

# PIVOT

LEGAL SOCIETY

Update to the CIN

April 5, 2018

# Policing

- **Interfering with harm reduction**

- They've taken my purse and dug through it you know, taking my rigs and...

- **Profiling and over-policing**

- Most of the time they don't even ask, they just tell you to get up against the car... they're breaking your rights, but it's your word against theirs...

- **Taking belongings**

- I mean, I've gotten into debt, and I've been beat up because police have taken drugs that I had taken from one person and was bringing to another person

- **Misconduct**

- They threw him in the drunk tank and ... he needed his medication. Then they found him dead the next morning. They didn't do nothing – it's just another native, they're just drunk.

# Courts and the Justice System: Behavioural Conditions

- **Abstinence**

- I'm an addict. I'm going to fucking relapse – I'm not perfect... The judges and shit don't understand that

- **Paraphernalia**

- I actually worked my way around that last one because when they said, “no paraphernalia”. I looked at the judge in the courtroom and said, “what about harm reduction supplies?”

- **Red zones**

- that's where your food is, that's where your doctors are, that's, where mental health is, that's where the library is, that's where your harm reduction is ...

- **Curfew/Residency**

- I was terrified there...because one of the men there like tried to kick down my door and beat me up... But I couldn't leave there, because I had a curfew.

# Service Gaps and Barriers

- **Shelters**

- I can't sleep anywhere .... They say "well we have the Gospel Mission ..." but by the time I walk down there will there be one of those 80 beds available? No. Am I actually going to allow you to treat me like a child and strip me of even more of my dignity and humanity? No.

- **Income assistance**

- My boyfriend is going to help me with things... because he knows how to read and write and he knows to talk to the system

- **Health care**

- She belittled me in front of everybody in the waiting room

- **Peer-driven services**

- Using drugs around people who don't use drugs? I'm sorry but I just can't do it.

# Zoning and Municipal Governance

- **Communities narratives: deserving poor, contributors and ne'er-do-wells**
  - I am appalled at the way our community has become a drug haven
  - Stop giving Narcan, the "crisis" will fix itself
  - How about the bums go out and get jobs...
- **Officials: Branding and official statements**
  - Mayor: People want their [city] back...That park is clean now.
  - RCMP officer: It's going to make life a little miserable for a very short time until the crackheads realize the police are not going to leave them alone.
- **Enforcement: Exclusion by design**
  - ... isn't one place here that is not fucking fenced up that never used to be.
  - WHEREAS the unregulated possession and use of drug paraphernalia tends to foster drug crime and exacerbate the effects of crime on the community

# Questions for the Collective

- Do we see intersections of experience here?
- Can we explore the pathways in and out of care for people with or at risk of HIV and HCV that relate to people who use drugs and experience overdoses? Are there common experiences amongst others who do not identify as drug users?
- What levels of government are supporting/conflicting with your work? Are there common targets for advocacy in improving service access?
- What would a CIN stigma-reduction campaign look like?