

## Splitting and Sharing Working Group

### What is splitting and sharing?

Splitting and sharing means acquiring, separating and/or transferring drugs between individuals, a common practice among people who use drugs. While this is a common practice, restrictions related to splitting and sharing in overdose prevention services (OPS) or supervised consumption services (SCS) create barriers to accessibility and heighten risk for people accessing these services.

### Why was the working group formed?

The working group was formed to highlight the impact of current regulations and suggest pathways towards policy change on the practice of splitting and sharing within OPS/SCS.

### Who is involved in the working group?

The working group includes the leadership and participation from people with living and lived experience of using drugs, OPS/SCS service providers, legal and academic researchers, and drug policy advocates across Canada, with administrative support and facilitation by the Dr. Peter Centre.

### Why is this work important?

Alleviating barriers to splitting and sharing avoids disrupting the accessibility of OPS/SCS. It allows people to split and use drugs in conditions that are hygienic, and thus apply the necessary measures to protect themselves from further risks. If people who use drugs are forced to split and share their drugs outside of the site, this increases their risk of experiencing discrimination and criminalization.

### What has the working group accomplished so far?

- Survey & Report: A national survey was conducted in order to better understand the impacts of the splitting and sharing restriction on staff and clients of OPS/SCS across Canada. A report was generated that outlined recommendations and next steps for the working group.
- Policy Brief & Amendment: A policy brief was presented to Health Canada that eventually led to policy amendment for the splitting and sharing of substances in SCS, allowing sites to apply for a splitting and sharing exemption.
- Protocol Template: A Splitting and Sharing Protocol template was created to guide OPS/SCS operators and strengthen accessibility in navigating the practice of operationalizing splitting and sharing within their sites.

### What's next for the working group?

Despite opening the door for exemption, more work needs to be done to support organizations in adopting this practice. Read more about the working groups key activities [HERE!](#)

### Interested in learning more? Check out the links below!

- [Splitting and sharing at overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites: What we learned](#)
- [Splitting and Sharing: 7 Key Activities](#)
- [Splitting and Sharing in OPS/SCS Protocol Template](#)

- [How Splitting and Sharing Got the OK at Canada's Overdose Prevention and Supervised Consumption Sites](#)