

COMOX VALLEY COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE USE STRATEGY PHASE 3 FINAL REPORT

*Presentation to Courtenay City Council
September 11, 2024*



CITY OF
COURTENAY



TOWN OF
COMOX



COMOX VALLEY
**COMMUNITY
HEALTH
NETWORK**



Comox Valley
REGIONAL DISTRICT





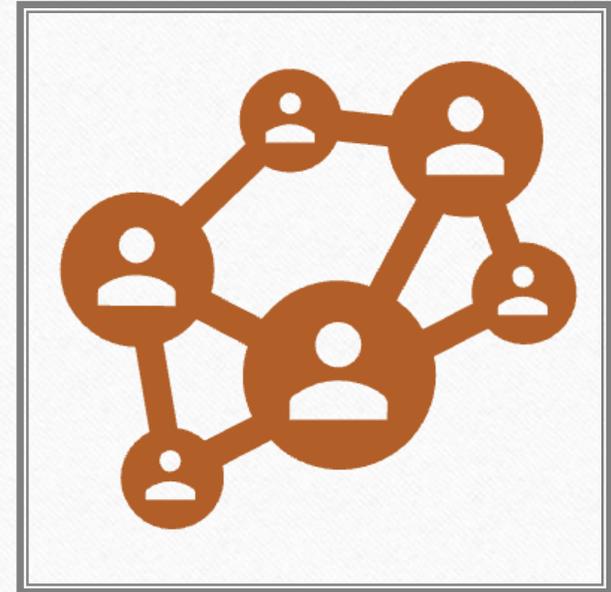
We respectfully acknowledge that the work of the Substance Use Collaborative occurs on the traditional territory of the Pentlatch, E'iksan, Satsila, and Sahtloot people, now collectively known as the K'ómoks First Nation. All those involved in this work acknowledge the truth about ongoing harms caused by colonization to the health and wellness of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people and commit to continuing the journey towards reconciliation.

Acknowledgements

HUGE THANK YOU TO THE PEERS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WE WORK WITH!

“The Comox Valley Community Substance Use Strategy has been instrumental in bringing together community partners to discuss and act upon 21 recommendations from both the Walking Together Report/ Walk with Me and the Substance Use Strategy. This work has been and will be invaluable in providing the community with a solid foundation to move forward with actions from the recommendations.”

*Charmaine Enns, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
North Island and Alberni West Coast Medical Health Officer*



Substances

"all mood- altering substances such as, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco/vaping, nicotine, cannabis, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, medicinal substances, inhalants and solvents."

(Phase Two Substance Use Strategy Report, 2023)

Comox Valley Substance Use Support Network

"the network of organizations and projects/initiatives working to support people who use substances in the Comox Valley. This definition includes organizations whose work is rooted in harm reduction, recovery, health, health, and mental health services, as well as the "Upstream" areas that have Impact on the substance use use ecology including housing, policing, education and others".

(Walking Together Report, 2023)

*To develop a highly functioning
Comox Valley
Substance Use Support Network*

Phase 3 Actions

- **Strengthening the Collaborative**
- **Actioning Recommendations**
- **Ongoing Data Collection and Review**
- **Community Event**



STRENGTHENING Collaborative Table

- Reviewed and updated Collaborative Guidelines
- Developed a Support Plan for Peers to participate comfortably
- Developed Expense Guidelines for all participants to participate equitably
- Held two training sessions for the Collaborative Table
- Actively engaged Peers in the Collaborative Table and supported one Peer to attend two conferences
- Increased the membership at the table
- Sept 2024 the Indigenous Women's Sharing Society will take on the facilitation of the Strategy work from the Community Health Network

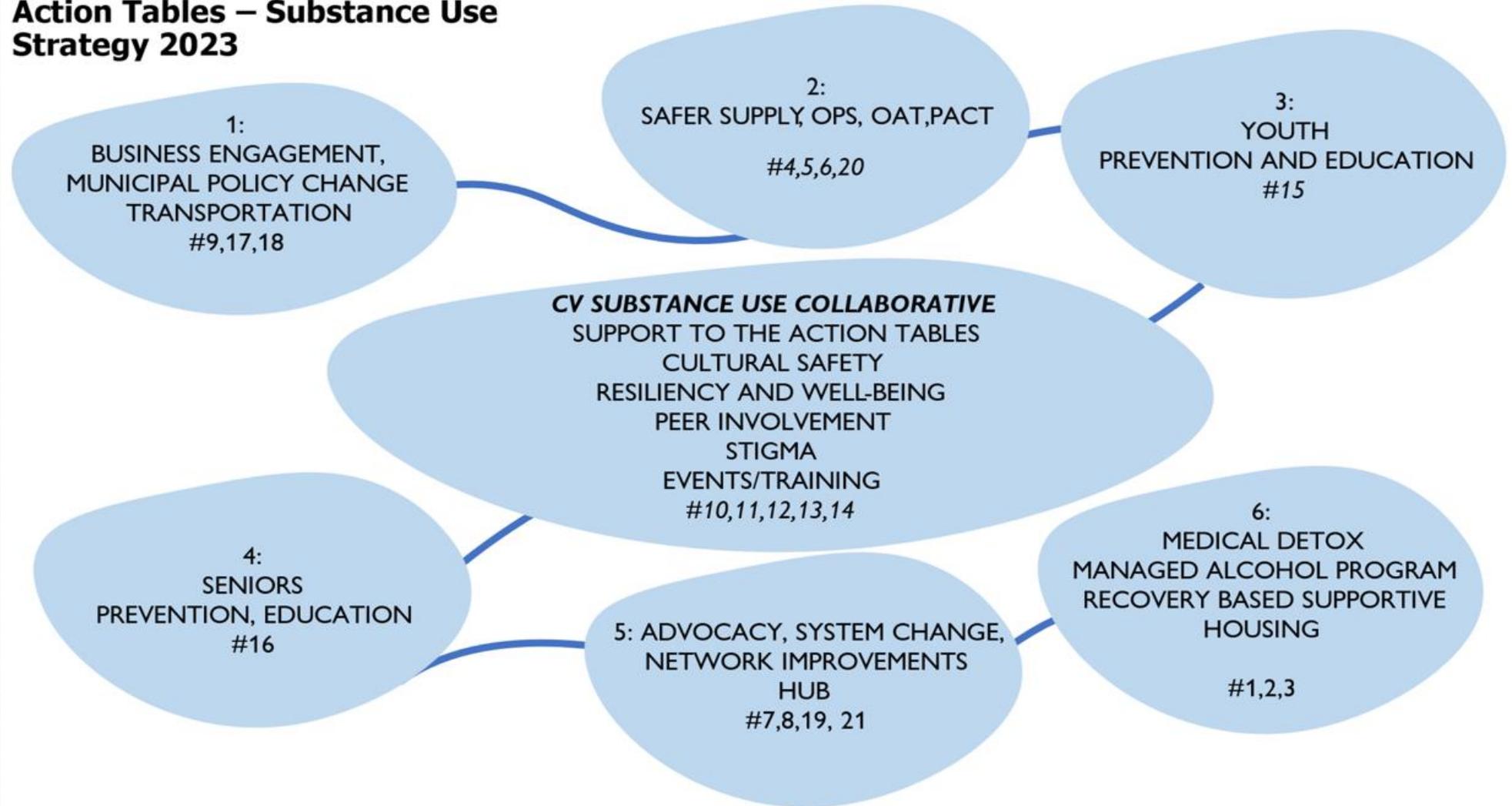
ACTIONING Phase 2 Recommendations

Collaborative Table reviewed recommendations outlined in the Phase Two Report and the Walking Together companion report to:

- identify which ones were already being acted on in the community
- decide on which recommendations were the work of the Collaborative Table
- determine which could be grouped together for implementation by Action Tables.

This process resulted in the recommendations being dispersed amongst the Collaborative Table and six Action Tables

Action Tables – Substance Use Strategy 2023



ACTION TABLES

Progress on Recommendations

- The **COLLABORATIVE TABLE** - recommendations **10** through **14** foundational to the work of all the tables
- **ACTION TABLE TWO** - recommendations **4, 5, 6, 20** related to Safer Supply; Inhalation OPS; Opioid Agonist Therapy; Peer Assisted Care Care Team
- **ACTION TABLE THREE** recommendation **15** related to increasing substance use awareness, education, and programs for youth and their parents.
- **ACTION TABLE ONE AND FOUR** expected to be formed in fall to address recommendations **16** and **17**
 - increasing access to substance use information and supports for seniors (16)
 - including business owners and employers as part of the conversation on substance use and harm reduction (17).

COMMUNITY Progress on Recommendations

COMMUNITY ACTION is also happening on recommendations

- Inhalation OPS; enhancements to OAT and PACT all initiated by organizations in the community and connected into the Collaborative
- Recommendation 8 - Health Services Hub
- Recommendation 21 – Advocate for Non-Market Affordable Housing

ONGOING Data Collection and Review

- Continue to work with local data collectors to get data that is useful to the Strategy implementation
- This report includes data related to:
 - 2021 Comox Valley Census
 - Ongoing unregulated toxic drug crisis – **191 preventable deaths** in our community since the public health emergency declared in 2016.
 - FNHA data related to the disproportionate impact of the drug crisis on Indigenous people - **6.1 times the rate of other BC residents**
 - Emergency Service Response – increasing in response to unregulated toxic drug crisis
 - 2023 Adolescent Health Survey on Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Use

INFORMING the Community

Event held in June 2024

Celebration of individual and community resilience

Panel of people with Lived Expertise delivered powerful keynote

Opportunity to report of Phase Three Strategy

Announced Indigenous Women's Sharing Society to continue leadership of the Strategy

**Thank you for your
support!**

We are Happy To Answer Questions!