribed alternatives, and resources for health care providers.

### [Safer Supply, Opioid Agonist Treatment & Harm Reduction: National Advocacy Toolkit](#)

This toolkit developed and designed by the NSS-CoP People Who Use Drugs Working Group is intended for people who use drugs and their health care providers. The toolkit includes answers to common questions asked by health care providers, clinical guidance documents and resources, emerging evidence on prescribed alternatives, resources for self-advocacy, and a non-exhaustive directory of prescribed alternatives programs, opioid agonist treatment (OAT) programs, and harm reduction services by region.



# VIRTUAL AND INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

## 2021: HOT TOPIC WEBINARS

### [Uprooting Medical Violence: Building an Anti-Oppressive Praxis in Safer Supply Programs](#)

This webinar challenges viewers to develop an approach to safer supply programs that challenge oppressive practices in health care and that does not replicate or amplify power and privilege as it exists in society. It provides a better understanding of how medical violence operates, the systems of power that enable violence in our health care settings, and strategies for uprooting oppression and growing health justice.

**SPEAKER:** NANKY RAI

### [Safer Supply 101](#)

This presentation covers the origins of safer supply, the years of activist work that went into bringing about the medical model that is currently available in the current Canadian legislative context, the limitations of the medical model, and the work that continues to expand safer supply to nonmedical models of safe supply.

**SPEAKER:** COREY RANGER

### [Emotional Harm Reduction](#)

This presentation provides an overview of emotional harm reduction, how to safeguard wellness, and how to use emotional harm reduction to survive in the sector.

**SPEAKER:** COREY RANGER

### [Expert Panel of People Who Use Drugs](#)

This expert panel of eight people who use drugs covers the benefits and advantages of prescribed safer supply, its limitations, and how discrimination and stigma impact access.

**MODERATOR:** FRANKY

**SPEAKERS:** ANGIE, ASHLEY, LIAM, MILLIE, PHOENIX, STEVE, THOMAS

### [Prescriber Panel: Tensions in Safer Supply](#)

This panel discussion with safer supply prescribers includes how they are currently navigating the tensions of providing a medical model of safer supply from a harm reduction approach.

**MODERATOR:** LIAM MICHAUD

**SPEAKERS:** ANDREA SEREDA, EMMET O'REILLY, MISH WARAKSA, TRACEY DAY

### [Supporting Worker Wellness: Grief, Loss & Burnout in the Overdose Crisis](#)

This webinar presents the basics of grief, loss, and burnout in the overdose crisis, and how we can support worker wellness in the context of harm reduction settings.

**SPEAKERS:** JUNO ZAVITZ, NICOLA BANGHAM

## 2022: HOT TOPIC WEBINARS

### [Urine Drug Screenings: Science and Implications on the Lives of People Who Use Drugs](#)

This webinar and following panel discussion includes a presentation about the science behind Urine Drug Screenings (UDS) and conversations about the implications of UDS on the lives of people who use drugs, particularly for parents and guardians who use drugs.

**PRESENTER:** CLAIRE SUTHERLAND

**MODERATOR:** PHOENIX BECK MCGREEVY

**SPEAKERS:** ASHLEY SMOKE, HAWKFEATHER PETERSON, KERI GUELKE, NAT KAMINSKI

### [Harm Reduction, Safer Supply & Experiences of Pre- and Peri-Natal Care](#)

This webinar focuses on pre- and perinatal programs and issues in and adjacent to harm reduction and/or safer supply.

**MODERATOR:** KERI GUELKE

**SPEAKERS:** HAWKFEATHER PETERSON, JENNA BLY, JULENE RAWSON

### [Building Capacity Among Prescribed Safe\(r\) Supply Providers](#)

This webinar highlights the AVI Health and Community Services Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE) initiative aimed at providing ground-level support and education to current and prospective prescribed safe(r) supply programs.

**SPEAKERS:** COREY RANGER AND LAURA CARTWRIGHT

### [Integrating Hepatitis C Care with Safer Supply Practice](#)

For World Hepatitis Day 2022, this session was co-organized with CATIE to share information about how safer supply providers can integrate hepatitis C care into their practice. It includes an overview of hepatitis C testing, treatment and prevention, examples of how other safer supply programs are providing hepatitis C care, and linkage to hepatitis C training and resources.

**SPEAKERS:** CHRIS HOY, RIVKA KUSHNER, TIM O'SHEA, PATTY WILSON, ANGIE AUSTIN, JESSICA NANNI

### [Mobile Safer Supply Programs: Meeting People Where They Are At](#)

This series of presentations provides information about Mobile Safer Supply Program Models through the experiences of interdisciplinary teams. These programs aim to meet people where they are at and offer low barrier access to safer supply and primary care.

**FEATURES PRESENTATIONS FROM** LONDON INTERCOMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE, PARKDALE QUEEN WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE, AND SOUTH RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE.

### [Perspectives on Decriminalization](#)

This webinar includes presentations and perspectives on decriminalization, including how criminalization of people who use drugs affects individuals and their families, why governments often fail to get it right, and how we can move together to ensure decriminalization legislation is enacted.

**SPEAKERS:** CHRISTY SUTHERLAND, WENDY STEVENS, LESLIE MCBAIN

### [Pharmacist Roundtable on Safer Supply](#)

This roundtable panel discussion of pharmacists from across Canada highlights the perspectives and roles of pharmacists on prescribed safer supply.

**MODERATOR:** KELLY SEQUIERA

**SPEAKERS:** AL LADAK, DANNY LIU, JODI CUNNINGHAM, LAURA MILLER, LYNN POLLOCK, MARK BARNES

### [Problems with Medicalized Safer Supply](#)

This presentation and moderated discussion session with the co-founders of the Drug User Liberation Front (DULF) covers the limitations, challenges, and barriers associated with medicalized, prescribed models of safer supply. It also includes a conversation about how compassion clubs and non-medicalized models can be scaled up to address the growing needs of communities of people who use drugs in the context of the toxic drug supply.

**MODERATOR:** MATTHEW BONN

**SPEAKERS:** ERIS NYX AND JEREMY KALICUM

### [Safer Supply in Quebec](#)

This panel discussion (in French, with English oral translation) focuses on prescribed safer supply programs and initiatives in Quebec. The discussion covers the successes, challenges, and barriers of safer supply programs and initiatives in Quebec.

**MODERATOR:** ALEXANDRA HOLTOM

**SPEAKERS:** MARIE-ÈVE GOYER, MARIE-CHRISTINE GRÉGOIRE, JÉRÔME BENEDETTI, ISABELLE FORTIER, SIMON VERMETTE, VINCENT DE MAISONNEUVE

### [The Need for Safer Supply and Decriminalization: Evidence from Current Research and Practice](#)

This presentation highlights the need for safer supply and decriminalization and presents emerging evidence from current research and practice.

**SPEAKER:** NANCY HENDERSON

### [Wound Care Workshop for Clinicians](#)

This presentation, intended for clinicians who work with people who use drugs, present detailed principles of skin and wound care.

**Facilitators:** Erin Telegdi, Pat Coutts

### [Wound Care Workshop for Non-Clinicians](#)

This presentation, intended for everyone, cover the basic principles of skin and wound care for people who use drugs.

**Facilitators:** Erin Telegdi, Pat Coutts

## 2023: HOT TOPIC WEBINARS

### [Prescribed Fentanyl Safe Supply: Team Perspectives](#)

This presentation and panel discussion from the SAFER Knowledge Translation & Exchange (KTE) team from AVI Health and Community Services presents early learnings from implementing prescribed fentanyl as a safer supply option. It includes an introductory presentation on outcomes, opportunities, successes, and failures of prescribed fentanyl safer supply.

**SPEAKERS:** SAFER KTE TEAM - AHMAD GHAHARY, COREY RANGER, KELSEY RODEN, LAURA CARTWRIGHT, TIM GAUTHIER

### [Safer Supply and Tools for Policy Change](#)

This panel discussion covers current efforts to organize and mobilize around supporting and expanding safer supply and harm reduction services.

**MODERATOR:** GARTH MULLINS

**SPEAKERS:** ANDRZEJ CELINSKI, BENJAMIN PERRIN, ELAINE HYSKA, LESLIE MCBAIN, MATT JOHNSON

### [Safer Supply: Current Perspectives and Evidence](#)

This webinar, co-hosted with CATIE, provides an overview of what safer supply is, the growing body of research evidence that informs this approach, and examples of what safer supply looks like in practice. It draws on research, clinical and living/lived experience, as well as advocacy and public health expertise from individuals with extensive experience in safer supply.

**MODERATOR:** CHRISTOPHER HOY

**SPEAKERS:** ANGELA ROBERTSON, ASHLEY SMOKE, COREY RANGER, GILLIAN KOLLA, MARIE-ÈVE GOYER

### [Skin and Wound Care for People Who Use Drugs \(For Clinicians\)](#)

This presentation, intended for clinicians who work with people who use drugs, present detailed principles of skin and wound care.

**Facilitators:** Erin Telegdi, Pat Coutts

### [Skin and Wound Care for People Who Use Drugs](#)

This presentation, intended for everyone, cover the basic principles of skin and wound care for people who use drugs.

**Facilitators:** Erin Telegdi, Pat Coutts

## 2024: HOT TOPIC WEBINARS

### [The Ban on Safe Supply: An Alberta Case Study](#)

This case study aims to explore the implications of prescribing regulation changes in Alberta. It examines the framing used to construct narratives about safer supply and the individuals who accessed these medications. Presenters also discuss the outcomes following the ban of safer supply in Alberta.

**Speakers:** Patty Wilson, Kate Colizza

### [Ethics of Prescribed Safer Supply](#)

This webinar features a discussion on the ethics of prescribed safer supply.

**Moderator:** Adrian Guta

**Speakers:** Alice Virani, Daniel Buchman



## 2021 RESEARCH & EVALUATION SPOTLIGHT WEBINARS

### [Research and Evaluation Studies](#)

This webinar includes a series of three presentations from three research teams who provide an overview of their research and evaluation studies (complete and in progress) on safer supply pilot projects.

**SPEAKERS:** ASH HEASLIP, DALE MCMURCHY, MARION SELFRIDGE, TARA GOMES

## 2022 RESEARCH & EVALUATION SPOTLIGHT WEBINARS

### [Clinical outcomes and health care costs among people entering a safer opioid supply program in Ontario](#)

This webinar provides research findings of a time-series analysis regarding clinical outcomes and health care costs among people entering a safer opioid supply program in Ontario.

**SPEAKERS:** ANDREA SEREDA ASHLEY SMOKE, GILLIAN KOLLA, TARA GOMES

### ["COVID just kind of opened a can of whoop-ass"](#)

This webinar presents findings from an environmental scan of addiction and harm reduction services in Canada in the context of the rapid growth of safer supply prescribing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SPEAKERS:** STEPHANIE GLEGG AND NADIA FAIRBAIRN

### [London InterCommunity Health Centre's SOS Program Evaluation Report 2021](#)

This webinar presents a report detailing the findings from an evaluation of the Safer Opioid Supply program at London InterCommunity Health Centre from 2020 to 2021.

**SPEAKERS:** ANDREA SEREDA, GILLIAN KOLLA, GREG NASH, REBECCA PENN

### [Safer Supply Ottawa Program Evaluation 2022](#)

This webinar discusses the safer supply program evaluation conducted in Ottawa in 2022.

**SPEAKERS:** ATHENA TEFOGLOU, MARLENE HAINES, PATRICK O'BYRNE

## 2023 RESEARCH & EVALUATION SPOTLIGHT WEBINARS

### ["More of the same, but worse than before": A qualitative study of the challenges encountered by people who use drugs in Nova Scotia, Canada during COVID-19](#)

This webinar presents findings from a qualitative study examining the challenges encountered by people who use drugs in Nova Scotia, Canada, during COVID-19. It outlines key findings, facilitators and barriers to care, and implications for future research.

**SPEAKERS:** EMILIE COMEAU, MATTHEW BONN, SHEILA WILDEMAN

### [A Prescription for Safety: A Study of Safer Opioid Supply Programs in Ontario - A Community Report Launch](#)

This webinar includes a presentation of the key findings from a study of safer supply programs in London and Toronto, Ontario.

**SPEAKERS:** ADRIAN GUTA, CAROL STRIKE, EMMET O'REILLY, NAT KAMINSKI, ROSE SCHMIDT

### [Escaping the Maze: Findings and Strategies from the Supporting Peer Work \(SPW\) Research Project](#)

This report launch and interactive workshop gives participants the opportunity to learn from the experiences of people who do frontline work in their own communities and make meaningful commitments to social and structural change, led by the members of the Supporting Peer Work steering committee.

**SPEAKERS:** ANDRE HERMANSTYNE, GRIFFIN EPSTEIN, JULIA WATER, LES HARPER, LINDSAY JENNINGS, MADELYN GOLD, MARIA SCOTTON, MICHAEL NURSE, SUWAIDA FARAH

### [Imagine Safe Supply: Aligning Safe Supply with Community Values of People Who Use Drugs](#)

This webinar features the Imagine Safer Supply Research Team from the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC) and provides some of the emerging findings from "Imagine Safe Supply" – a multi-provincial qualitative research project seeking to explore the attitudes and perceptions people have about safer supply.

**SPEAKERS:** FRANK CRICHLLOW, ERIN HOWLEY, JACK FARRELL, PHOENIX BECK MCGREEVY, SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

[Improving Care and Reducing Overdose Risk for Indigenous People Living with Opioid Use Disorder through Partnering with Indigenous Elders at the Ki'lala Lelum \(KL\) Health Centre: Health System Transformation and the Results of a Prospective Cohort Study](#)

This webinar includes three interrelated presentations. The first describes the partnership model of care at Ki'lala Lelum, including findings from staff interviews that explored their experiences implementing this model. The second presents the quantitative and qualitative findings of a prospective cohort study investigating the impacts of connecting with Indigenous Elders as part of routine primary care among Indigenous adults living with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The third discusses a Chronic Pain Management Program designed for Indigenous people living with OUD and chronic pain and shares its evaluation findings.

**SPEAKERS:** ELDER BRUCE ROBINSON, ELDER SANDY LAMBERT, CLAUDIA LANGEMEYER, DAVID TU, JILL FIKOWSKI, WAJID KHAN

[London InterCommunity Health Centre's Safer Opioid Supply Program 2023 Evaluation Report Launch](#)

This webinar presents a follow-up report of the London InterCommunity Health Centre's Safer Opioid Supply Program. The goal of the evaluation was to examine and compare self-reported client outcomes from 2022 and 2023 and to examine which medications (both opioid and stimulant) that participants would like to be prescribed and their preferred mode of administration for SOS medications.

**SPEAKERS:** ANDREA SEREDA, GILLIAN KOLLA

[Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre Safer Supply Program Evaluation Results](#)

This webinar features a presentation and discussion of the evaluation of Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre's (PQWCHC) Safer Opioid Supply (SOS) Program. It includes an overview of the program, a summary of key evaluation findings, and context on how these findings align with current research and advocacy led by people who use drugs.

**SPEAKERS:** ASHLEY SMOKE, KATE ATKINSON, PAUL COLOSIMO

[Safer supply implementation successes, challenges, and outcomes: findings from four Ontario Programs](#)

This presentation draws on findings from a community based, qualitative study of four safer supply programs in Ontario, Canada. It focuses on program implementation designs, and implementation successes, challenges and perceived outcomes from the perspective of people enrolled in the programs, physicians and nurses who prescribe safer supply, dispensing pharmacists, and the nurses, counsellors, navigators who support the programs.

**SPEAKER:** CAROL STRIKE

[Safer Supply Ottawa Research Evaluation 2022 Findings: Prescribed Stimulant Safer Supply](#)

This webinar presents evaluation findings from Ottawa in 2022 programs with a focus on safer stimulants.

**SPEAKERS:** ATHENA TEFOGLOU, MARLENE HAINES, PATRICK O'BYRNE

[Safer Supply Takes a Village: Findings from the Kitchener-Waterloo Program Evaluation](#)

This webinar presents findings from the evaluation of the Kitchener-Waterloo Safer Supply Program, which is uniquely embedded within the Inner City Health Alliance, a collaboration by several agencies that provides intensive place-based and mobile primary health care, housing, shelter, and social connections using a caring, person-centred, and evidence-informed approach.

**SPEAKERS:** ADRIAN GUTA, GILLIAN KOLLA, MELISSA PERRI

[Substance Use Patterns and Safer Supply Preferences Among People Who Use Drugs in British Columbia](#)

This webinar presents findings from the Patterns and Preferences Study team about their quantitative and qualitative findings from a provincial needs assessment led by the BC Centre for Disease Control, in collaboration with a peer advisory and peer researchers. This needs assessment aims to identify the safer supply preferences and needs of people who use illegal drugs in British Columbia to center PWUD in the design and delivery of safer supply policies and programs.

**SPEAKERS:** JANE BUXTON, JENNY MCDUGALL, JESSICA XAVIER, PHOENIX BECK MCGREEVY

# Panel 3: Hot topics and contentious issues

Moderators: Adrian Guta and Carol Strike

Panelists: Phoenix Beck McGreevey, Karen Urbanoski, Bernie Pauly, Geoff Bardwell, Rose Schmidt, Kourtney King, and Dan Werb



## [Women's experiences in injectable opioid agonist treatment programs in Vancouver, Canada](#)

This presentation draws findings from a qualitative study of iOAT programs in Vancouver and examines how social and structural factors impact women's engagement with iOAT.

**SPEAKERS:** JULES CHAPMAN, SAMARA MAYER

## 2024 RESEARCH & EVALUATION SPOTLIGHT WEBINARS

### [Effect of Risk Mitigation Guidance on Mortality and Acute Care Visits](#)

This webinar presents findings from a retrospective cohort study aiming to determine the effect of opioid and stimulant Risk Mitigation Guidance (RMG) dispensations on mortality and acute care visits during the dual public health emergencies of overdose and COVID-19.

**SPEAKERS:** BRITTANY BARKER, KAREN URBANOSKI

### [Safer Supply Ottawa Evaluation: Fall 2023 Report](#)

This webinar provides an overview of the Safer Supply Ottawa program, as well as the results of a research project conducted in summer/fall 2023. The project focused on program participants who are frequently "restarted" on their Safer Supply program.

**SPEAKERS:** ATHENA TEFOGLOU, EMILY HILL, MARLENE HAINES



# COMMUNITY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## [Scaling Up Safer Supply: Ontario Regional Meeting 2022](#)

This one-day knowledge exchange event held on June 10, 2022 in Toronto addressed the future of safer opioid supply in Ontario from various perspectives in both plenary and small-group sessions. There were opportunities for informal discussions throughout the day. Reflecting the breadth of the NSS-CoP membership, we had a highly interdisciplinary group of 104 speakers, moderators, facilitators, volunteers, and participants, offering everyone the opportunity to interact with people with diverse experiences of safer supply.

## [Opening Doors to Care for People Who Use Drugs: Atlantic Regional Meeting 2022](#)

This regional meeting on June 27, 2022 was part of the NSS-CoP effort to expand access to quality care for people who use drugs, including client-centred OAT and safer supply programs in the Atlantic Region. We explored how to develop a “made for Atlantic Canada approach” to providing a continuum of care that meets the diverse needs of people in our communities through plenary and small-group sessions. Additionally, there were opportunities for informal discussions and networking. This event was hosted by the NSS-CoP in collaboration with the Substance User Network of the Atlantic Region (SUNAR) and Direction 180.

## [International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users Conference 2022](#)

One member of the NSS-CoP Team had the opportunity to attend and present on safer supply at the 10th Annual International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users Conference in October 13 to 15, 2022 in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference featured sessions on reducing drug-related harms, community perspectives, the overdose crisis, HCV and HIV models of care, improving the care cascade, innovations in testing, improving the health of people who use drugs, and reducing drug-related harms.

## [NoShameNovember: Action for Safer Supply Anti-Shame Campaign 2022](#)

In November 2022, Action for Safer Supply launched a brief three-day anti-shame campaign leading up to World AIDS Day on December 1. Action for Safer Supply – a NSS-CoP working group composed exclusively of people who use drugs – advocates for the expansion of prescribed and non-medicalized safer supply programs across the country. The #NoShameNovember30 Campaign – running from November 28th to November 30th, 2022 – offered a platform for people who use drugs to reflect on their experiences with stigma and shame and to share their stories of survival and resilience. Submissions were collected over the three-day period and posted/circulated on NSS-CoP social media platforms.





**[Being A Shit Disturber Is An Act of Love: Manitoba Harm Reduction Conference 2022](#)**

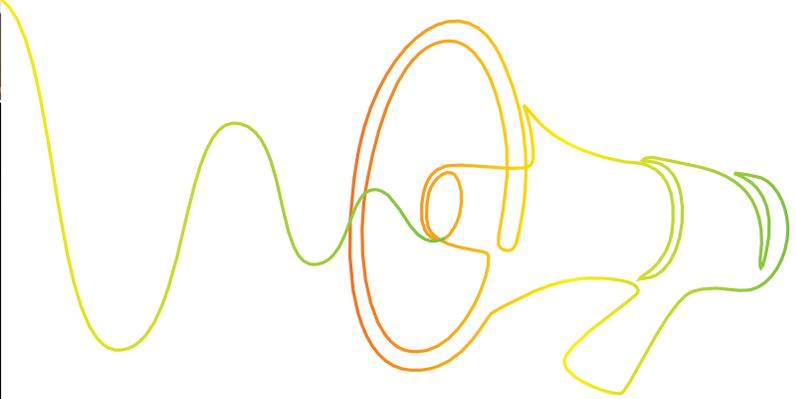
The NSS-CoP Team had the opportunity to attend the Manitoba Harm Reduction Conference in November 15 to 17, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This three-day conference featured speakers from throughout Manitoba, Canada, and the United States. With a strong focus on Indigenous knowledge, anti-oppression, and root causes of harms related to substance use, the event aimed to inspire conference participants to improve access to harm reduction services throughout Manitoba, especially in rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous communities.

**[Safer Supply: Research, Practice, and Advocacy - Toronto 2023](#)**

The NSS-CoP co-organized this event on October 26, 2023 with Dr. Adrian Guta and Dr. Carol Strike, as well as the Canadian Association of HIV Research and the Canadian Association for Global Health. The event brought together an interdisciplinary group of 100 safer supply stakeholders, including people from BC, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Panelists and attendees included researchers, people who use drugs, health care providers, social care providers, people working in policy and knowledge mobilization, and others.

**[Coming Together: Celebrating the Magic of Community, Knowledge Exchange, and Solidarity Building](#)**

This final interactive NSS-CoP event on March 21, 2024 was hosted by Khari Wendell McClelland, well-known facilitator and musician. The virtual interactive session provided us a space to celebrate, honour, and reflect on the work we have done, the relationships we have built, and how we will move forward together in the future.





# THE FUTURE OF SAFER SUPPLY







**National Safer Supply Community of Practice**  
 La communauté de pratique nationale sur  
 l'approvisionnement plus sécuritaire

HELLO@VISUALTALKS.CA





# National Safer Supply Community of Practice

This document was developed by the **National Safer Supply Community of Practice** (NSS-CoP).  
Please visit [www.nss-aps.ca](http://www.nss-aps.ca) to learn more.

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