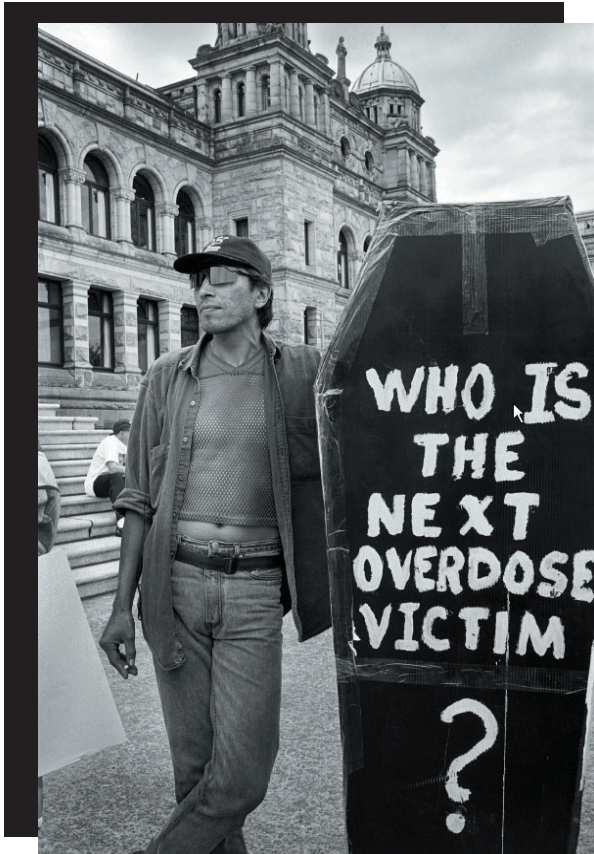


OUR MISSION

The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) is a group of users and former users who work to improve the lives of people who use illicit drugs through user-based peer support and education.



Since its founding in 1998, VANDU's membership has grown to over 2000 strong, making it the largest organization of its kind in the world.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT VANDU?

Regular Group Meetings:

Education & Action Group

People who use drugs come together to discuss relevant issues, strategize, develop campaigns, take action, and provide general support to each other.
Tuesdays, 2:00pm at 380 E Hastings

BC Association of People on Methadone (BCAPOM)

BCAPOM is a support group of people who are currently using methadone. We educate people about methadone and do advocacy for methadone users.
Wednesdays, 1:00pm at 380 E Hastings

Volunteering at VANDU

VANDU operates a peer-run needle exchange at the Health Contact Centre. Shifts for running the exchange are scheduled here.
Fridays, 11:00am at 380 E Hastings

Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS)

As Urban First Nations, we celebrate our strengths that have empowered us as indigenous people to resist cultural extinction. We do this through peer support and the promotion of harm reduction.
Fridays, 1:00pm at 380 E Hastings

VANDU Women's Group

Come join the new VANDU Women's Group!
Saturdays, 10:00am at 380 E Hastings

Hospital Visits

VANDU reps make hospital visits Tuesday to Friday.
To arrange a visit, call 604-683-6061 or 778-317-3719

VANDU



**Vancouver Area Network
of Drug Users**

WHAT IS VANDU?

The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) was formed in 1998 to bring together groups of people who use drugs. VANDU is dedicated to improving the lives of drug users, their families, and our communities.

VANDU is committed to increasing the capacity of people who use illicit drugs to live healthy and productive lives. We do this by affirming and strengthening people who use illicit drugs to reduce harms both to themselves and their communities.

We organize in our communities to save lives by promoting local, regional, and national harm reduction education and interventions.



VANDU challenges traditional client/service provider relationships and empowers drug users to design and implement harm reduction interventions.

VANDU believes in every person's right to health and well-being. We also believe that all people are competent to protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities from drug related harm.

VANDU is committed to ensuring that drug users have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies with the goal of meeting people who use illicit drugs "where they are at" to engage them in reducing harms associated with their drug use.

VANDU understands that drug use ranges from total abstinence to severe abuse – we recognize that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.

VANDU recognizes that the realities of poverty, racism, social isolation, past trauma, mental illness, and other social inequalities increase people's vulnerabilities to addiction and reduces their capacity for effectively reducing drug related harm.

Together with the citizens of Vancouver, VANDU works to minimize the harmful effects of illicit drug use by calling for effective, well-researched interventions such as heroin and cocaine prescription programs, housing for users, and accessible, effective detox and addiction treatment.

Together we can reduce illicit drug overdose deaths, illness, the corruption of our law enforcement, drug-related crime, and the market for illicit drugs.



HOW DO I BECOME A VANDU MEMBER?

1. Come to VANDU sponsored group meetings regularly.
2. Review this pamphlet and see if you agree with VANDU's beliefs and definition of harm reduction.
3. Sign up in the VANDU office and get your name on the VANDU members list.
4. If you are a person who has not used illicit drugs, we welcome your support but request that you respect that VANDU gives a voice to users.

For more information:

VANDU Office:

380 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC
V6A 1P4

Open Monday - Friday
10:00am - 4:00pm

Tel: 604-683-6061
Fax: 604-683-6199
Email: vandu@vandu.org
Web: vandu.org

VANDU respects that many people who are on welfare are unable to participate in volunteer groups without a small stipend for daily expenses.

Vancouver Coastal Health
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.

VANDU is a health initiative funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

