

# Developing Partnerships



## Describe any partnership gaps with your CAT and how you could improve!

- Relationship **with the RCMP** – seems to be working well in other CATs and may be an opportunity.
- Being able to bring in people who are **actively using**.
- There are a lot of people engaged through strategies like mailing lists, but **deeper engagement** like coming to meetings, can be more challenging.
- There are pros and cons to virtual vs in person meetings, and may be potential through **hybrid meetings**, though these can also be challenging. Meeting in person is challenging without funding to support.
- **Grad students** can be great assets for moving work forward
- There are so many overlaps between people who use substances, with homelessness, mental health, and other systems – there can be **different groups for different discussions**. There are **political conversations** to be had, as well as a need for ‘underground’ conversations to generate and push forward an agenda to then influence policy.

### Gaps:

- **Peers** – word of mouth; in-person meetings, honorarium.
- **Service providers** – seconded due to covid.
- **City – involved but don’t sit at table**
- **First responders**
  
- Peer engagement (peer is an individual with life experience with addictions - all addictions on all levels) – **lead into employment**.
- Peers engaging with the public, **reduces stigma**.
- Strong need for harm reduction. **Peers working in harm reduction**. Operate farmers market booth. All have naloxone training and train the trainer training.
- Pilot project from Fraser Health, remove naloxone program, peer based with peer speakers
- **Peers know what other peers want**.
  
- Gaps: **Creating committees** – fair number of people join but need more outreach to get more participation – sometimes **people only show up but do not do much**.
- Create **working groups** to be a subcommittee
- Langley has a lot of peer involvement – basically peer based – been around since 2016 – come a long way – 9 peers involved – police fire ambulance doctors & businesses show up, work with lookout – doing a survey, rigg riders, pickup needles, IOAD event, want to be able to operate their team on their own – want to do more community engagement and teaching, work with many other organizations – rigg riders doesn’t pay minimum wage, have a lot of barriers with the municipality (police & bylaw) - they go overboard – stigma is turning into hate crime, overwhelming barrier
- Trail needs more funding – not a funded CAT – need **more involvement with RCMP, First Responders & IH**
  
- Gaps – small community – inconsistent ‘showing up’ - get better at sending zoom links – create better **consistency with attendance and participation** – how do we fix that? Creating event? - 10% who show up and do the work.
- **Defining roles at the CAT** might help - small community and folks have dual roles/organizations - which hat are they wearing?

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- **Individually connect** with folks – reach out and meet
- **Connection not just content** is helpful – **create tasks for the worker bees**
- Surrey/White Rock – Semiahoo First Nations
  
- Gap of not knowing what the gaps are – **not being fully informed, suggestion of more information in public spaces** rather than just email chains (harder to access with limited technology etc), make meeting recaps more accessible to peers to keep in the loop (Comox Valley CAT peers)
- **Municipal leaders, council members** – people who can make the changes and help gather community support – if they were there the community would likely follow along and be more open (Langely CAT rep)
- Semiamoo First Nations – struggled to have representation on our CAT from the First Nations although having a few Indigenous peers but want to **build better connections with Semiamoo First Nations** (South Surrey/Whiterock CAT rep)
- **Gap/lack of peer involvement (especially people using alone) getting a grant to start a peer support network** and hire a peer coordinator has made such a difference. She has lead.
- Gap of connection, **working relationship with RCMP** (Comox Valley CAT)