

## SUAP CAAN: Culture as Harm Reduction

To-date & Moving Forward

Funding period: April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024

### Project Overview

- Scale up wise practices nationally for culturally relevant, non-stigmatizing initiatives to meet the needs of target populations;
- Co-create harm reduction knowledge bundles, which center Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing (IWKD) and encapsulate context-specific resources and teachings;
- Reduce barriers to harm reduction services for Indigenous people through frontline service providers who are stewarding a knowledge bundle which includes peer-led and peer-informed resources;
- Increase context-specific resources for harm reduction services that serve Indigenous people in rural and mid-sized communities;
- Increase access to more spaces where Indigenous people are meaningfully engaged in harm reduction services;
- Nationally elevate the voices of Indigenous people and people with lived and living experience (PLLE) in responses to the overdose crisis; and
- Support Indigenous and non-Indigenous harm reduction organizations to increase their capacity to deliver harm reduction services to their Indigenous clients.

### Most recent activities in doing this work:

- [Share back session in Halifax on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#), at the Halifax North Memorial Library. SUAP CAAN partnered with the Diamond Bailey Healing Centre which is part of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in Downtown Halifax for this event. There were approximately 15 participants who were all service providers from different agencies across the Atlantic region. The evaluations were good. Participants identified having gained knowledge about culture as harm reduction.
- SUAP CAAN project participants did events at the [Healing our Spirit Conference in Vancouver](#) in September 2023.
- SUAP CAAN completed both an oral and a poster presentation at [CCSA Conference in Vancouver BC](#) on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. SUAP CAAN peer contractors presented "*Addressing the Impacts of Gender-Based Violence Among Indigenous Women, Two-Spirit, and Genderfluid People with Living/Lived Experience of STBBIs and/or Substance Use Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.*"
- [The Gender Based violence poster](#) was posted for the entire 3-day CCSA conference In Vancouver BC in November 2023.
  
- SUAP CAAN was part of cohosting [tours of the Dr. Peter Centre during the CCSA Conference](#). Approximately 30 conference participants attended, learning about the services of the Dr. Peter Centre.
- SUAP CAAN hosted a [one-day Indigenous-led Trauma Informed Harm Reduction training for service providers in Vancouver on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023](#). Our facilitator for this activity was an



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Indigenous Lawyer in Vancouver, Myrna McCallum, host of the "Trauma Informed Lawyer" podcast and leading champion of trauma-informed lawyering. Myrna is Métis-Cree from Treaty Six territory. There were approximately 15 participants who were all from different agencies across region. The evaluations were good. Participants identified having gained knowledge about culture as harm reduction.

- SUAP CAAN hosted [a one-day Indigenous-led Trauma Informed Harm Reduction training for service providers in Toronto on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#), at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. The facilitator for this training was: Bizaan Bimose ~ Tonya Robitaille who is an Anishinaabe Métis woman with kinship ties to the Ktunaxa and Secwe'pemc First Nations. There were approximately 24 participants who were all service providers from different agencies across the region. The evaluations were good. Participants identified having gained knowledge about culture as harm reduction.
- [Peer Consultant Bea shared her digital story to BC Centre for Disease Control staff and networks](#) on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023, to commemorate Aboriginal AIDS Awareness week. The digital story is about an Indigenous Woman living with HIV sharing her experience in our Health Care System.
- On December 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, several resources that were created by SUAP CAAN project consultants eg. Knowledge bundles were [distributed to several harm reduction/Safe Consumption](#) sites in Vancouver BC. There was also a distribution point made accessible for other OPS's to pick up resources at their convenience. SUAP CAAN resources were also distributed at the community meet and greet at the Overdose response community of practice call.
- The working group for the [Medicine wheel for GBV survivors](#) is ongoing. They met in November 2023 and in December 2023. They are analyzing several resources in the process of creating the GBV Medicine Wheel. The working group is currently will be getting together again in Jan 2024.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 SUAP CAAN participated in a (social/ceremony) at the Native Canadian Friendship Centre of Toronto.