

**THE ONTARIO  
ABORIGINAL  
HIV/AIDS STRATEGY  
ABORIGINAL IDU  
PROGRAM**



# WHAT DOES HARM REDUCTION MEAN FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE?

HARM REDUCTION (HR) IN THE NATIVE COMMUNITY IS A CREATIVE APPROACH AND PRACTICE THAT STRIVES TO PRESERVE OUR PEOPLE AND CULTURES BY ENCOURAGING AND MAINTAINING BALANCE. HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES WORK TOWARD REDUCING HARM AND RISK IN THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANCE USE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES.



# ABORIGINAL IDU PROGRAM



- THE ABORIGINAL IDU PROGRAM IS A GRASSROOTS PROGRAM, BORN FROM THE PHILOSOPHY OF HARM REDUCTION. AS ABORIGINAL IDU'S ARE AT A HIGH RISK FOR HIV INFECTION, Oahas TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM THAT WOULD HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HIV AMONG ABORIGINAL IDU'S, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY. IT IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF A KIND AND A TRAIL BLAZER FOR ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BENEFITS OF HARM REDUCTION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
- THE ABORIGINAL IDU PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE HARM REDUCTION EQUIPMENT AND OFFER SUPPORT TO SUBSTANCE USERS IN A NON-JUDGMENTAL WAY THAT REFLECTS THE ESSENTIALS OF HARM REDUCTION PHILOSOPHY AS WELL AS INCORPORATE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF LOVE, RESPECT, HONESTY, BRAVERY, HUMILITY, WISDOM & TRUTH.

- STREET OUTREACH BEGAN IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO IN THE FALL/WINTER OF 2008, WITH ONE PEER AND ONE STAFF MEMBER.
- OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF ABORIGINAL IDU PROGRAM BEGAN APRIL OF 2009.
- THE IDU PROGRAM RUNS ON THE STRENGTH OF PEERS AND SUPPORT FROM OAHAS STAFF.
- THE IDU PROGRAM HAS A CONTRACT WITH TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH (TPH) TO PROVIDE HARM REDUCTION EQUIPMENT AND TO MAINTAIN AND SUBMIT OUTREACH DATA.

- WE HAVE 9 ACTIVE PEERS AND DO OUTREACH 4 NIGHTS A WEEK FOR 3 HOURS PER SHIFT.
- WE ARE OUT APPROXIMATELY 52 WEEKS OUT OF THE YEAR.
- WE'RE CURRENTLY OUT MONDAY EVENINGS AT THE 519 COMMUNITY CENTRE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRANS MEAL PROGRAM, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS DOWNTOWN TORONTO, AND FRIDAY NIGHTS IN SOUTHWEST SCARBOROUGH.
- MONDAY NIGHT OUTREACH IS PROVIDED INDOORS AT THE 519 WITH A WALK ABOUT TO THE PARK LOCATED DIRECTLY BESIDE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AS WELL AS SURROUNDING AREA.
- EVERY OUTREACH NIGHT'S TRANSPORTATION IS BY MOCCASIN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FRIDAY NIGHT AS OUTREACH IS DONE BY VAN.
- WE CAN GIVE OUT APPROXIMATELY 75 TO 100 HARM REDUCTION KITS WEEKLY.

# OAHAS ABORIGINAL IDU PEERS

- PEERS ARE OF ABORIGINAL DESCENT AND ARE SUBSTANCE USERS/EX-USERS.
- PARTICIPATE IN ONGOING TRAINING SESSIONS AT THE AGENCY AND OUTSIDE OF THE AGENCY;
- ASSEMBLE HARM REDUCTION KITS;
- CARRY A OAHAS PEER OUTREACH IDENTIFICATION CARD;
- PROVIDE HARM REDUCTION EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY; HARM REDUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE: CONDOMS, SAFE INJECTION KITS (NEEDLE KITS) AND SAFE INHALATION KITS (CRACK KITS);
- PROVIDE HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES, EDUCATION AND REFERRALS IN A NON-JUDGMENTAL WAY TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING STREET OUTREACH;
- KEEP RECORDS (STATISTICS) ABOUT SERVICES PROVIDED DURING STREET OUTREACH;
- SHARE UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT DRUG USE ISSUES OR TRENDS WITHIN THE CITY WITH THE IDU COORDINATOR;
- ATTEND MONTHLY PEER TEAM MEETINGS WITH THE IDU COORDINATOR;
- PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH IDU COORDINATOR;

# INSIDE OUR HARM REDUCTION KITS

## SAFE SMOKING KIT CONTAINS:

- TWO STEMS
- TWO PUSH STICKS
- TWO PLASTIC STEM MOUTH PIECE
- BRASS SCREENS
- CONDOMS & LUBE
- ALCOHOL WIPES
- MATCHES
- Oahas LIP BALM

## SAFE INJECTION KITS CONTAINS:

- 5 SYRINGES
- 5 WATERS
- 5 VITAMIN C PACKETS
- 5 COOKERS
- 5 TIES
- ALCOHOL SWABS
- MATCHES
- FILTERS
- CONDOMS & LUBE



# OUTREACH





# CONTACT INFO

THE ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

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