

HARM REDUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

HARM REDUCTION INSIDE THE CORPORATION:

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH (TPH)

The Works: The Works is a harm reduction program that provides direct individual client support and services to drug users and sex trade workers. The program has been in existence since 1989 and has very specific harm reduction goals and objectives. Its primary mandate is to prevent the spread of communicable disease in drug users and sex trade workers within the City of Toronto. Services currently being provided through The Works include needle exchange services, a low threshold methadone maintenance program, condom distribution, counselling, referrals, education/information provision, testing for Hepatitis B, C, syphilis and HIV and Hepatitis B and flu vaccines. The program's multi-faceted approach includes street outreach, peer programs, as well as expanded services through partnership and contracts with various community partners and agencies (including community centres, community health centres, drop-in centres, hospitals, etc.).

AIDS Prevention Grants: The AIDS Prevention Grants (established in 1987) to support community groups provide targeted AIDS prevention and education activities. Specific goals of the grants program include decreasing behaviours that put people at risk for HIV infection; enhancing access to HIV/STD prevention and sexual health promotion messages and addressing various social and economic factors such as race, sexual orientation, culture, gender, discrimination, poverty, language skills, age, physical or mental ability, and seropositivity.

In 2002/2003, \$1,242,464.00 was granted to 50 AIDS prevention projects, seven of which were identified as specifically involving harm reduction activities. A total of \$190,642 was allocated to the seven groups to carry out outreach, training, education, as well as needle exchange activities. In particular, two projects were funded to provide specific, targeted harm reduction strategies for injection drug users. These include:

Central Toronto Community Health Centres (2002A-1-I): The Queen West HIV/AIDS Harm Reduction Production project received funding to recruit, train and support staff; carry out outreach activities; provide HIV/AIDS harm reduction outreach booths and/or clinics; provide drop-in support; and provide training for service providers.

South Riverdale Community Health Centre (2002A-2-I): The Counterfit Harm Reduction Program received funding to hire, train, and support project staff and peer workers; carry out outreach activities; and provide needle exchange and referral services.

These activities, funded under the City of Toronto AIDS Prevention Grants complement rather than duplicate, other City outreach activities. In addition, all activities directly target injection drug use behaviours that put people at risk for HIV.

Five (5) other projects -- totalling \$127,993 -- are also funded by the AIDS Prevention Grants to incorporate HIV harm reduction strategies into their HIV/AIDS education prevention activities. Three

of the projects cross target groups and/or reach other populations. These projects provide activities to reach more than one target population and may also focus on more than one theme. Two of the projects that have harm reduction strategies integrated into their funded activities specifically target youth in high need/geographic areas, street youth, low-income youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered youth, substance users, sex trade workers, institutionalized and special needs youth. Details on these five projects are as follows:

Central Toronto Community Health Centres (Sponsor) (2002A-45-Y): The TRIP (Toronto Raver Info Project) project received funding to recruit, train, and support project staff and volunteers; and outreach to the youth raver community.

Parkdale Community Health Centre (2002A-24-O): The Centre received funding to recruit, train and support project staff and peer workers; carry out HIV/AIDS prevention community outreach; support an on-site drop-in; and provide community HIV/AIDS awareness workshops.

Street Health Community Nursing (2002A-28-O): The Building Relationships, Creating Community HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Dundas/Sherbourne Area: The Venus Team received funding to hire project staff; carry out outreach; conduct participant focus groups; deliver harm reduction/prevention workshops and presentations; and continue the needle distribution program.

Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood & Family Centre (2002A-64-Y): The Centre received funding to hire project staff; provide HIV/AIDS prevention workshops to youth; conduct a community awareness event; and outreach to sex trade workers and injection drug users.

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre/Harm Reduction Project (2002A-31-O): The Toronto West Presbytery Corporation of the United Church of Canada, Trustee for Weston King Neighbourhood Centre received funding to hire an outreach worker; conduct community HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention workshops; and carry out community outreach.

Drug Prevention Grants (DPG): The Drug Prevention Grants Program (established in 1990 by the former Toronto City Council) is primarily aimed at building community capacity for local drug prevention initiatives. The program is integrated as a component of TPH's Injury Prevention/Substance Abuse Program and it funds many community-based groups across the City to carry out drug prevention work. The focus of the grants is on building individual and community capacity, strengthening community linkages, providing access to information, and increasing opportunities, particularly for youth. In 2002, a total of \$661,460 was awarded to 56 community groups to carry out drug prevention projects.

The grants primarily focus on illicit drugs although they also address other drug use (e.g. solvent use). The current mandate of the grants does not include projects that address alcohol. In 2002, however, a pilot project was launched to examine the feasibility of incorporating alcohol into the funded projects as alcohol poses significantly larger costs and harms to communities than do illicit drugs. One-time funding from the Ontario Works (OW) Incentive Fund program was obtained to provide additional funding to five existing grant recipients to incorporate alcohol use/abuse programming into their funded activities. Upon completion, the pilot will be evaluated in order to establish whether this is a possible future direction for the grants.

Generally, the DPG-funded groups carry out a range of prevention and harm reduction strategies targeted at priority populations such as at-risk youth (e.g. newcomer youth, street youth, and isolated

young women). Other target groups have included parents as well as members of the wider community. Strategies used in the projects include awareness-raising, education and skill-building to enhance personal, social, and life skills (e.g. problem solving, conflict resolution, leadership training, and job readiness). Groups are funded to carry out drug prevention activities such as workshops and presentations, train-the-trainer activities, drop-ins, recreation programs, theatre, and fine art classes, among other activities. The focus of many funded projects has been on enhancing protective factors and building resiliency to prevent drug use/abuse.

All activities funded under the DPG program meet the broad goal of reducing drug-related harm to individuals and communities. Only a few of the funded groups, however, can be considered to either be harm reduction groups or be using harm reduction strategies. In 2002, there were a total of six (6) harm reduction groups which were funded for a total of \$127,049. However, DPG funds may not necessarily have been used to fund the harm reduction strategies of these groups. The groups include:

Central Toronto Community Health Centres (DPG 02-079): The Toronto Raver Info Project (TRIP) received funding to hire, train, and support staff and youth volunteers; provide harm reduction information; outreach to raver community; conduct educational forums and workshops (including train the trainer); provide a drop-in program; and support harm reduction coalitions.

Elizabeth Fry Society Of Toronto (DPG 02-075): Thelma and Louize Harm Reduction Group project received funding to provide peer support to clients; provide health awareness and education; provide other essential materials and services (e.g. referrals); and provide counselling and supports.

Fred Victor Centre (DPG 02-052): Harm Reduction Peer Initiatives project received funding to work with client groups to hire staff, carry out focus groups, provide information and referrals, run peer facilitated harm reduction groups, and coordinate a community harm reduction health fair.

Jane/Finch Street Involved Youth Issues Coalition (DPG 02-090): Jane/Finch Street Involved Youth Project received funding to hire and support staff and peer youth; provide drug prevention / harm reduction information and supports; develop outreach resources; carry out outreach; and participate in coalitions, forums and other relevant activities.

Street Health (DPG02-029): Building Relationships, Creating Community received funding to hire staff; outreach to community; provide harm reduction workshops; support, promote and create needle distribution centres through partners, support advocacy initiatives, and host a focus group.

Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force (DPG 02-091): The Peers on Peer Work Manual project received funding to hire staff, recruit peer youth, develop, distribute, and evaluate a manual on peer work, carry out outreach to drug-using community, conduct 4 community focus groups, and provide skill development for peers.

In addition to the above groups, fifty other groups were funded in 2002 through the DPG program. As mentioned earlier, however, those groups were funded to do general drug prevention work and they did not utilize harm reduction strategies that specifically target drug users.

Drug Treatment Courts: The Drug Treatment Courts (DTC) program focuses on community capacity building and treatment as an alternative to punishment and incarceration in dealing with drug offenders. The program targets non-violent drug offenders and uses a comprehensive approach to reduce the number of re-offenders, provide alternatives to incarceration, and encourage participants to remain drug-

free. TPH has served as a consultant in the development and implementation of this program and continues to be actively involved in a number of capacities. Preliminary data on the program, as reported in the 2002 Report on Drug Use in Toronto, indicates that the re-arrest rates for program graduates are significantly reduced as compared with those not completing program (63% vs. 13%).

TPH's Sexual Health Program: Using a risk reduction / harm reduction philosophy and approach, this program seeks to manage the risks to individuals and communities associated with various sexual practices. The program uses a variety of harm reduction strategies related to safer sex practices including education, counselling, condom distribution, and information provision. For example, a number of sexual health clinics are offered through the program. As well, Sexual Health Educators provide workshops on a number of harm reduction related issues to staff from various community agencies who work with specific target groups such as injection drug users, the homeless, as well as other at risk groups. These workshops are offered at various locations including rehabilitation centres, detoxes, correctional settings, and in youth offender settings. Other services include facilitating access to the AIDS & Sexual Health Information Line (through the Ontario Ministry of Health). This is a province-wide hotline that provides free anonymous services related to AIDS and sexual health issues. The mainline deals with questions and issues such as injection drug use, needle exchange programs, and general harm reduction issues.

Injury Prevention/Substance Abuse Prevention Program (IP/SAP) activities: The IP/SAP program uses a harm reduction approach in dealing with harms related to alcohol and other drug use. Specific harm reduction strategies are used in programs such as in the Safer Graduation - Party In The Right Spirit and the In the Driver's Seat programs. These programs work with Toronto secondary school students to prevent injuries, deaths, and other harms (e.g. excessive drinking, impaired driving, and violence) specifically related to alcohol and other drug use. Strategies used include peer education, knowledge/skill building, awareness-raising, and building supports in order to reduce the harms associated with drug use. Other IP/SAP activities using harm reduction strategies include the Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) and the Low Risk Drinking Guidelines (LRDG). These population-level strategies focus on preventing alcohol abuse and reducing the harms related to alcohol use.

Toronto Ravers Information Project Raves (TRIP)/ Toronto Dance Safety Committee: In the past, TRIP has received funding from both the Drug Prevention Grants program as well as the AIDS Prevention Program to carry out various outreach, education, and support activities targeted at the rave community. This group later formalized into the Toronto Dance Safety Committee which is a committee that is made up of City Council members, representatives from various City departments, as well as various other individuals and groups. This committee was responsible for the development of a Protocol for Safe Operation of a Rave, which was adopted by City Council in December 1999. As well, the committee was involved in the development of a drug Over Dose card as a harm reduction tool in response to drug-related overdoses. TPH was actively involved in this work and funded the cards.

Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force: TPH is also an active member of this taskforce which is made up of a group of individuals, organizations, and community groups that are working to reduce the harms related to drugs and alcohol use in Toronto. Among its activities, the group has also organized and held various information sessions related to drug use. This group has, in the past, received funding from the Drug Prevention Grants.

Toronto Drug Awareness Coalition: TPH is a member of this coalition, which is made up of various individuals and groups. The Coalition is responsible for the annual Drug Awareness Week. Other activities of the group include organizing discussion forums targeted at educating professionals as well

as community members on drugs and related issues. Drug Prevention Grants funding has been given to this group in the past.

Research Group on Drug Use (RGDU): This group is a network of many individuals representing groups such as TPH, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, various service providers, government departments, educational institutions, hospitals, as well as the Office of the Chief Coroner. The group has been around for 13 years and it has strong ties with many individuals and groups who work in the drug prevention field. Its activities include monitoring and reporting on data and research on drug use in the City. This work includes the monthly Fax on Drugs and the annual Drug Use in Toronto report. The group also co-ordinates various drug prevention efforts locally and nationally and it carries out special projects from time to time.

Homeless Health Reference Group: This group was formed after the release of the Mayor's Action Taskforce on Homelessness report in January 1999 which directed TPH to lead a group of community agencies and homeless groups with the aim of addressing the health needs of the homeless population. The group included individuals representing various organizations and City divisions including CAMH, Toronto District Health Council, Shelter Housing and Support, the Ministry of Health, homeless groups, and representatives from hospitals, Community Care Access Centres, and Community Health Centres, among others. Specific workgroups carried out planning to improve access to services and to improve health outcomes for homeless people. The work of these workgroups was focussed around implementing specific actions related to improving discharge planning, initiating infirmary services, and expanding harm reduction options. The Harm Reduction Facilities Working Group arose out of the efforts of this group.

2. SHELTER, HOUSING AND SUPPORT DIVISION (SHS)

This Division is responsible for providing shelter and supports for homeless individuals and families as well as for working to create longer-term affordable housing solutions for all. In meeting this mandate, the Division carries out many activities that address various community concerns and needs related to shelter and housing. This includes addressing substance use and harm reduction issues. Programs include:

Seaton House: The Seaton House Annex Harm Reduction provides shelter to men requiring high support with substance abuse and/or serious mental health issues. The Annex program accommodates residents who often are unable to function in a traditional hostel and would choose to stay outside if a harm reduction program were not available. Seaton House also provides programming for men with addiction issues involving crack cocaine. The program is premised on a risk reduction model to enable men with crack cocaine addiction issues and associated behaviours to be able to use the shelter system.

Dixon Hall – School House Program: Dixon Hall provides a 55-bed program for adult men. Residents of the program are permitted, within certain rules, to consume beer while part of the program.

Women's Residence – Lounge Program: Women's Residence provides a 15-bed program to women with serious mental health and substance use issues. The program provides shelter service with flexible rules and does not prohibit admission due to substance use. Additionally, the program provides health care, case management and life skills development.

Multi-Year Shelter Strategy: The Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force recommended shelter development be focussed on a number of key areas including harm reduction. The Multi-Year Shelter

Strategy developed in June 2002 identified the need to expand shelter capacity in four key areas including harm reduction, prevention, transitional shelters, and specialized programs for high-risk groups. The Multi-year Strategy recognizes that a continuum of shelter services ranging from basic emergency shelters to shelter beds with specialized programs, including harm reduction, is critical to assist people to leave the street or shelter.

New Shelter Standards: Shelter Standards provide shelter operators and residents with a clear set of expectations and guidelines for the provision of shelter beds and services in Toronto. All emergency and transitional shelters, funded or directly operated by the City of Toronto are required to adhere to the Shelter Standards.

The Shelter Standards include a number of new sections such as substance use, counselling supports, service restrictions etc. The substance use section in the new Shelter Standards requires:

With the exception of abstinence-based shelters, admission and discharge decisions cannot be based upon substance use alone but should be based on behaviour. Shelter operators must be open about their admission and discharge policies to ensure residents and other service providers understand the basis on which people may be allowed or denied access to a shelter if they are under the influence of a substance.

Shelters operating on an abstinence model must identify how abstinence is defined within their program and have City approval to operate an abstinence-based facility. When a shelter cannot accommodate a resident under the influence of a substance, a referral to another shelter must be made. Referral agreements with shelters that can accommodate people using substances will be established and will include the following elements:

- A list of shelters with whom referral agreements are in place
- A process for contacting the receiving shelter to ensure the resident can be accommodated
- A process for providing support to the resident to help them reach their destination
- A process for follow-up with the receiving shelter to ensure the resident has arrived

The Shelter, Housing and Support Division also has a Support Initiatives Unit which is involved in supporting community-based housing and homelessness initiatives, largely through managing the City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund (CT-HIF) and the Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI) grants programs. Brief descriptions of these grants follow below.

City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund (CT-HIF): The CT-HIF is a City of Toronto grants program that provides funding to community groups for on-going, longer-term projects that focus on alleviating homelessness and on preventing vulnerable groups from becoming homeless. Funding for this program is provided by both the City and the Province. Funded activities include drop in services, information provision, housing help, outreach, and eviction prevention.

Recently funded programs related to harm-reduction include:

Eva's Initiatives Harm Reduction Project that, in collaboration with Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and other service providers, works with homeless youth to reduce harms related to substance use.

Fred Victor Centre Harm Reduction Project that develops and implements harm reduction service models for substance users in Fred Victor Centre's programs. Services for homeless substance users

include assistance in accessing and maintaining shelter or housing, assistance with substance use issues and referrals to other resources.

All Saints' Church Community Centre Harm Reduction Project. This project which ended in Dec 2002 provided assistance to the Dundas/Sherbourne area through the development of community based harm reduction initiatives with local residents, homeless people, tenants groups, direct service agencies, residents' associations, and other stakeholders.

Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives (SCPI): This federally-funded initiative, introduced by the federal government in 1999 is aimed at preventing and alleviating homelessness. In 2000, Toronto City Council approved a Community Plan for Homelessness in Toronto and among the strategies adopted were implementing comprehensive homeless health strategy and shifting the focus from emergency responses to prevention. SCPI funded project that can be considered "harm reduction" projects include:

United Way of Greater Toronto: Harm Reduction Research Project: This action research project provides learning and evaluation supports and opportunities for information exchange and networking among agencies that provide harm reduction services. A research report will document the learnings, effective practices and challenges involved in incorporating harm reduction strategies into agency programs and services.

Research Project: Harm Reduction Models for People Who Are Homeless: The purpose of this research project is to identify appropriate harm reduction service model(s) and/or model components, based on best practices in Toronto and other jurisdictions, to address the needs of single adults and youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to identify the range of resources and criteria required to fund and operate these services. The research is currently underway and should be completed by summer 2003.

Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force: The Next Stage: This project provides information, education and training to frontline workers and other service providers working with substance users who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Primary activities include monthly frontline workers meetings, a speakers series, an annual forum, development of an information and resource bank, and production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter.

3. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

This Division is responsible for responding to various community social needs. This includes identifying these needs (e.g. through researching and analyzing social trends), supporting communities to address these needs, carrying out social planning, and developing various social policy responses. In particular, the Community Resources Unit under this Division is responsible for providing support to community-based social service groups. It does so by providing a number of community grants in addition to various in-kind supports. This Division also provides staff support for various City initiatives such as the Community Safety Taskforce. Although many of these initiatives do not directly involve harm reduction strategies, they do support broader community harm reduction initiatives.

The Division funds community groups to address various community needs in order to enhance the quality of life of individuals in these communities and to minimize the harmful effects of certain life circumstances. As such, although it funds projects that may meet the broad goal of harm reduction, these grants are not currently funding projects that use specific harm strategies. These grants include

the Breaking the Cycle of Violence Grants and the Community Services Grants Program which are highlighted below:

Breaking the Cycle of Violence Grants (BTCV): The BTCV grants program provides 1-2 yr. project funding to community-based groups to increase their capacity to develop appropriate and responsive safety and violence prevention projects in their communities. Grant activities are targeted at increasing safety and preventing violence, particularly for groups such as abused women and their children, youth, people with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable groups such as immigrants, refugees, gays, and lesbians. Activities and strategies funded under the program include education, outreach, training, and support services. In 2002, a total of \$669,820 was granted to 56 community-based projects.

Community Services Grants Program (CSGP): This grants program funds community-based organizations for programs that facilitate access to services for marginalized, vulnerable, and high-risk communities. Funding is granted to projects that clearly identify a social service need in a community, that are focused on achieving attainable, measurable social outcomes related to these needs, and that use capacity building approaches to maximize program effectiveness. In 2002, a total of \$9,630,624 was allocated to 446 programs in 248 organizations.

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE (TPS)

TPS is involved in various drug prevention and enforcement activities - particularly related to responsive and pre-emptive enforcement. In addition, TPS is involved in community outreach in order to develop pro-active strategies to address illicit drugs and other issues such as gangs and firearm use. The Service also carries out drug prevention activities including the delivery of over 100 drug prevention (education) lectures a year to community groups, professionals, and business groups. TPS School Liaison Officers are involved with drug education in the schools (e.g. delivering curriculum-based programs such as the elementary school safety program or the Five Core curriculum). At the grade six level School Liaison Officers deliver the Youth, Drugs and the Law lesson. A full-time Liaison Officer is also attached to support the Drug Treatment Courts Program. TPS also collaborates with many groups including other enforcement bodies (e.g. RCMP) and they are involved in numerous committees and coalitions related to drug prevention (e.g. the Research Group on Drug Use and the Board of Health Sub-Committee on Substance Abuse). Finally, TPS is in the process of developing its own drug strategy.

Other Corporate Initiatives: Various other groups and bodies within the City are also involved in addressing various community safety related issues (including drug issues). Again, although these groups may not specifically use harm reduction strategies targeted at drug users, they are often involved in more general prevention and community safety activities. Examples of these include the TaskForce on Community Safety, which was established by City Council in response to various concerns related to crime. The original mandate of this group was to develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan for the City of Toronto aimed at community based crime prevention. The Taskforce includes representation from various key stakeholder groups across the City. As part of its activities this group has carried out various consultations with the public and they have also developed a Community Safety Strategy for the city. Other City bodies that address various community needs include the Children and Youth Action Committee and the Toronto Youth Cabinet.

HARM REDUCTION OUTSIDE THE CORPORATION:

There are many individuals, groups, and bodies (including various levels of government) that are involved in delivering and/or supporting drug prevention and harm reduction activities across the City. These groups offer specific harm reduction services (e.g. needle exchanges) as well as other services such as counselling and referrals, education and skill-building, medical and dental services, legal services, employment services, housing support, and other practical supports and assistance. The groups are too numerous to list individually and as such only a few examples are highlighted below.

There are a number of Community Health Centres (CHCs), clinics, and hospital in Toronto that are involved in carrying out harm reduction work particularly related to drug use. In particular, CHCs offering harm reduction services include Lawrence Heights CHC, South Riverdale CHC, Parkdale CHC, Anishnabe Health Toronto, Queen West CHC and Shout Clinic. These centres plan and implement various harm reduction strategies targeting drug users including needle exchange services, condom distribution, outreach (e.g. street outreach workers and mobile vans), counselling services related safer drug use, education, as well as advocacy on behalf of drug users. CHCs also offer a variety of other services including primary care services and community health promotion and prevention programs. In addition to CHCs, there are a number of hospitals serving the Toronto area that use specific harm reduction strategies. These strategies are often targeted at specific individuals and groups (e.g. homeless individuals, pre-natal drug users, etc.). Some hospitals, for example, offer needle exchanges (e.g. St. Michael's Hospital and North York General Hospital Substance Abuse Program) while others might offer other services such as detox services and other addictions related services (e.g. Toronto Western's Women's Own Withdrawal Management Centre and St. Joseph's Health Centre Withdrawal Management Services). In addition to providing these harm reduction services, hospitals are also often involved in the delivery of other services to people who are the recipients of harm reduction services from elsewhere.

There are also a number of community-based clinics (e.g. Hassle Free Clinic) as well as numerous treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the city that offer harm reduction services. These groups also offer other services such as assessment, treatment, addictions management, and counselling and crises support services. Among the more well known of these is the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) which is the leading institution in Ontario that is working on addictions and mental health issues. CAMH has been involved in harm reduction work for many years. In addition to providing specific drug prevention and harm reduction services, the Centre has developed numerous harm reduction related research papers and best advice documents – including a recent position in support of harm reduction strategies. CAMH is also affiliated with the FOCUS Resource Centre (FRC) which supports twenty two (22) FOCUS Community Projects that have been funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to prevent alcohol and other drug-related problems throughout Ontario. This Centre provides training, consultation, and information to the various FOCUS Community Projects. In addition to CAMH there are many other in-patient as well as outpatient addictions treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery centres throughout the City.

Finally, there are a large number of community-based agencies that are also involved in supporting and/or carrying out drug prevention and harm reduction work in various Toronto communities. Again, these groups work with various target groups such as drug users, homeless people, and at-risk youth. Harm reduction strategies are often one, among many strategies that are used by these groups in serving these target groups. Agencies provide a variety of services such as drop-in services, counselling, short-term shelter, education, information provision and other support services such as community legal services. For example, the YMCA's Youth Substance Abuse Program is a program that is aimed at

reducing the harms related to alcohol and drug use for street youth and at-risk youth 16-24 through outreach, counselling and education activities. Other community-based groups that have used harm reduction strategies include Street Outreach Services, Street Health Community Nursing Foundation, Youthlink, and the Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre. And supporting the work of these groups are many associations, networks, and coalitions that are involved in supporting harm reduction work or that carry out general health promotion and prevention work. These include the Hepatitis C Society, the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Committee of Toronto, the Canadian Harm Reduction Network, the International Harm Reduction Association, the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, and the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention.

Funding to support the work of many of the above-mentioned groups is derived from various sources. In addition to private funding sources, there are numerous grants programs and granting bodies at the municipal, provincial and federal levels that support community-based activities. For example, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funds and supports community-based groups to carry out HIV/AIDS related harm reduction programming that target specific groups such as people with HIV/AIDS as well as injection drug users. Health Canada has also provided funding and support for community-based harm reduction work related to Hepatitis C prevention. Other funding bodies supporting various community initiatives in Ontario include the United Way, which provides short-term project funding to various groups that address various priority social needs. These include initiatives that address abused women and their children, assisting newcomers to settle and integrate, addressing hunger and homelessness, and those that give young children a healthy start in life. Another initiative is the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) which offers a number of funding programs that are aimed at preventing and reducing crime by focussing on various factors (including drug abuse problems) that put people at risk of crime. In particular, these programs are aimed at supporting communities in building their capacities to address the root causes of crime. These agencies and bodies are among many that may either be funding specific harm reduction strategies in Toronto communities or they may be funding harm reduction groups to carry out various other programs and services.