



ENDING  
HOMELESSNESS  
TOGETHER

2024

*Acknowledging Truth and Working Towards Reconciliation*

Breakout sessions were thoughtfully curated and guided by the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, focusing on the interconnected aspects of the **heart, mind, body, and spirit**.

Capacity for each breakout session is limited and varies by room size. Sessions will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## THURSDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

» 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Choose 1 of 4

### HEART

#### ART AS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION RESEARCH TEAM: ART IN ACTION: YOUTH EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS THROUGH A HARM REDUCTION LENS

**Sponsored by:** Canadian Mental Health Association

**Led by:** Brianna Hunt (Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba), Sunday Queskekapow, Cheyenne Traverse, Jaydin Peters, Jody Martens

**Where:** Charleswood B

*This workshop presents findings from a literature search and environmental scan, revealing that few youth-serving organizations in Winnipeg are grounded in harm reduction practices, despite their proven effectiveness in reducing housing barriers for at-risk youth. Artwork from six harm-reduction-based workshops (April-June 2024), where youth with lived experiences of homelessness shared their perspectives on housing supports and harm reduction, will be showcased. Participants will receive a Zine featuring art and quotes from the workshops, highlighting youth voices in shaping future interventions. Initial findings on the role of ceremony and the potential of youth-focused harm reduction to prevent homelessness will also be shared.*

### MIND

#### FOCUSSING ON STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH A PEER LENS

##### [PART ONE]

**Led by:** David Stewart (Manager of Education and Training, Sara Riel)

**Where:** Assiniboia A

*Despite whether or not we have a diagnosable mental illness or struggle with an addiction, we all have mental health – sometimes good and sometimes not-so-good. When we can recognize and acknowledge our own struggles, our own weaknesses and vulnerabilities, we can begin to see ourselves as peers – Models of Living Hope – who have made it through dark times, and who can empathize and support family, friends, neighbours and our community-at-large. We can begin the process of tearing down walls between US and THEM, eradicating stigma and discrimination for those who continue to struggle.*



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*This interactive workshop is presented in two scaffolded sessions – morning and afternoon – designed to explore recovery from mental illness and addiction, while gaining tools to enhance mental wellness and help individuals reframe self-stigma. While each session holds valuable insights on its own, attending both provides the fullest benefit.*

## **BODY**

### **INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES FROM SEATTLE AND HOUSTON**

**Panel:** Melody Barr (Assistant Director, Public Services & Economic Development, City of Houston), Nawiishtunmi Nightgun (Chief Traditional Officer, Chief Seattle Club) and Derrick Belgarde (Executive Director, Chief Seattle Club)

**Hosted by:** Helen Robinson-Settee

**Where:** Assiniboia B

*This workshop will explore international success stories from Seattle and Houston, highlighting innovative approaches to addressing homelessness within Indigenous and marginalized communities. The Chief Seattle Club, a leading housing developer for Indigenous peoples, is working toward achieving functional zero in chronic homelessness by using culturally appropriate frameworks. Despite Indigenous populations representing less than 2% of Seattle's population, they have accounted for up to 32% of the city's chronic homelessness rate. Melody Barr will also share insights from Houston's successful homelessness initiatives. Learn how Winnipeg can draw inspiration from these successes to improve its own strategies in addressing homelessness and supporting Indigenous populations.*

## **SPIRIT**

### **ADDRESSING THE NEED BENEATH THE CHALLENGE: CREATING SPACES OF SAFETY & LOVE FOR YOUTH**

**Sponsored by:** Home Depot

**Led by:** Brandy Kowal (Registered Social Worker, Red Willow Connections Consulting and Wellness)

**Where:** Charleswood A

*Participants will explore how to shift focus from surface-level challenges faced by youth, especially those experiencing homelessness, to addressing their deeper needs for safety, connection, and identity. Through reflection, storytelling, and interactive activities, attendees will examine how their own actions and environments can foster safety for youth. Facilitators will present key insights on youth homelessness, redefine perceptions of challenges, and engage participants in a co-regulation activity to create a sense of safety. The session will conclude with practical strategies for supporting vulnerable youth in meaningful ways.*



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## THURSDAY AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

» 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Choose 1 of 4

### HEART

#### WHAT IS PEER ENGAGEMENT? WHY DO WE NEED IT?

**Sponsored by:** Johnston Group Inc.

**Led by:** Al Wiebe (Peer and Community Engagement Trainer, Of No Fixed Address)

**Where:** Charleswood A

*Peer engagement, a practice involving the integration of people with lived experience (PWLE) into organizations, is a growing movement. But what does it really mean? Is it something you fully embrace or is your philosophy, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." This thought-provoking, full-session presentation will dive into the heart of peer engagement. Al Wiebe, a nationally recognized peer engagement trainer with lived experience, will lead this session. With a deep understanding of both the benefits and challenges of bringing PWLE into organizational frameworks, Al will explore the methodologies and strategies necessary to build successful, sustainable peer engagement programs and engage PWLE into your organization.*

### MIND

#### FOCUSSING ON STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH A PEER LENS

##### [PART TWO]

**Led by:** David Stewart (Manager of Education and Training, Sara Riel)

**Where:** Assiniboia A

*Despite whether or not we have a diagnosable mental illness or struggle with an addiction, we all have mental health – sometimes good and sometimes not-so-good. When we can recognize and acknowledge our own struggles, our own weaknesses and vulnerabilities, we can begin to see ourselves as peers – Models of Living Hope – who have made it through dark times, and who can empathize and support family, friends, neighbours and our community-at-large. We can begin the process of tearing down walls between US and THEM, eradicating stigma and discrimination for those who continue to struggle.*

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## **BODY**

### **DATA WALK**

**Led by:** End Homelessness Winnipeg

**Where:** Charleswood B

*An interactive community experience that invites gathering attendees to engage in meaningful dialogue around local data and research findings. Participants will rotate through six data stations to discuss the findings and offer their perspective on how, moving forward, we can all focus our time and resources to end homelessness.*

## **SPIRIT**

### **PANEL: SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS TRANSITION FROM SHELTER TO PERMANENT HOUSING**

**Panel:** Mark Stewart (Executive Director, Salvation Army), Eve Sotiriadou (Executive Director, Canadian Muslim Women's Institute), Omar Fahmawi (Access to Justice Project Coordinator, Healthy Muslim Families)

**Moderator:** Codi Gunthur (Executive Director, New Journey Housing)

**Where:** Assiniboia B

*This panel will explore strategies and best practices for supporting newcomers in their transition from shelters to permanent housing. Panelists will discuss the unique challenges newcomers face—such as navigating housing systems, overcoming financial barriers, and addressing cultural and language needs—while highlighting successful community-based programs, collaborative approaches, and policy recommendations that promote a smooth transition and long-term housing stability.*

Hosted by:



Presenting sponsor:

