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VICTORIA RESOURCES
SOCIETY



QomQem Coastal Connections

Indigenous Harm Reduction
and Health Services

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 to March 2024

Prepared by:
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Peers Victoria Resources Society Peers Victoria Resources Society would like to acknowledge the nations of the Songhees and Esquimalt people in whose unceded territories we carry out our work. As an organization, we are committed to addressing the combined effects of colonialism and stigmatization of people in the sex industry.



Peers Victoria and QomQem Directors' Report

2023-2024 was an exciting year for Peers Victoria and QomQem Coastal Connections. We maintained our existing programs and engaged in strategic planning for both organizations! Peers Victoria underwent strategic planning with members of the community, staff, and the Board to decide on our strategic direction for the next 3-5 years. The following strategic priorities were emphasized: (1) advocacy and education, (2) Indigenous-led work, (3) securing and focusing on stable funding (3+ years), (4) service growth and expansion, and (5) holistic healing and wellness. As well, the strategic planning process led us to revise our mission statement to be more inclusive of the diverse communities that we serve (for more details please see pages 20-21 of the report).

QomQem Coastal Connections, which operates in partnership with Peers Victoria but autonomously as a culturally driven Indigenous-led program, expanded their work delivering Indigenous harm reduction services in the city. We were thankful to receive funds from Reaching Homes/VNFC and purchased a new program truck to use alongside our program van to support client moves and outreach services. QomQem has seen growth in the collaborative programming with Sacred/Peers offering sexualized violence along with offering collaborations with organizations such as Oasis, Our Place, Substance and the Peers HOPPS team to offer Indigenous forms of harm reduction and care to people in the city. In 2023 we also started a night outreach initiative. QomQem is continuing to build momentum and are a well known and trusted Indigenous Harm Reduction service in the city.

**Thank you / Huy'ch'qu ,
Leigh & Lacey**





QomQem

History:

QomQem Coastal Connections was developed three years ago from the outreach and cultural support offered from Peers Indigenous Outreach staff. While providing encampment and basic needs outreach support, the Peers Indigenous Outreach team recognized the need to bring cultural connections and community-building to Indigenous folks living outdoors. QomQem recognizes the importance of meeting the responsibilities that we have as an Indigenous team to the local and Island nations whose territories we operate in. We work to bring in local and Island cultural workers, healers and cooks to support the housing, outreach and health services that we offer.

QomQem Coastal Connections is grateful to have had the Peers Victoria's support to build this program. We continue to share much administrative support as Peers as well as space. QomQem supports all Indigenous folks who are unhoused, precariously housed or may be using substances. While we operate within Peers, we do recognize ourselves as our own entity.





QomQem cont.

Program description:

QomQem is a grassroots Indigenous-led outreach program that offers harm reduction and health care services to Indigenous peoples who are unhoused, precariously housed, and who may be using substances and/or alcohol. We welcome our relatives and allies from diverse backgrounds, sexualities, genders, abilities, beliefs, and identities. We offer Indigenous harm reduction, health and wellness, housing and food security, cultural support, and outreach. We work in collaboration with Peers' Sacred program. Currently, we are a team of nearly 25 people. 13 peer responders, 7 coordinators, 2 elders, and 4 drummers that we call on for sharing medicine and cultural care.

Program highlights:

QomQem currently serves 200 people every week. We work to bring culture to the streets as we understand the power of connecting back to ancestors and embedding our teachings into our lives everyday. In many Coast Salish dialects, QomQem translates to "strong." QomQem is the SENCOTEN spelling for this word. So, our work is meant to build strong coastal connections with all of our relatives that we support.





QomQem cont.

Program Highlights Con't: With regards to community engagement we have had great success with different community events and seafood lunches that we have held in collaboration with the IOW. Many people love to attend to connect to culture and community. We love to see both the urban housed and unhoused community come together to share relationship at events. The most recent feast we hosted, we saw over 100 people in attendance and the majority of whom are Street Family, precariously housed, and who live in supportive housing sites. At these events the QomQem/Sacred peer staff also attend and serve community. The feast is an event where our support is shown to community while also received. Where knowledge sharing also takes place and opportunities for connection are fostered.

We have also had great success in our Staff Healing and Team Building days. These days are also opportunities for knowledge sharing, support for one another, and staff care are fostered. The importance of caring for one another and community is shown in these events as we take care in providing for our staff/peer staff.

We have had an increase in inquiries from various organizations as QomQem becomes more well known in the community. Services agencies such as various branches in Island Health, Our Place, Coolaid, Substance and more have reached out to us for collaboration and also in referrals and inform gathering.





QomQem Housing & Outreach Programs

Housing Program & Highlights: Qomqem's housing coordinator plays a pivotal role in addressing housing needs within our Indigenous community. In 2023-24 the housing coordinator sat on the BC housing placement table and has successfully housed up to 6 people in supportive housing and supported a dozen folk into emergency Shelters. Each week the housing & outreach coordinators meet with up to 10 individuals on a 1-1 basis to assess and strategize the best ways to support their housing needs, ensuring ongoing support as clients move through the housing process. The housing coordinator also offered basic needs outreach to support people at encampments and build relationships.

Men's Group Program & Highlight: QomQem's Men's Wellness Worker and peer support worker in collaboration with the Peers HOPPS program is offering a men's group that meets weekly at City Centre Supportive housing site. We have also offered men's group at the House of Courage. The group focuses on connecting men to Indigenous culture and governance and they have had outings such as: visiting Goldstream, going for river baths, Indigenous focused arts & crafts, sharing food, drumming, relationship building and sometimes just going for an ice cream and a ride. the men's group see up to 15 men attend the group. This weekly group is widely received by all who attend!





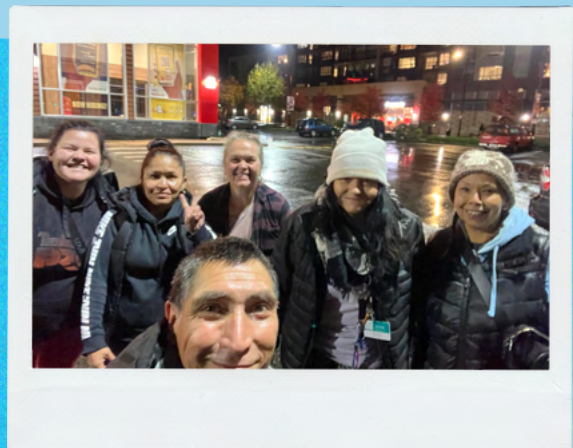
Daytime Outreach Program & Highlights: Monday outreach on the Block and around the city! The men's coordinator, peer staff worker and the health coordinator offer food, snack packs and HR gear to many different locations around the city. We normally see up to 85 people on shift. Recently, we have also been bringing blankets and warmer winter gear to support folks who are outdoors. On Tuesdays the peer coordinator and peer staff connect with close to 40 people throughout the city and bring out snacks and harm reduction and provide basic needs such as tents/blankets clothing as needed. They also work to make referrals to other community agencies and to meet other social needs that they might have. They work hard to build and maintain relationships with folks who are living unhoused or precariously housed. Wednesdays are for soup and fry bread! The housing coordinator and peer support worker bring around fry bread and soup that is made by a local Songhees family every week. They go to encampments and areas that folks congregate in and see up to 40 people per shift. The housing coordinator is able to build relationships and is supported by the peer worker to connect with folks who are living outdoors. This way they can connect directly with people who are outdoors to do paperwork needed to obtain housing. The team also brings about harm reduction gear and seasonal clothing and gear as needed.





QomQem Health Program & Highlights: The health program has been operating for just over 2 years and we have partnered with VIHA's Street Nurse Waylon to offer weekly services for STBBI testing and prevention services. The health team offers these services while visiting encampments, and other spaces that folks gather such as the Block, Centennial square etc., supportive housing sites and offer on call visits when referred by other QomQem team members. The health team also offers workshops on harm reduction and STBBI knowledge sharing. Finally, the health and wellness worker is able to offer cultural and spiritual connections for Indigenous folks who are on the Streets. She can arrange for smudging, cedar brushing, connection to elders or drummers. This wholistic approach to Indigenous health & outreach services is currently one of a kind in the city. The health team sees up to 15 people at 12 workshops per a year, offers STBBI and harm reduction workshops to the Hustle group at peers and connects with up to 100 folks per a year to offer STBBI testing, treatment and preventions.

Sunday Night Outreach Program & Highlights: Night outreach began in the fall of 2023 and we offered basic needs, cold weather supplies, harm reduction and food to folks living unhoused in the downtown core. More recently we spend our time on the Block and have a team of 4 people that go out. The QomQem peer staff along with 2-3 coordinators. Alongside offering basic needs, this shift also focuses on relationship building with the unhoused community. Every Sunday night for outreach we serve 120 meals per shift, in recent months we have shifted to serve up to 150 people per night. People are really happy to see us each week and to get some goodies. We began by visiting multiple sites - outside Muncney, RBL, Arbutus, Tally Ho, Pandora- but ended the year focusing on Pandora where we often see 130-150 people in and around the Block and run out of food.



Program Reports

Hustle @ Peers

Program Description:

HUSTLE @ Peers is a program for masculine-presenting or identified GBQ (Gay, Bi, Queer), Two-Spirited, Indigiqueer, and gender-diverse sex workers. We provide a weekly support group with a hot meal, access to HIV and STBBI testing, access to harm reduction supplies, and community referrals on Tuesdays from 530-730 pm at our drop-in space. One-on-one support is available to participants by reaching out to the program lead or HUSTLE @ Peers staff.

Program Highlights:

Continuing from our grand success the previous year, the HUSTLE @ Peers program continues to grow and maintain a steady base of participation supporting 35-45 unique participants. A highlight from this past fiscal year was a vine weaving workshop that was put on by one of our participants. Vine weaving is a form of anti-colonial resistance on land, working to transform the landscape by taking invasive plants and transforming them into art in nature.

Program Lead: Remy (they/them)



Peer Health Advocate Program (PHAT)

Program Description: The Peer Health Training Program is a twice-a-year, 8-week training program that explores harm reduction as a lens for understanding both the drug user and sex worker rights movements in Canada. Since 2018, we've been training folks with lived and living experience in their communities as peer health advocates, supporting their ability to decrease stigma among people who use drugs/ work in the sex trade, make informed decisions around health and harm reduction, and increase access to health services and accessible employment options.

Program Highlights: The total number of unique trainees for April 2023 - March 2024 was 16. Trainees completed nine weeks of in-class training with 18, 3 hour classes, twice a week. We're continuing to build new partnerships with other peer-focused organizations locally. A total of 22 workshops were offered relating to topics of Sex Work & Harm Reduction, Part 1-3, Gender & Harm Reduction Part.1-3, and Indigenizing Harm Reduction, Pt.1-3, reaching 288 attendees. 88% of Fall Workshop attendees reported that they gained new knowledge/skills through the workshops and 81% of Winter workshop attendees reported new knowledge.



Peer Health Advocate Program (PHAT) cont.

For both 2023/2024 cohorts, 100% of trainees reported an increase in their knowledge in all areas surveyed after completing the training. As well, 73.4% of trainees indicated that they have reduced their overall substance use as a result of the training.

Each term, we're proud to invite graduates back as speakers for the in-class training, whereby their experience and wisdom help inform the basis of our living curriculum. We will continue to foster opportunities for past graduates to hone their leadership skills within the training program, Peers community, and "Victoria" community at large while prioritizing opportunities for Indigenous folks and people of colour (e.g., 77% of our workshop attendees were Indigenous).



Program Lead: Lou
(she/her)
Email: peersatpeers@peers.bc.ca
Work hours: Flexible
weekday hours

Drop-in Program



Program Description:

Peers Drop-in is a service provided to all Peers participants and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Current and former sex workers can access hot meals, bus tickets, the clothing room, harm reduction, and safer sex supplies and connect with other Peers programming. Participants can access the Violence Prevention program to report a bad date or access counseling resources as well as meet with a Housing Worker for support with housing and RTB concerns. Individuals can also have their mail sent to our office, receive appropriate community referrals, and access weekly HIV and STBI testing on Wednesdays during drop-in.

Program Highlights:

Approximately 297 unique participants accessed services through Drop-in. Since April 2023 there have been several changes within the drop-in program. Julia began managing the program in December 2023. We had amazing donations for the holiday gift bags and distributed them to the community. During the summer season, we hosted several outdoor gatherings with participants at Banfield park. In the new year, we focused on integrating discussion groups requested by the community, as well as bringing in outside organizations to share about their resources, like the Community Led Crisis Response team. We introduced a discussion group series running for 5 months on boundaries. This group was very well received by clients and sparked a lot of meaningful conversations. STI testing and vaccine clinics have been well-attended.

Program Lead: Julia (she/her)

Email: dropin@peers.bc.ca

Work hours: Tuesday – Thursday 11:30–

2:30pm, closed the Wednesday of Cheque

Week

Transgender, Non-Binary, Two-Spirit Support Group (TN2S)

Program Description: TN2S is a support service for trans, non-binary, two-spirit, agender, and gender non-conforming sex workers. This service connects participants registered with Peers to community and 1:1 support. The program also connects participants to general Peers services and other community resources in an inclusive and gender-affirming manner meeting participant needs through a custom-tailored approach and specialized scan of resources. This includes assistance accessing health care, employment, food resources, and filling out documents, etc. There are two groups: one composed of participants who are currently engaging in sex work, and a second group composed of those who are exiting or recently left sex work. The groups alternate Wednesdays via Zoom. Participants from the groups also book 1:1 support meetings as needed. Registration via email: trans.support@peers.bc.ca.

Program Highlights: The group continues to offer peer support and covers a wide variety of topics ranging from gender affirming care, substance use, sexual health, mental first aid, job access, bad dates, and other unique challenges and successes. In addition, HIV self-testing kits were rolled out to the group for the first time. The most requested support during this timeframe has been access to counselling services and support groups for specific challenges such as autism support, and trans masculine specific support. During this time, a “support group database” was established to track all available support groups for any LGBTQ+ topic available in BC for rapid referral.

Program Lead: Quinn (they/she)
Email: trans.support@peers.bc.ca

Sacred

Program Description: Sacred is an Indigenous-led program for Indigenous sex workers. It is a group that allows for Indigenous sex workers to come together once a month to share food, culture, and cultural healing and supports. The monthly meeting occurs on the second Friday of every month and the Sacred Coordinator is available to offer support and outreach work to Sacred participants during the week. There are 6 SACRED members who are trained in Indigenous Harm Reduction and Outreach. The outreach team works to connect with and provide information on available resources for sex workers and folks who have experienced sexualized violence and/or gender-based violence.

Program Highlights: Sacred has a membership of 18 folks with 12-15 members who attend monthly meetings regularly. A highlight from the monthly meetings this past year was the inclusion of Cree teachings from a knowledge holder who shared teachings on Cree women roles, rights and responsibilities and a presentation from a Sacred member who shared their knowledge on Two-Spirit identity and teachings. Sacred now has a member representative with the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform who attend regular meetings along with a representative of Peers. Sacred co-hosted a Gender-Based Violence workshop with Peers, which focused on Indigenous perspectives to addressing harms and creating resilience in community. This past year Sacred shifted their outreach efforts to connect with folks who may be experiencing sexualized and/or gender-based violence at supportive housing sites in Victoria.



Sacred & SAS Indigenous

SAS Program Description: SAS Indigenous programming works in collaboration with the Peers Violence Prevention team, however it is staffed by Sacred peer workers alongside the SAS Indigenous Coordinator and largely focusses on providing outreach services related to GBV and sexualized violence. We offer cultural reconnection and connection to forms of Indigenous healing for those who have experienced GBV. The SAS coordinator and peer staff can also make referrals to sexual assault services in Victoria and to the QomQem team for housing and health needs that may be needed.

Program Highlights: The SAS Coordinator and Sacred peer staff offer many types of outreach during the week: info sharing/tabling at supportive housing sites, encampment outreach and night outreach. One to two times a week we set up an info sharing table and work to build relationships with folks at supportive housing sites connecting with 10-15 people. We also offer outreach to all the encampments and visit areas that there are unhoused people gathered. We bring snacks, water and safe supplies to Street Family. We can connect folks who have experiences violence to services in the city if they request that and offer referrals to housing workers and to other organizations.



Housing Outreach and Support

Program Description: The Peers Victoria Housing Outreach program is a Housing First program for people in or from sex work or trade in the Capital Regional District. The focus of the program is on individuals who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or moving from shelters to permanent housing. The program's main objective is to implement the principles of Housing First in an outreach support relationship with persons seeking to obtain and maintain housing. Peers participants meeting the federal Reaching Home requirements for chronic or episodic homelessness have access to the program's funding to help with damage deposits, first month's rent, basic needs, supplies to support access to treatment services, and/or expenses related to seeking/participating in employment, etc.

Program Highlights: We supported approximately 312 participants in 2023-20234, primarily female-identifying individuals and almost exclusively within the 25-64 age range. We were able to support 10 individuals attain market rent within the Greater Victoria area as well as 1 individual was successful in obtaining CRD-subsidized housing. Over the fiscal year, we supported six individuals with rehousing (moving within the housing spectrum). We averaged five eviction prevention/shelter diversion situations per quarter, which includes financial support, mediation with landlords/management companies, and support through the Residential Tenancy Board processes. In 2023-2024, we provided crisis/emergency rent support to eight participants, averaging two times assistance approximately twice a quarter. A significant portion of the support that the Housing program provides, continues to be support in navigating the Residential Tenancy Board system and landlord mediation and support.



Program Lead: Jen (she/her)
proram.manager@peers.bc.ca
Work hours: Monday-Thursday
9am - 5pm

Housing Outreach and Support cont.

Peers Housing program works continuously and tirelessly with BC Housing and Coordinated Access to secure whatever housing (supportive or otherwise) that is available to our Peers community that are currently unhoused/precariously unhoused. We were able to maintain the funding for the additional Housing Support Worker and maintain the supports we offered in the previous year. Despite seeing a significant decrease in our funding from Reaching Home in the past fiscal year, we have been able to place an additional focus on connecting participants to needed community resources, helping with emergent housing support needs (including but not limited to cleaning, landlord-tenant communication), basic needs requirements, completion of forms required to determine supportive housing eligibility, help with justice system compliance and other concerns which can threaten housing stability.



Violence Prevention & Response

Program Description: The Violence Prevention and Response Team coordinates bad date reporting, supports sex workers who have experienced violence, and provides education for service providers on how to increase safety for sex workers. They facilitate reporting and proceedings with the VicPD Liaison Officer, contribute to the development of the BC Bad Date Reporting System, and provide public education and outreach around violence against oppressed individuals. The team liaises with local and provincial community partners to establish best practices regarding gender-based violence service provision.

Program Highlights: Between workshops, outreach, and bad date reporting over 165 unique participants were supported through the Violence Prevention and Response Program between April 2023 and March 2024. We continue to circulate and respond to bad date and aggressor reports, and support sex workers from varied social locations with improving safety at work. We continue to participate in the development of the BC Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting system, the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre's Indigenous Response Network. We also maintain a presence in Drop-in, on Night Outreach, and at community events.



Program Lead: Alida (she/they)
Email: prevention.lead@peers.bc.ca
Work hours:

Counselling

Program Description: The counselling program offers free one-on-one counselling to current and former sex workers in Victoria and the South Island. Sessions are available by telephone with some limited in-person sessions through Flora's office in downtown Victoria. We offer between 20-30 sessions per person. Folks are welcome to return to access additional sessions after this, though we prioritize folks who have not yet accessed counselling. Anyone interested in counselling can reach out to counselling@peers.bc.ca, but we do not take referrals. After someone reaches out, we complete an initial intake by telephone, to hear about the person's needs/goals and to tell them about the program. After the intake, we put people on our waitlist and then reach back out to them to begin regular counselling when space opens.

Program Highlights: We provided 310 individual counselling sessions to over 30 unique participants. We were able to provide long-term counselling to participants and accommodate both new and returning participants with relatively low wait times for counselling and we are one of the few organizations on Vancouver Island that offers free unlimited counselling for participants. This past year we also supported two counselling practicum students with lived experience of sex work (one ending in May of 2023, one starting in January of 2024). In March we started planning for Peers first support group for chronically-ill and disabled sex workers that launched in the Fall of 2024.

Counsellors: Shannon (she/her)
& Flora (she/her)
Email: counselling@peers.bc.ca



Indoor Workers' Group

Program Lead: Jessa (she/her)
and Sola (she/her)
Email: [indoorworkers@
peers.bc.ca](mailto:indoorworkers@peers.bc.ca)

Program Description: Peers' Indoor Workers Group is a monthly peer-based socio-educational group for sex workers in independent massage parlors and agency-based indoor environments. This group aims to build community with working individuals who do not already access Peers' internal programming to share safety, advocacy concerns and solutions, and information and resources relevant to current indoor sex work. Each month, the group meets for dinner, STBBI testing, and a chosen guest speaker(s) attends to provide information and answer questions.

Program Highlights: Some highlights this year included workshops on boundaries, a presentation by a somatic sex educator who specializes in nervous system regulation, tax clinics, and a shibari workshop. Our participants suggested topics they were interested in and we did our best to fulfill any and all requests. Between April 2023 and March 2024 we welcomed roughly 30 new participants who weren't accessing Peers' services before. Our meetings had between 10-20 attendees, many of whom hadn't been to Peers before. Our mission this past year was to connect with as many new people as we could, using our networks and circles, especially BIPOC sex workers.



HOPPS

Housing Overdose Prevention & Peers Services

Program Description:

The Housing Overdose HOPPS program offers daily harm reduction, health and wellness support, and drug poisoning prevention and education services to over 100 residents daily in collaboration with local supportive housing and shelter sites. Through collaborative relationships with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and Our Place Society, services were provided Monday to Friday 10-5 pm at Capital City Centre, 11-6 pm at House of Courage, and 10-5 pm at Spaken House, with a total resident population of 150. This program has a strong emphasis on engaging residents in mentorship positions, highlighting their experiential wisdom and knowledge and their pivotal roles in responding within their communities. *We providing 6-7 days of service at House of Courage and Spaken House between April 2023 and March 2024 using surplus money from our contract at the request of the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness.



HOPPS cont.

Program Highlights: We conducted more than 20 training sessions with our community partners for 20+ resident responders. These sessions covered topics such as Indigenous harm reduction, substance testing, peer-to-peer counseling, and conflict resolution. We provided stipend-based work opportunities to resident responders to support their capacity to address and prevent drug poisoning and share harm reduction knowledge within their communities. Additionally, Peers facilitated (30) monthly naloxone training at each location, organized cultural craft and art days to foster community connection among residents, and participated in community-wide education events about peer-based work and responding to the overdose crisis (Project Connect, Intl Overdose Awareness Day). We opened a safe consumption site at CCC this year. Where we see 10-15 people a day and we have it staffed by our Peer Responders. House of courage opened last year in April and We have worked hard to build strong relationships with everyone there. We also purchased a HOPPS van to help transport residents to training events and appointments!



Program Lead: Wanda (she/her)
Email: wanda@peers.bc.ca
Work hours: Mon-Fri 10 am- 6 pm

Night Outreach

Program description: Night outreach provides access to food, harm reduction supplies, safer sex supplies, clothing donations, and other practical needs through nightly outreach in the RV seven nights a week. Night outreach staff also provide internal referrals to relevant Peers programming, pass on messages to participants from other programs, and provide one-off crisis intervention support. Staff can also assist participants with submitting bad date reports.

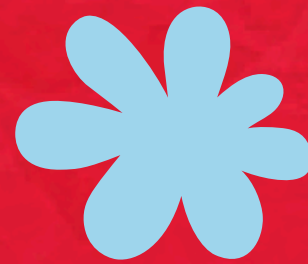
Program Highlights: We saw over 500 individuals in April 2023–March 2024. The Night Outreach program has been very busy this year, especially within the colder months. We saw a need arising within the community for different items and began ordering emergency blankets, flashlights and Gatorade powder regularly to distribute. STI testing on the van has been well attended. We have had consistent warm weather and makeup donations to give out to our participants. We continue to provide access to a variety of items and resources to Peers participants on the van and support referrals to other Peers programming, including Housing, Violence Prevention, and QomQem.

Program Lead: Julia (she/her)
Email: dropin@peers.bc.ca





Strategic Planning



The 2023 strategic planning process for Peers and QomQem reinforced the organizations' shared commitment to advocacy, cultural safety, holistic healing, and service growth. The action items identified will guide the work of both organizations over the next three years, ensuring that they continue to meet the evolving needs of their communities with a focus on sustainable growth and Indigenous leadership.

By aligning their strategies with these priorities, Peers and QomQem aim to create a more inclusive, supportive, and culturally safe environment for those they serve, while advocating for broader systemic changes that address housing, stigma, and decolonization.



Peers Core Values

The Experiential Voice

Non Judgmental, Client-Centred Service

Harm Reduction

Social Justice



Revising the Mission Statements



Both organizations revisited their mission statements during these sessions, with feedback gathered from participants on potential revisions.

Peers Updated Mission Statement

Peers is an innovative, multi-service, grassroots agency established by, with, and for sex workers since 1995. Through direct services and community partnerships, we provide an array of peer-focused outreach, harm reduction, housing support, education, violence prevention, and advocacy for current and former sex workers, people who use substances, Indigenous-street family, and their connected communities on Coast Salish territories known as Greater Victoria.

Key considerations:

The updated Peers mission statement focuses on the organization's role in harm reduction, housing support, education, and advocacy for sex workers, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups. The inclusion of housing as a central theme was debated but ultimately deemed essential given the organization's growing involvement in housing initiatives.

QomQem Updated Mission Statement: QomQem works to offer Indigenous harm reduction, housing supports and wellness services to Indigenous peoples who are unhoused, precariously housed and who may be using substances. QomQem also supports people who are working towards wellness or recovery and who have been incarcerated in the near past. We work to connect with, learn from and maintain relationships with local nations in whose territories we are doing Indigenous harm reduction and housing work.

Key considerations:

QomQem's updated mission statement highlights its role as an Indigenous-led outreach program, providing harm reduction and healthcare services to Indigenous peoples and their allies. The mandate emphasizes the importance of culturally safe care and support for diverse identities. The revisions made were to highlight the ways that we support folks actively using substances or those wanting to focus on recovery.

Thank you to our generous funders & donors



First Nations Health Authority



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**Ending
Violence**
ASSOCIATION OF BC



Community
Action
Initiative



Provincial Health
Services Authority



**Victoria Native
Friendship Centre**

Thank you to Peers' friends, collaborators, and partners

(AGM NOTE: MANY MORE TO COME!)



Alison Bigg



Greg Heubner



Marlene Stevens @ FNHA



aceh society



Belinda Daniels, Professor Indigenous Education @ UVic

Annette Dick & family, Songhees Nation

Aunty Gail Sam, Tsartlip Nation

BJ Sam, Tsartlip Nation

Nuuchahnulth friends:

Pete Charlie, Guy Louie & Calvin Louie Ahousaht Nation

Kwakwaka'wakw friends: Kingston & Jimmy

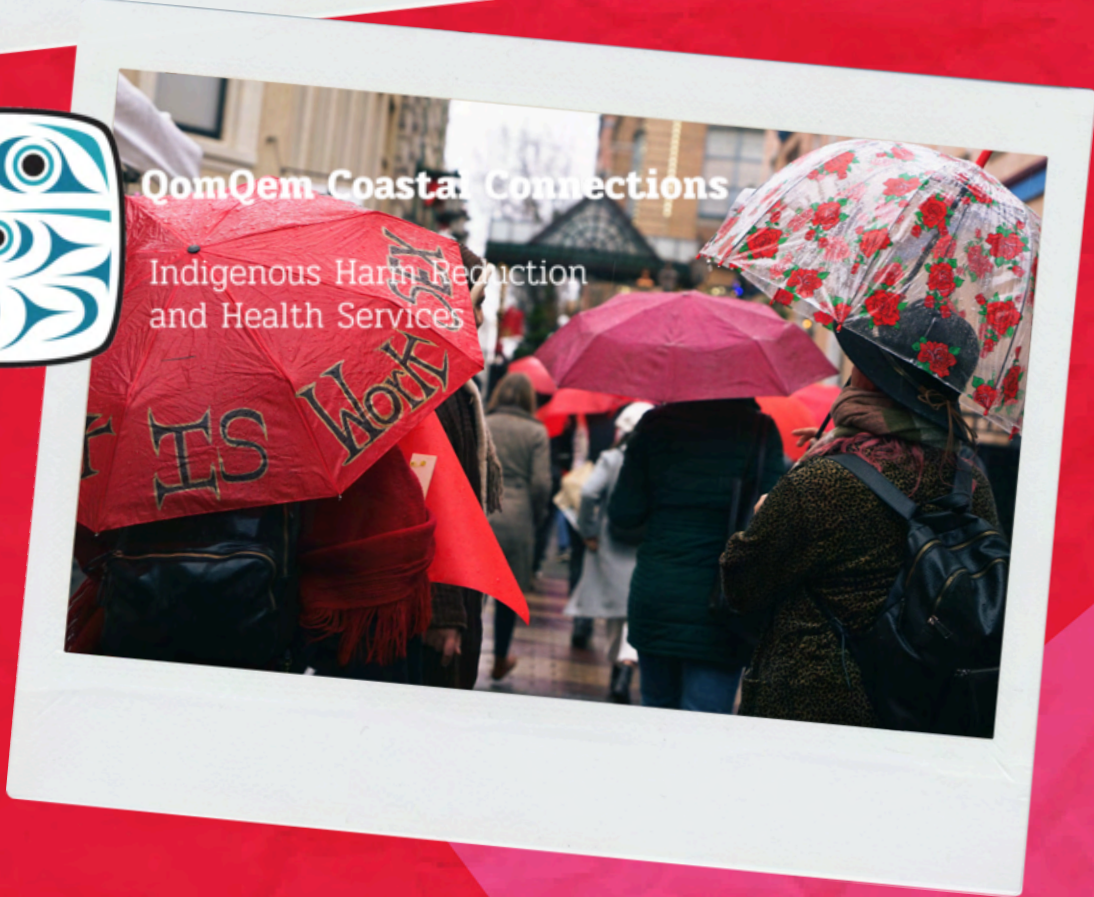


**SEX WORKERS
RIGHTS ARE
HUMAN RIGHTS**









QomQem Coastal Connections

Indigenous Harm Reduction and Health Services



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QomQem Coastal Connections

Indigenous Harm Reduction and Health Services