

# Harm Reduction Works!

**Presented by PARN: Your Community AIDS  
Resource Network and Greenwood Coalition**

# Who We Are

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## **Mackenzie Clark**

Harm Reduction Outreach Worker for Northumberland County: PARN

## **Dylan Demarsh**

Prevention and Education Coordinator: PARN

## **David Sheffield**

Executive Director: Green Wood Coalition

# PARN

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PARN is a community based agency providing support and health promotion for people HIV-infected and HIV-affected. PARN provides education for people at risk for HIV and awareness of HIV issues to the broader community.

## **Programs Operating in Northumberland:**

- Harm Reduction Works @ PARN
- Hepatitis C
- Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative (WHAI)
- Rainbow Youth
- Support Services @ PARN
- Peer Engagement Program

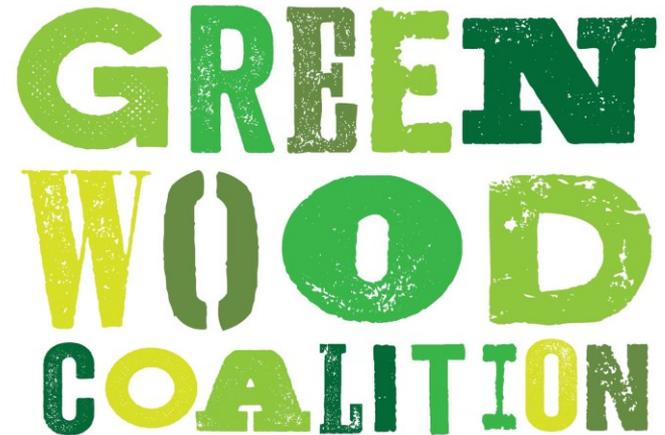


# Greenwood Coalition

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Green Wood Coalition is a street-level, charitable organization that uses a community model of caring to walk alongside people living with poverty, mental illness, substance dependency and other disability, in Port Hope, Ontario.

By offering a place of belonging, Green Wood is a radically inclusive community that honours the worth and the well-being of each person. Through intentional relationships and a culture of trust, we work together to find solutions to daily challenges and provide hope in the lives of our members.

The logo for Greenwood Coalition is displayed in a bold, distressed, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three stacked lines: "GREEN" on the top line, "WOOD" on the middle line, and "COALITION" on the bottom line. The letters are primarily green, with some yellow and light green accents, giving it a textured, hand-painted appearance.

**GREEN  
WOOD  
COALITION**

# Currently Happening in Northumberland:

- Community clean ups on a weekly basis
- Naloxone Training and Distribution
- Education to Service Providers and Service Users
- Management of Public Disposal Bin in Campbellford by PARN
- Relationship building
- In-person conversations with peers about trends in substance supply and use, poisoned supply reports, counselling options
- Referrals to other services
- Practical supports such as food delivery

## Needle Exchange Partners

HKPR District Health Unit; Change Health Care; Transition House; Fourcast; OATC Port Hope; Green Wood Coalition; Northumberland Community Health Centre; Downey Pharmacy

# **Purpose of Delegation**

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**To work with the Town of Cobourg  
to strategically place a public  
needle disposal bin in the  
community.**

# Statistics

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## Opioid-related overdoses in HKPR Region;

- Numbers increasing over the last year due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2019: **21 Deaths**
- 2020: **16 deaths in first 6 months**
- Most recent drug alert, May 2021
- **212** emergency department visits occurred between January and March 2021 for drug intoxication and overdose related reasons

*Ontario Public Health, 2021 --- Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, 2021*

# Best Practices

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**Effective recovery and disposal services require the participation of a variety of stakeholders including municipal governments, business associations, community agencies, and groups of people who use injection drugs.**

Safe disposal practices should include multiple approaches, such as

- Provision of sharps containers to clients, partners and community members;
- Public drop boxes in areas accessible to people who inject drugs;
- Pick up services through needle-hotlines or community agency pick-up services
- Education for service users and community members about safer use, including syringe disposal

# Public Disposal Boxes Work

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A study conducted in Montreal in 2010 demonstrated the overwhelming effectiveness of public syringe disposal boxes. Drop boxes were installed and resulted in reductions of up to 98%, with the most significant reductions being in areas up to 200m from a drop box.

Transition House Shelter recently acquired disposal boxes for shelter clients to dispose of their drug-use equipment safely.

**The Result** = major decrease in found needles around outside of property and increase in supplies being returned by clients!



# Cobourg Needle Disposal Plan: 2021

## STEP #1

### Approval from HKPRDHU to Supply Bin

- Confirmation by HKPRDHU as of May 2021



## STEP #2

### Approval from Cobourg Council to Place Bin in Community

- Delegation to Cobourg Council on June 21st, 2021

## STEP #3

### County & Community Consults for Location of Bin

- Surveys to municipal governments, business associations, community agencies, and groups of people who use injection drugs.
- Feedback on ideal location for bin

## STEP #4

### Implementation of Bin in Chosen Location

- Town of Cobourg to install and bill HKPRDHU
- Outreach worker from PARN to monitor and dispose of contents at HKPRDHU

**Photo of disposal bin  
that will be placed**

**Measurements:  
23 inches wide  
52 inches tall**



# What we need to move forward..

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## **From Council:**

- Approval for bin placement

## **From Community:**

Participation of stakeholders including municipal governments, business associations, community agencies, and groups of people who use injection drugs.

- Surveys to community
- Visits to businesses
- Cobourg Police - where have calls been coming

**Thank You!**



[www.greenwoodcoalition.com](http://www.greenwoodcoalition.com)



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