

Summary of NFTF Regional Work in 2022-2023:

Nelson Fentanyl Task Force

Castlegar Fentanyl Opioid Working Group

Grand Forks Community Action Team

Nelson Fentanyl Task Force (NFTF) regional work has continued into 2023. We keep moving forward with a vision of a compassionate, humanitarian, and healthcare-based response to the toxic drug crisis. We have 330 members in our three community action team groups. We look at improving overdose response, reducing deaths, provision of education, reducing stigma, reducing racism, and collaborating across agencies. Funds also support delivery of frontline services at ANKORS in Nelson and throughout the region.

Our funding comes from Community Action Initiative (CAI), the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA), and the Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC).

Regular Monthly Meetings:

Ongoing meetings for Nelson, Castlegar, and Grand Forks communities with stakeholders from many areas who are involved in responding to the toxic drug crisis. We work to create space for the peer voice to be valued and included as we work to transform healthcare. A focus on sharing new services and establishing supportive relationships, based on best practices for response.

Media:

Ongoing media submissions to educate and to ensure people can find out about events and attend. Work to have media attend events when needed.

Education:

Distribution of educational information based on reports coming from the Legislature and other qualified sources, like the newest studies on the efficacy of safe supply. Ongoing distribution of IH Drug Alerts to all group members and local news media.

Ongoing Quality Council Events:

Support participation in Quality Council events for group members. REDUN and ANKORS are representing regarding their work at these CAT Knowledge Exchange events.

June 2022: Compassion in Action Community Conference

Our Compassion in Action Community Conference happened in Grand Forks in June 24th, and June 25th, 2022 to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and bring education there. 85 people attended for each day of the two-day event. Community support from Doukhobor community including members of the Doukhobor Choir and community leaders. Support from local Indigenous

community through the BANAC group. Speakers included Leslie McBain. Many REDUN attendees. This was collaboration with the BC Centre on Substance Use.

August 2022: International Overdose Awareness Day

Collaborative work with REDUN, COINS, Freedom Quest, and others for International Overdose Awareness Day in Nelson at Cottonwood Falls in August 2022. We had about 70 attendees. Support by an Indigenous Elder. Educational booths for people to learn about local resources. In Castlegar the day was marked as part of the ongoing booth educations that happen there at the farmer's market.

October 2022: Getting to Tomorrow -Nelson Community Conference Event

The Getting to Tomorrow Nelson event was over two days in October 2022 with the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition. On October 17th and October 19th, 2022, we had about 80 people each day, with many REDUN attendees, and community members. Presentations at the conference from Donald Macpherson and others at CDPC about human rights, and a presentation from REDUN. There is a report that we will be releasing with CDPC in the Fall to share the feedback from attendees at the conference about the gaps in care and needs in the community and the greater region.

April 2023 - REDUN Tara Taylor Training

Arrange and support an educational training for REDUN with Tara Taylor on human rights and wellness. Online event.

May 2023: Education Booths: Harm Reduction Expanded

Booth educational work has expanded from Castlegar to Grand Forks this year. There are regular booths at the market in Castlegar, and in front of Pharmasave in Grand Forks. Workers and local REDUN and HOPE members, provide naloxone, education, and share resources.

May 2023: Aubrey's Run- Nelson, Winlaw, Castlegar, Grand Forks:

Support for the provincial launch in Nelson at Lakeside Park of Aubrey's Run across BC by Jessica Michalofsky. This was done in honor of local Aubrey who died last year. We also organized and supported events in Winlaw, Castlegar, and Grand Forks. We had the support of local Indigenous Elders at each event, and the commitment of NTFTF involved folks, including ANKORS and Moms Stop the Harm Members and others, to support this work and provide education.

June 2023: Tara Taylor Workshop Event: Collective Community Wellness

Tara Taylor workshop event in June, with 60 attendees. Tara is a well know social justice advocate, Chair of the Overdose Prevention Society, and an experience harm reductionist. The workshop was to support workers as they work in harm reduction and social justice. Attendees were supported by an Indigenous Elder.