

Funding Available

A call for community dialogues

An increase of opioid overdose deaths in British Columbia led to the declaration of a public health emergency. **Building trust and respect among all citizens** is a necessary first step on the path to positive change. Without a foundation of trust and respect, initiatives aimed at addressing the crisis will not be successful, despite the best intentions of leaders and concerned citizens.

Community dialogue involves two-way conversations where people not only speak to one another but really listen as well. It is fundamentally different from other common ways of engaging such as debate or discussion. In dialogue, the intent is to leave the conversation with a better understanding of each other. Dialogue offers everyone a chance to share and learn from others' views and experiences. Dialogue can shift a community's consciousness from anger and blame to compassion and openness. It can help build bridges between people who have opposing views or have never had a chance to meet and talk before. It reminds us that **we're all in this together** so we can make better decisions when we do take action.

Dialogue nurtures community wisdom. It is not enough to provide people with information. While being informed is a piece to the puzzle, it is not the same as being wise, and it is not the focus of this project. The focus of this project is to build understanding – the type of understanding that creates capacity among community members. This new understanding creates new possibilities that in turn strengthen our response to the opioid crisis. In order to accomplish this, community members must have opportunities to interact with each other about complex issues. **Real dialogue is egalitarian in nature.**

For more about dialogue, see [Opioid Dialogues](#)

The funding is provided by the BC Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and administered by the University of Victoria's Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) to support community dialogues in response to the opioid overdose crisis in British Columbia. **Coalitions** from First Nations and other communities in every region of the province are invited to submit a letter of interest. **Grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000** will be awarded to assist in facilitating real community dialogue.

Please send your application to Nicole Bodner pankratz@uvic.ca.



University
of Victoria

Canadian Institute for
Substance Use Research

Opioid Dialogues

Community Application Form

(**Note:** you may need to open this PDF in a viewer such as [Adobe Acrobat](#), as opposed to your web browser, in order to fill out the application form.)

Please review the provided [resources](#) prior to filling out this form.

Coalition name:	
Location:	
Host organization: (Receives, manages and reports on any funding awarded)	
Contact information:	
Date:	

1. Tell us about how your coalition works together. Please include partners from health and public safety sectors as well as people with lived experience. Representation from social services; child, youth and family; education; faith communities; and local businesses is encouraged (max. 300 words).



2. Dialogue is about creating connection between community members who might not see eye to eye. What misunderstandings are causing friction and leading to divides that get in the way of helpful responses to the opioid crisis in your community? (max. 300 words)



3. How might you bring people who disagree with one another together in ways that promote listening? To get your thinking started, see [10 Common Tools for Dialogue](#). (max. 250 words)

4. Change occurs over time. Ongoing positive interactions can create new possibilities that did not seem to exist before. Dialogue is a part of that process. It might or might not lead to huge shifts, but ongoing conversations can help erode obstacles to creating meaningful community partnerships. Tell us what you **imagine** success might look like in this project? (max. 250 words)

