

The Peer2Peer Project: Project Components

People with lived/ living experience (peer workers) are considered the experts in harm reduction work, and provide crucial services to support people who use substances (PWUS). Their work can be stressful and traumatizing, yet, unlike other service providers, peer workers lack access to supports from their organizations. The Peer2Peer Projects aims to identify, develop, implement and evaluate supports for peer workers in overdose response settings in British Columbia. All support interventions designed and implemented through this project were led by peer workers and informed by the lived/ living experience of PWUS.

1. Needs Assessments with Peer Workers

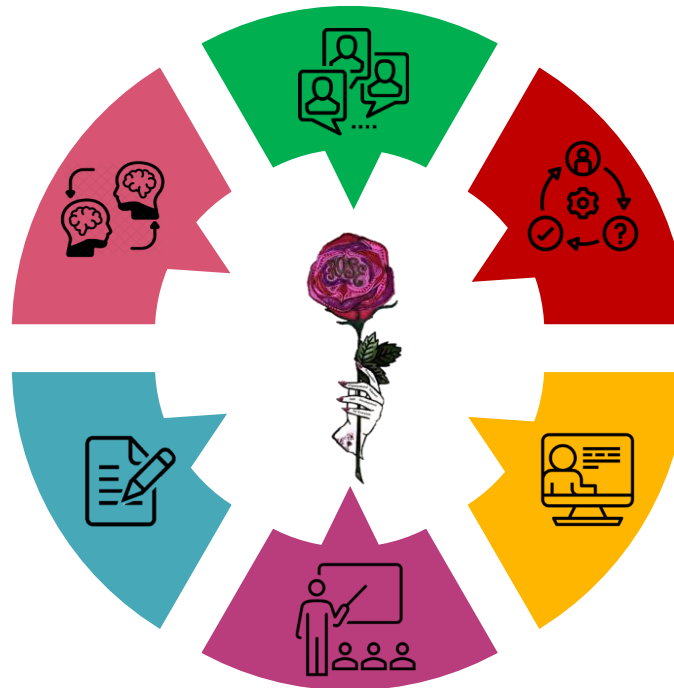
We conducted eight focus groups with peer workers (n=31). Participants indicated a need for: 1) better working conditions, 2) role clarity, 3) workplace resources such as photo IDs and business cards, 4) skill development, 5) increased recognition of peer work, 6) equitable pay, 7) peer debriefing, 8) improved living conditions, 9) awareness of community resources and 10) referrals to services. Summarized [here](#).

6. Knowledge Translation

We presented about our project at 20 conferences or meetings over the last three years. We also developed a plethora of [resources, trainings, and info sheets](#), and wrote 5 manuscripts for journal publications.

5. Evaluation

We conducted several evaluations of the Peer2Peer Project and the ROSE model, as well as of specific strategies within the ROSE model. These include a [quantitative evaluation of the project](#), a [qualitative evaluation of peer engagement](#), evaluation of the Peer Worker Leadership Training, [evaluation of the Systems Navigator and Peer Supporter roles](#), and [evaluation of the utility of pulse oximeters](#).



2. The ROSE Model

We classified the support needs into three categories: R: Recognition of Peer Work; O: Organizational Support; S: Skill Development

- [#PeerLife](#) features a day in the life of peer workers.
- The [Best Practice Manual for Supporting Peer Workers](#) consists of templates of all resources developed.
- We developed several [training resources and videos](#) and supported peer workers to attend external trainings including First Aid.

3. Peer Worker Leadership Training

We developed uniform training that is accessible across the province, evidence-based, and informed by the lived and living experiences of people who use substances. The [Peer Worker Leadership Training](#) aims to equip peer workers with tools for professional success. The training consists of five modules including Mental Health Awareness, Effective Communication, Peer-to-peer Counselling Skills, Conflict Resolution, and Organizational Etiquette

4. Compassionate Action Modules

The [Compassionate Action modules](#) are a series of five interactive case study videos about stigma and discrimination experienced by People Who Use Substances (PWUS) and have an accompanying discussion guide. These scenarios are based on real-life experiences from the perspectives of PWUS.

