

## Pre-training activities - Session 3

**Prior to the training, please review the following 3 case scenarios which have been developed by our Drug Culture Expert Co-facilitators. There will be a group work session where you will discuss one of the case scenarios with fellow participants.**

### Case Scenario 1

Goodie Tooshoe is a Black female youth settler who came to Canada in 2017 from Barbados as a teenager. She is now 21 years old and a first-year college student at George Brown College. She recently broke up with her girlfriend who was supporting her and was kicked out of the condo. Her recent breakup left her with a criminal record.

Goodie met a guy at a college party night, who introduced her to the ‘sex and drugs’ scene. She now uses cocaine, crystal meth, cannabis and molly, all which take away her pain. Although her new boyfriend taught her how to inject her substances, she relies on him to get the necessary tools (harm reduction kit) to safely administer her substances.

Goodie is a service user at an ethno-specific AIDS service organization and personally knows Ms. Sashay Away, the new Volunteer Coordinator, but is afraid to access harm reduction support because she does not want anyone to know that she uses substances. The Harm Reduction Manager heard a rumor circulating about Goodie, saw her Executive Director passing by her office and immediately went to seek support and advice.

### Questions:

- If you were the Executive Director, what are your feelings/thoughts/attitudes about the situation of Goodie?
- Using the harm reduction philosophy, how may the agency, staff and volunteers respond and support Goodie Tooshoe and Sashay Away?

## Case Scenario 2

You have a co-worker who has the same job as you but they use drugs. Your agency has rules against substance use in the building due to rules set in place by the building management. Your co-worker is in a 'safer supply program' and has a prescription for their substances. They require a space to use them while at work, just as someone with diabetes has a prescription for insulin.

### Questions:

- What are your feelings/thoughts/attitudes about your co-workers situation?
- What accommodations should your agency make in order to accommodate this employees needs in line with harm reduction philosophies?
- What examples of polices would support people who use drugs at the work place?

## Case Scenario 3

Ayoub came to Canada from Jordan as a Palestinian refugee claimant in 2018. He is staying at the Covenant House and has stopped his ESL classes due to COVID. Through other youth staying in the same shelter, he has experimented with what was forbidden under the political regimen he lived in before: tobacco, alcohol, and sex. He has started new medication for his mental health for which he has been told to avoid alcohol.

His needs to connect with other peers seem to increase during the lockdown and starts cruising online. Soon enough he has met people who introduced him to PNP (Party and Play) and enjoys the effects of cannabis and meth. Because his income is limited to OW, he trades sex for drugs with an Arabic trans woman he met at Allan Gardens. He doesn't know where to find 'paraphernalia' (harm reduction equipment) or drugs without his new friend and gets ripped off on the streets. Eventually, he ends up in ER because of an overdose of fentanyl.

### Questions:

- How could you support him to connect with other peers, especially during COVID?
- What conversations might you have about the safety/quality of drugs he is getting?
- How could you support Ayoud in obtaining his own harm reduction supplies?