



News release

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Toxic drug crisis speaker series: Dialogue among past & present substance users

Peers Victoria's 2025 speaker series on the toxic drug crisis wraps up March 26 with a showcase dialogue among past and present substance users, in conversation with harm reduction and recovery advocate Guy Felicella.

Join Peers Victoria on **Wednesday, March 26, 1-3:30 p.m.**, for an inspiring and truthful dialogue grounded in resilience, persistence and diversity. Past and present substance users will share their personal experiences of recovery and wellness, and their insights into how BC's challenged, patchwork and overwhelmed substance-use supports helped and hindered them on that journey.

Two powerful keynote speakers will add impact to the day:

- Sekani Dalketh is a two-spirit trans woman whose personal and professional experiences in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside have made her a skilled facilitator known for her ability to hold space for difficult conversations that bring substance users and people living unhoused together with service providers to address stigma and find common ground.
- Ann Livingston is a long-time advocate and activist who co-founded the Vancouver and Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) and is now doing similar work in Nanaimo. Her advocacy work alongside Dean Wilson in the 1990s was integral to the launching of Canada's first government-sanctioned safe injection site in 2003 in Vancouver.

This is the third and final event in Peers Victoria's speaker series, "Out of Harm's Way: Insight, Innovation and Action to End the Toxic Drug Crisis." All events are open to the public and free. The series is an exceptional opportunity to learn more about a complex, politicized and misunderstood crisis that continues to kill six or more people in BC every single day.

- **When: Wednesday, March 26, 1-3:30 p.m.**
- **Where: First Metropolitan church sanctuary, 932 Balmoral Road (entrance on Quadra St)**
- **Admission: Free**

Visit the [Peers Victoria website](#) for more information about the toxic drug crisis and speaker series.

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For more information and to set up interviews with presenters:

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