



Working Group Activity Update

May 15th, 2021

The **Opioid Crisis Response Working Group** provides direct outreach, support, overdose prevention, harm reduction, and addiction treatment services to members, including at-risk youth and members who use substances. Since forming in January, 2021, our collaborative, cross-departmental approach to delivering and improving services has proven to be very beneficial.

Over the past four weeks we've met virtually four times – twice with staff members and twice with external partners from Island Health, FNHA, and RCMP. Heading into the Spring and Summer, we will be enhancing harm reduction and outreach services while also working to improve access to detox, treatment, and recovery services and supports for members.

May Activity Highlights

Detox & Treatment Centres Feasibility Study. We're pleased to report that the detox and treatment centre feasibility study is nearly complete, and will be presented to Chief & Council by May 25th.

Nature-Based Addiction Treatment & Recovery Program. We're making good progress on the development of our nature-based addiction treatment and recovery support program. The program will be firmly grounded in the Quw'utsun Snuw'uy'ulh (Teachings), delivered by Kwun'atsustul Counselling on the land and sea in Quw'uwsun territory, and open to members of all ages. It will be up and running no later than Fall 2021.

Overdose Prevention Site Visits. We have begun to receive data from the Duncan-Cowichan Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) on the number of weekly visits by Indigenous people.

Visits to Overdose Prevention Site by Indigenous People (April 15 to May 12)				
Males < age 25	Females < age 25	Males > age 25	Females > age 25	Total Visits (Apr 15-May 12)
364	252	322	264	1,202

During the four weeks from April 15 to May 12, Indigenous people visited the OPS 1,202 times to use substances and/or access services and supports. We are grateful that people are using at the OPS instead of using alone. The high volume of visits shows the severity of the crisis of substance use that our Nation is facing and the importance of this life-saving service.

Community Survey Report. The Community Survey Report will be complete next week, and we will report to Council and community on what we heard.

Ts'its'uw' atul tseep. Nuts'umat kwun' syaays sh-hwuys kwtho' mukw'

(Help one another and work together for the good of all)