



Campbell River
Community Action Team

A large decorative graphic in the background of the page. It consists of a large yellow semi-circle with a white outline, positioned above a dark blue mountain range silhouette, all set against a light blue background.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2019 COMMUNITY REPORT ON SUBSTANCE USE IN CAMPBELL RIVER

Campbell River Community Action Team

2018-2019

Community Report Identified Contributor #1: The Geography of Campbell River

Recommendations:

- 1) Expand the work of the CAT to outlying communities. Create partnerships with Municipal, Regional and Indigenous groups and organizations.
- 2) Create peer support worker roles in rural and remote communities.

Community Report Identified Contributor #2: The potential volatility of the local resource-based economy

Recommendations:

- 1) Host block parties, dinners, and other low-barrier events to build community capacity and to facilitate relationships and belonging.
- 2) Support grassroots/ NGO community development initiatives that prioritize the social determinants of health.
- 3) Advocate for policy change that supports employment insurance and disability. This will support individuals experiencing job loss or substance use challenges. Focus on advocating for policies that centre on a strength-based, trauma informed perspective.

Community Report Identified Contributor #3: Historical Substance Use

Recommendations:

- 1) Promote ongoing funding opportunities to support the Community Action Teams and other related action-based working groups.
- 2) Recognize and reduce the stigma surrounding substance use.
- 3) Develop youth-specific strategies for substance use education, including dialogue, education, and mentoring.
- 4) Host community conversations about decriminalizing substances.
- 5) Advocate for policies that ensure substances are available through a safe supply.
- 6) Provide funding for and access to alternate treatment options (ie: Managed Alcohol Programs, Injectable suboxone)

Community Report Identified Contributor #4: High employment in industry and the trades

Recommendations:

- 1) Work with industry, trades, and union partners to educate staff about the risks of substance use including those outside of the Campbell River community.
- 2) Identify and recruit peer support workers with industry/trades experience to support person within the workplace/industry
- 3) Improve rehabilitation support services and awareness of to local and regional employers.
- 4) Encourage the development of proactive health and wellness policies in industry, as opposed to policies responsive only to injury or illness.
- 5) Improve education about trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, especially in regard to workplace injuries.
- 6) Lobby provincially and/or federally for the use of EI funds during medical leaves (up to 52 weeks). Lobby WorkSafe BC to increase compensation for injured workers.
- 8) Increase availability of chronic pain management programs and services

Community Report Identified Contributor #5: Lack of cohesion in the system

Recommendations:

- 1) Embed Patient Navigator positions in each of the major medical & legal systems.
- 2) Create a one-page guide to local systems navigation, catered to different user groups and treatment pathways.
- 3) Develop mechanisms for early intervention/identification outside of primary care setting (ie Emergency Department).
- 4) Ensure coordination between coalitions and collaboratives. Ensure that leadership from the CAT connects with the Strathcona Community Health Network Table of Partners, Divisions of Family Practice, the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness, etc.

Community Report Identified Contributor #6: Substance use and misuse in response to trauma

Recommendations:

- 1) Raise community awareness about the definition and impacts of trauma.
- 2) Provide opportunities to participate in trauma-informed practice training, paying special attention to the participation of men and non-Indigenous peoples.
- 3) Continue to advocate for culturally safe and culturally competent approaches when working with Indigenous communities. Partner with FNHA and respond to Indigenous communities based on the data collected by FNHA.