

SECTION 6

PEER RECOMMENDATIONS

Flowing from the engagement gathering processes, several recommendations emerged including ones specific to Indigenous culture. The recommendations have been prioritized and themed in the table below based on the type of action required – education, training, resources, and services. The recommendations have all been linked back to the harm reduction focus areas to support a collaborative and cross-sectoral approach to addressing the opioid crisis in Vernon. These recommendations have been placed in priority order as defined by the peers involved in the development of this strategy. This was done by voting dots. It is also noted that recommendations identified under culture were specifically identified during the Indigenous focus groups, however, they could easily apply to non-Indigenous people.

Appendix B provides detailed actions identified by peers and members of HART to successfully address the recommendations and meet the strategic goals identified.

		Peer Recommendation	Focus Area	Priority
EDUCATION	INDIGENOUS	1. Effective opportunities for engagement, education and training for peers requires face to face invitations from service providers in order to establish rapport and relationships. This may require repeated action from service providers.	Treatment/Referral Intervention Social Stabilization	1
		2. Develop anti-stigma campaigns for the public to breakdown the shame and stigma experienced among peers, employers, family and community	Intervention Social Stabilization	1
		3. Provide increased education in the school system to support students with emotional competency and resilient mental health	Prevention Intervention	2
		4. Develop employer campaigns (in particular, high risk occupations) that are peer-developed to provide compassion and understanding in the workplace	Social Stabilization	3

		Peer Recommendation	Focus Area	Priority
TRAINING	INDIGENOUS	1. Provide cultural safety training to all service providers who are working in treatment, harm reduction or recovery programs and services	Intervention	1
		2. Develop employee training and employment programs that support peers in returning to the workplace (e.g. graduated return to work program)	Social Stabilization	1
		3. Continue compassion training for first responders including Fire, RCMP, Bylaw and Emergency Health Services	Social Stabilization	2

	4. Provide ongoing access to Naloxone training	Treatment/Referral Intervention	3
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	Peer Recommendation	Focus Area	Priority
INDIGENOUS	1. Provide a balance in diversity for all cultures and representations of Indigenous people to reduce the feeling of being isolated and stigmatized	Treatment/Referral Intervention Social Stabilization	1
	2. Increase the number and range of service providers and organizations who are familiar with treatment, harm reduction and recovery options in the community to ensure there is no wrong door to navigating supports	Treatment/Referral Intervention	2
	3. Ensure there are a range of balanced supports for Indigenous men and women and introduce services that are directed to men such as the Moosehide Campaign, Dudes Club or Gathering Our Strength Program through the BCCDC	Intervention Social Stabilization	3
SERVICES	4. Create safe, clean public washrooms and storage facility to minimize the stress of loss of belongings and harm reduction supplies	Intervention Social Stabilization	1
	5. Increase availability of withdrawal management supports including programs such as heroin maintenance and Overdose Agonist Therapy	Treatment/Referral Intervention Social Stabilization	2
	6. Create more widely available and accessible programs for family members to support their healing and connection to others with shared experience (in particular for men)	Prevention Treatment/Referral Intervention Social Stabilization	3
	7. Implement harm reduction supports and training for Vernon Jubilee Hospital employees through a peer support program built by peers to support them during times of crisis to reduce the stigma associated with opioid substance misuse (e.g. Victim Services or Hospital Volunteer based program)	Prevention Social Stabilization	4
	8. Support peers in developing a peer employment program to support clean-up efforts and improve business relationships	Social Stabilization	5
	9. Support peers to design and implement a Peer to Peer support program for wellness	Treatment/Referral Social Stabilization	6

Peer Recommendation		Focus Area	Priority
INDIGENOUS	1. Include cultural representations in harm reduction supplies such as personal affirmations, pictures of sacred items, photocopy of daily elders' meditations, colouring pages of Indigenous culture, cards with spiritual/religious/cultural quotes, Prayer Rocks, small dream catchers, medicine bags, or tobacco ties.	Intervention	1
	2. Host a session with Elders, Indigenous leaders, traditional medicine people and service providers to develop a framework with best practices of what and how ceremonies, cultural practices, traditional medicine are best to be provided to people who are under the influence of mind-altering substances.	Intervention	2
	3. Support and train Elders to do outreach and be available at service provider locations for Indigenous people to connect with for guidance, teachings, and ceremony.	Prevention Intervention Social Stabilization	3
	4. Ensure service providers have a broad range of knowledge of Indigenous cultural programs and support services for Indigenous clients to facilitate referral and navigation of services; balance this by assuring Indigenous clients that they are also welcome at services for the general population and that they have choices in accessing services.	Prevention Treatment/Referral Intervention	4
5. Develop early intervention criteria for children and youth regarding mental illness with wrap-around supports for families	Intervention	1	
6. Review process map for accessing services to identify transition points and minimize/manage the transitions for people in recovery	Treatment/Referral Intervention Social Stabilization	2	
7. Ensure local resource information is easy to access and available at every entry point (e.g. pharmacies, hospitals, doctor's offices, etc.)	Prevention	3	
8. Increase connections with family physicians and service providers regarding community supports and services available to support people seeking recovery and who are active in recovery	Prevention Intervention Treatment/Referral Social Stabilization	4	

RESOURCES