



Health Officers' Council of BC Resolutions – October 2016

Resolution 145-03: Increasing compassion and inclusion in Harm Reduction services

Moved: Murray Fyfe, Seconded: Jane Buxton

Whereas: Harm reduction policies and programming, as outlined in the *BC Harm Reduction Strategies and Services Policy and Guidelines, December 2014 (BCHRSSPG)* are evidence based, achieve positive population health outcomes, and integral to the health promotion, illness prevention, treatment and care continuum; and

Whereas: It is established that harm reduction services must be accessible, accommodating, affordable, acceptable and non-stigmatizing; and

Whereas: Clients continue to face stigma, restricted access, and experience interactions with health care staff and other community workers who have prejudices about people who use drugs;

Therefore be it resolved that:

That HOC takes the position health authorities and their contracted agencies support staff to engage people who use drugs with compassion and respect;

and be it further resolved that:

HOC takes the position that vulnerable and marginalized populations must be meaningfully engaged in the planning and provision of all harm reduction services that they may need to access. **All Carried**