



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

Rural and Remote:

How can we facilitate and strengthen access to care and reduce barriers for PWUD in rural and remote areas?

programs only go so far due to ruralness - services concentrated in certain areas

**STIGMA  
STIGMA  
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Cultural barriers in smaller communities - embed SS in other services to reduce stigma -- food bank / SCS, etc.

SCS thinking outside brick & mortar. Bus? Something. Trained people in communities

**satellite sites**

increasing access to training, including hospitals

lack of prescriptions, transportation, pharmacies open/available

stigma - and the lack of understanding

**Barriers are often due to the diagnosis**

unhoused people have no place to go

Barriers  
Facilitators

communities are good at caring for each other - can be stigmatizing in parts of region, but also beautiful supportive moments if you let them in

listen, be open to helping and changing policies

Colleges mandate "brown bag" plan instead of some picking and some refusing

lean on other care providers eg pharmacists

**focus on clients' goals**

**stay humble, change practices**

More rural peer lead coordinators

fewer appointments, more delivery options

**education for med students**

**find peer leads**

increase access to Sublocade (monthly)

**engage PWUD**

doctors are expensive - harness what's in communities, have doctors "jet in"

**more options for formulary**

**vending machines and MySafe!**

group appointments and virtual, flexible care

PEI: dispensing machines, deposit boxes for sharps

equivalent titles and pay for peer leads

**honour peers with respect**

using virtual support to help service providers & clients

use tech to support opening doors to people

**"brown bag" programs**

**boots on the ground!!**

create mobile bus/hub to find folks

identifying folks who want to be peer leads

hub-and-spoke model - assess what resources are there already, find what is there and what people need

talk to the community - communities care for each other

Increasing access to NPs to increase access to care

building on community strength and power - peer-led models!