

# How well are we implementing Harm Reduction? Perspectives from Canada

Bernie Pauly RN, Ph.D,  
bpauly@uvic.ca

Acknowledgement: B. Wallace, Ph.D,  
F. Pagan, MA Candidate, T. Stockwell, Ph.D, A.  
Wettlaufer, MA, C. Chow MA, K. Vallance, MA

Photo Credit : [Keefer4~commonswiki](#)



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

***Shelter Resident: “Name it ... marijuana, heroin, crystal meth, crack, injectables, smoking, prescriptions”*** (Victoria Shelter Study)



institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

*Substance use is  
the symptom not  
the problem*



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Responses to Substance Use

- ▣ Criminal Model (Criminalizing)
- ▣ Moral Model (Blaming and Individualizing)
- ▣ Medical Model (Pathologizing)
- ▣ **Public Health Model: Focus on Health Promotion and Prevention (Harm Reduction Model)**



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# We have the evidence...

**“While HR implementation should be routine given the evidence base, evidence based considerations are often less influential than political issues”**  
(Wild, Pauly, et al., 2017)



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

International Journal of Drug Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/drugpo](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/drugpo)

Editor's Choice

Canadian harm reduction policies: A comparative content analysis of provincial and territorial documents, 2000–2015

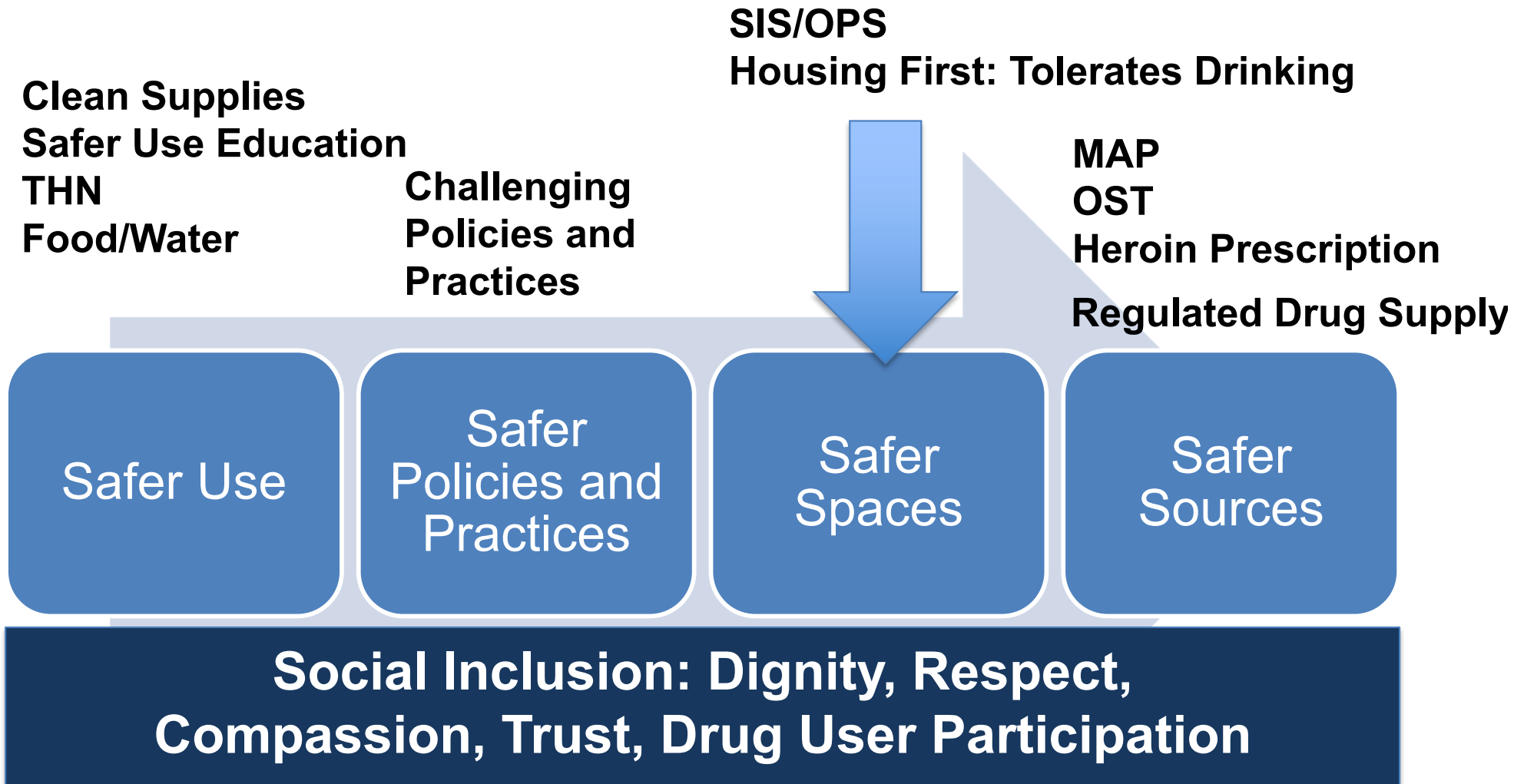
T. Cameron Wild<sup>a,\*</sup>, Bernie Pauly<sup>b</sup>, Lynne Belle-Isle<sup>c</sup>, Walter Cavalieri<sup>d</sup>, Richard Elliott<sup>e</sup>, Carol Strike<sup>f</sup>, Kenneth Tupper<sup>g</sup>, Andrew Hathaway<sup>h</sup>, Colleen Dell<sup>i</sup>, Donald MacPherson<sup>j</sup>, Caitlin Sinclair<sup>a</sup>, Kamagaju Karekezi<sup>a</sup>, Benjamin Tan<sup>a</sup>, Elaine Hyshka<sup>a,k</sup>

## RESEARCH

Harm reduction in name, but not substance: a comparative analysis of current Canadian provincial and territorial policy frameworks

Elaine Hyshka<sup>1,2\*</sup> , Jalene Anderson-Baron<sup>1</sup>, Kamagaju Karekezi<sup>1</sup>, Lynne Belle-Isle<sup>3</sup>, Richard Elliott<sup>4</sup>, Carol Strike<sup>6</sup>, Mark Asbridge<sup>7</sup>, Colleen Dell<sup>8</sup>, Keely McBride<sup>9</sup>, Andrew Hathaway<sup>10</sup> and T. Cameron

# Harm Reduction: Preventing Harms as a goal not Abstinence but abstinence is an option



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Multiple Harms of Substance Use YET....

**Harm reduction = Clean Needles**

(Pauly, Wallace & Barber, 2017)

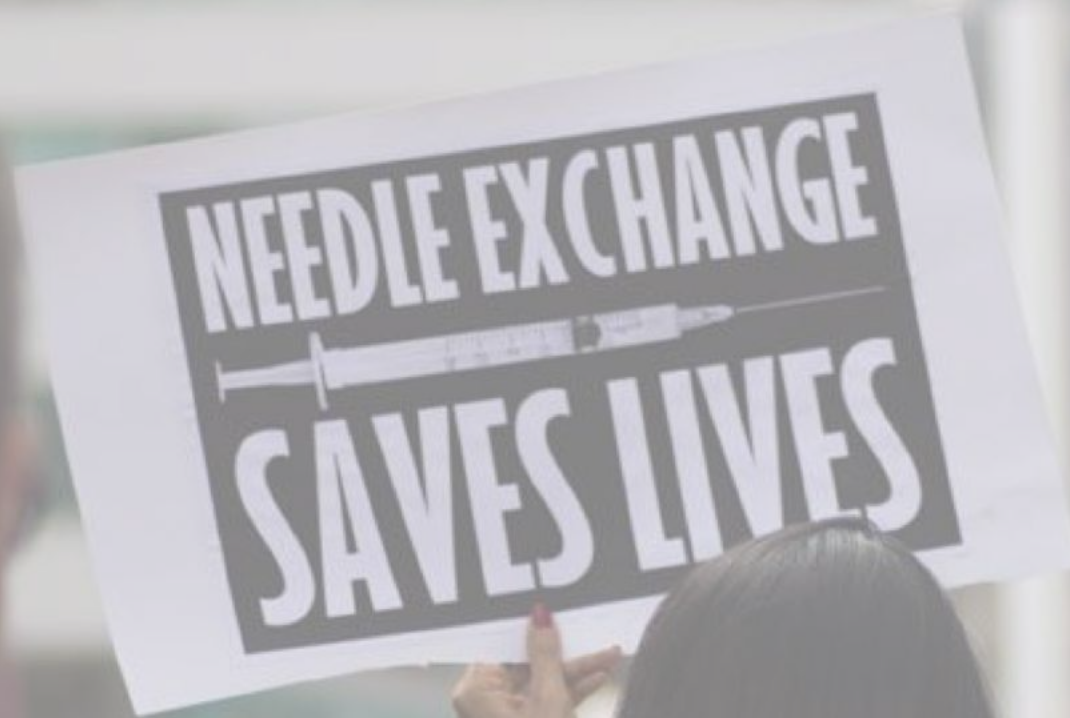


Photo Credit: [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Unsafe Substance Use Policies: Zero Tolerance

**We have harm reduction philosophy BUT**

“You can’t use drugs or alcohol on onsite”

“No, we don’t have clean supplies”

“Alcohol and other drugs are prohibited and will be confiscated”

**LACK OF HARM  
REDUCTION POLICY**



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances



# Mixed messages and 'Turning a Blind Eye'

(Pauly et al., 2015; Pauly et al., 2017)

*Tommy Japan collections*

*So sometimes we just turn a blind eye on it. You know that they're doing it but you know that you have to keep them safe, right?"*  
*[Shelter Staff]*

nadien  
the sur  
substances

# Lack of Scale Up: Until Recently North America's Only....

**Evidence Based  
Interventions not  
implemented or  
only limited  
implementation due  
to politics and  
economics**

File Photo: Providence CrossTown Clinic  
And Insite, Vancouver



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Expanding Availability During a Public Health Overdose Emergency in BC

**NALOXONE**  
NOW AVAILABLE  
WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION

**IN BC**



College of Pharmacists  
of British Columbia

March, 2016



Rapid Access  
to Suboxone  
(June, 2016)  
Heroin  
Prescription  
(2016)  
Slow Release  
Morphine  
(July, 2017)  
Cannabis  
Legalization (2018)

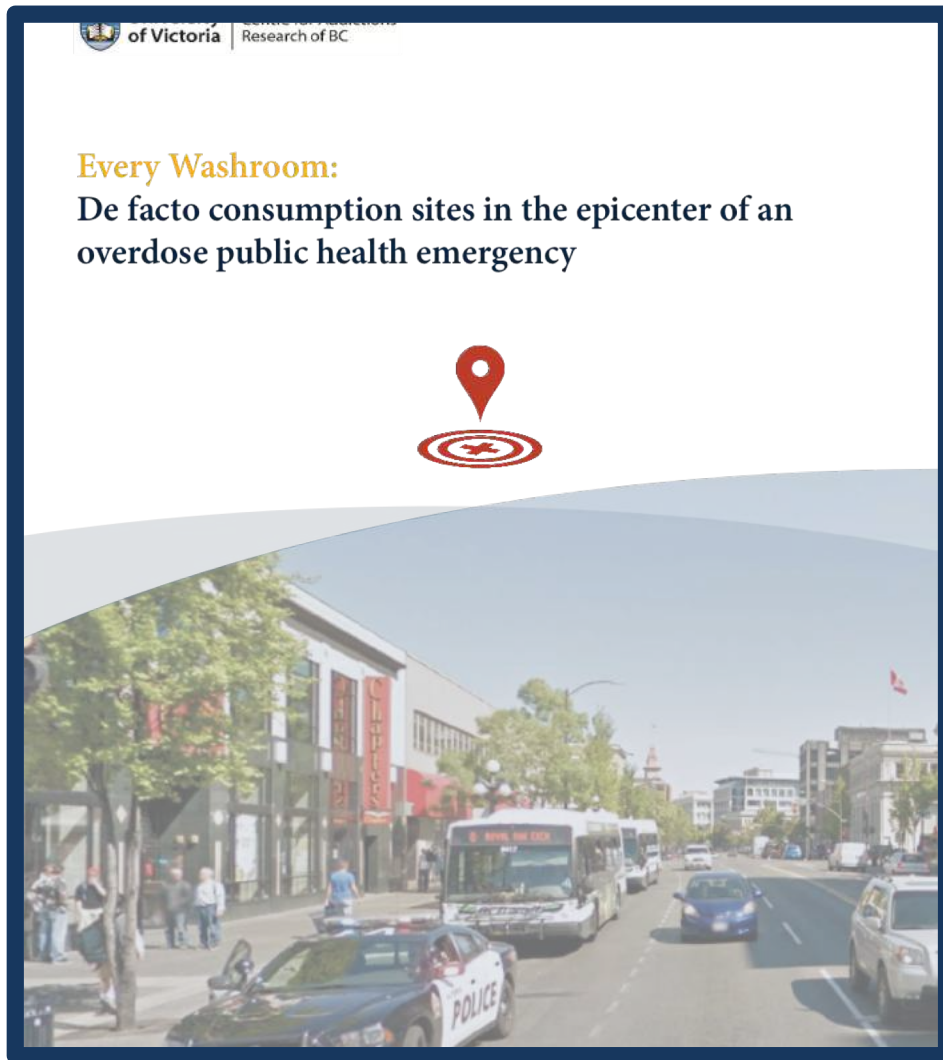


University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Unintended Consequences



In the absence of SCS ,  
washrooms serve as  
'defacto consumption sites'  
or unsafe sites  
(Wallace et al., 2016)  
[www.uvic.ca/research/centres/carbc/assets/docs/](http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/carbc/assets/docs/)



University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Expansion of Safer Spaces: Overdose Prevention Sites

2017-02-14, 6:30 AM



August, 2016: Pop Up Site in Surrey

October, 2016 Overdose Tent Established by Volunteers



December, 2016 Established by a Ministerial Order under Emergency Services and HA Act

Novel, Nimble, Responsive (Wallace, Pagan & Pauly, under review)



University of Victoria

Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

Institut canadien de recherche sur l'usage de substances

File Photo: Georgia Straight and Canadian Press



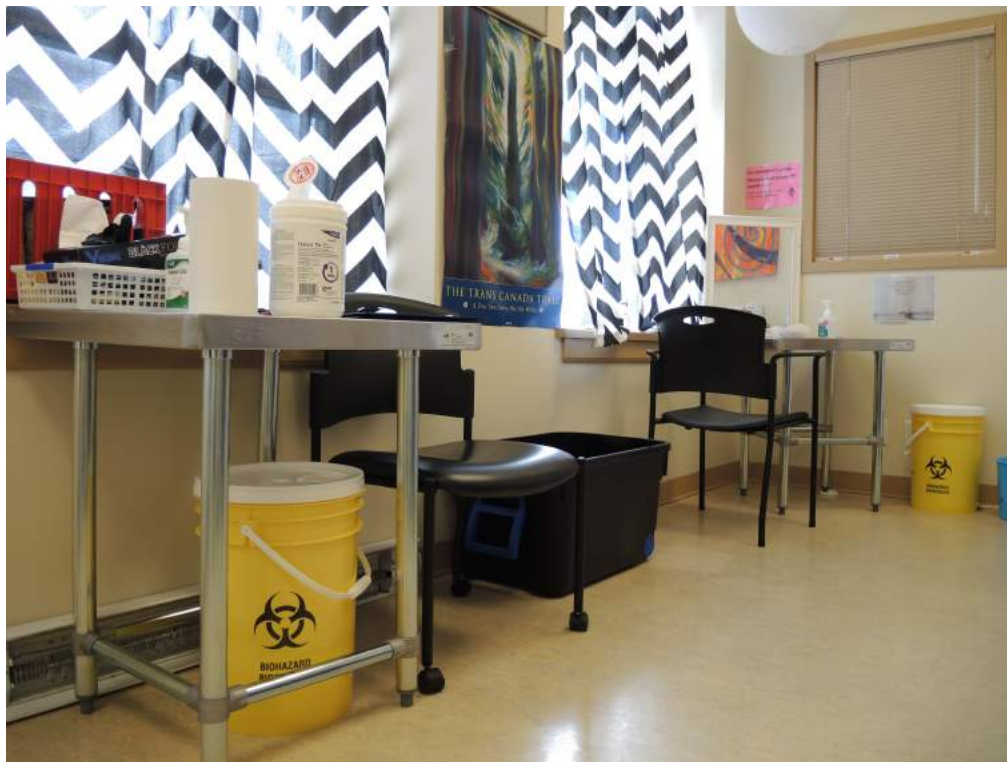
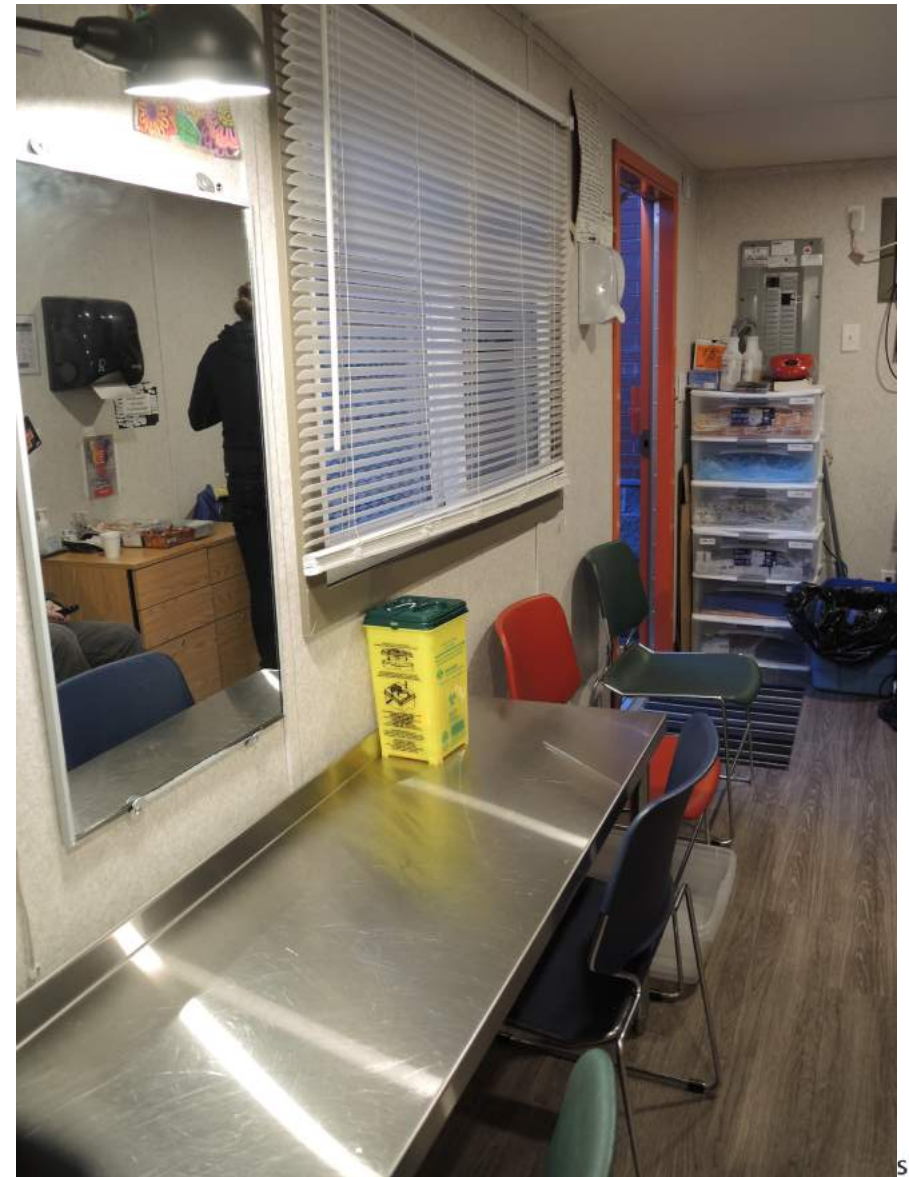


Photo Credit Jay Wallace



Washington needle depot, East Hastings  
File photo: KIM ANDERSON /  
iNFOnews.ca

# Where is the 'safe injection site' for alcohol use?

Published on May 05, 2016 by Emma Woolley, Special to TVO.org

Share   

 Follow @emmanwoolley

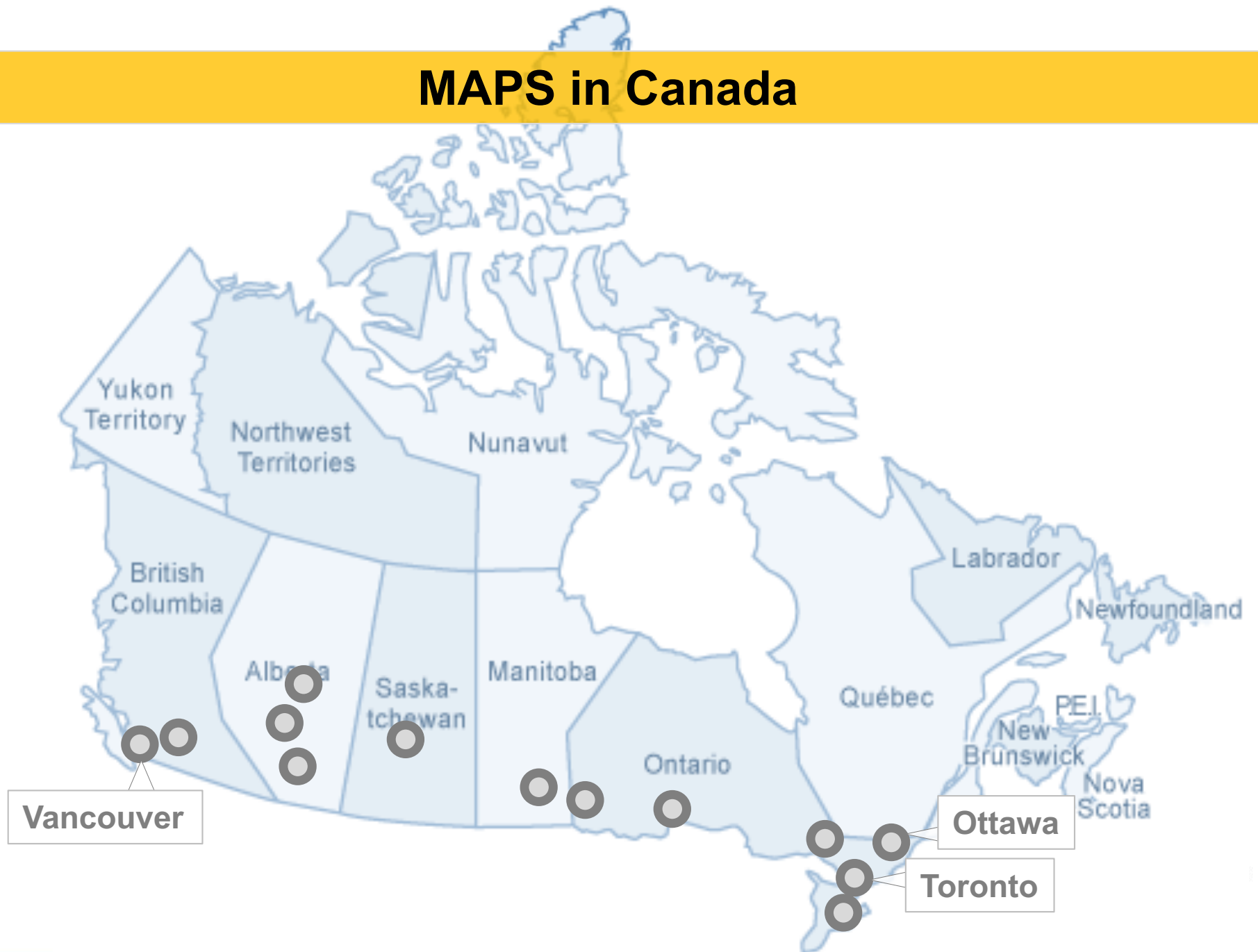


**University  
of Victoria**

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# MAPS in Canada





# The Four Pillars of MAP (Pauly et al., 2018)



Photo Removed

**Safer  
Sources  
and  
Amount**

**Safer  
Spaces**

**Health  
and  
Social  
Services**

**Social and  
Cultural  
Inclusion**



AOD monitoring project +

CMAPS - The Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study

InterMAHP - International model of alcohol harms and policies

All active projects

Archived projects

Contact us

News & events

home » projects » cmaps - the canadian managed alcohol program study

## The Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study (CMAPS)

CISUR is leading a national study of Managed Alcohol Programs in Canada. This project will rigorously evaluate MAPs in Canada and generate insights into their implementation and effectiveness. The results of this research will be used to reduce unintended negative consequences of MAPs and inform the development of program and policy recommendations.

[Read about recent CMAPS findings published in \*Drug and Alcohol Review\*.](#)

Stay in touch with CMAPS

[CMAPS e-newsletter](#)

[CMAPS listerv](#)

+ [CMAPS internal site](#)



**\*MAP Community of Practice**  
**\*Indigenous MAP Advisory**



**We have yet to adequately apply these principles and frameworks (Collective Voices, Effecting Change, 2014)**

Photo Removed



**University of Victoria**

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

SLIDE REMOVED



**University  
of Victoria**

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Its often not the Science that is the problem but not knowing the Science is.....

- Poor Quality HR Policy
- Lack of HR Frameworks
- Regulatory Policy Barriers
- Organizational Policy and Resources
- Pervasive Stigma and Attitudes
- Crisis Driven Harm Reduction
- Top Down and Bottom Up Approach

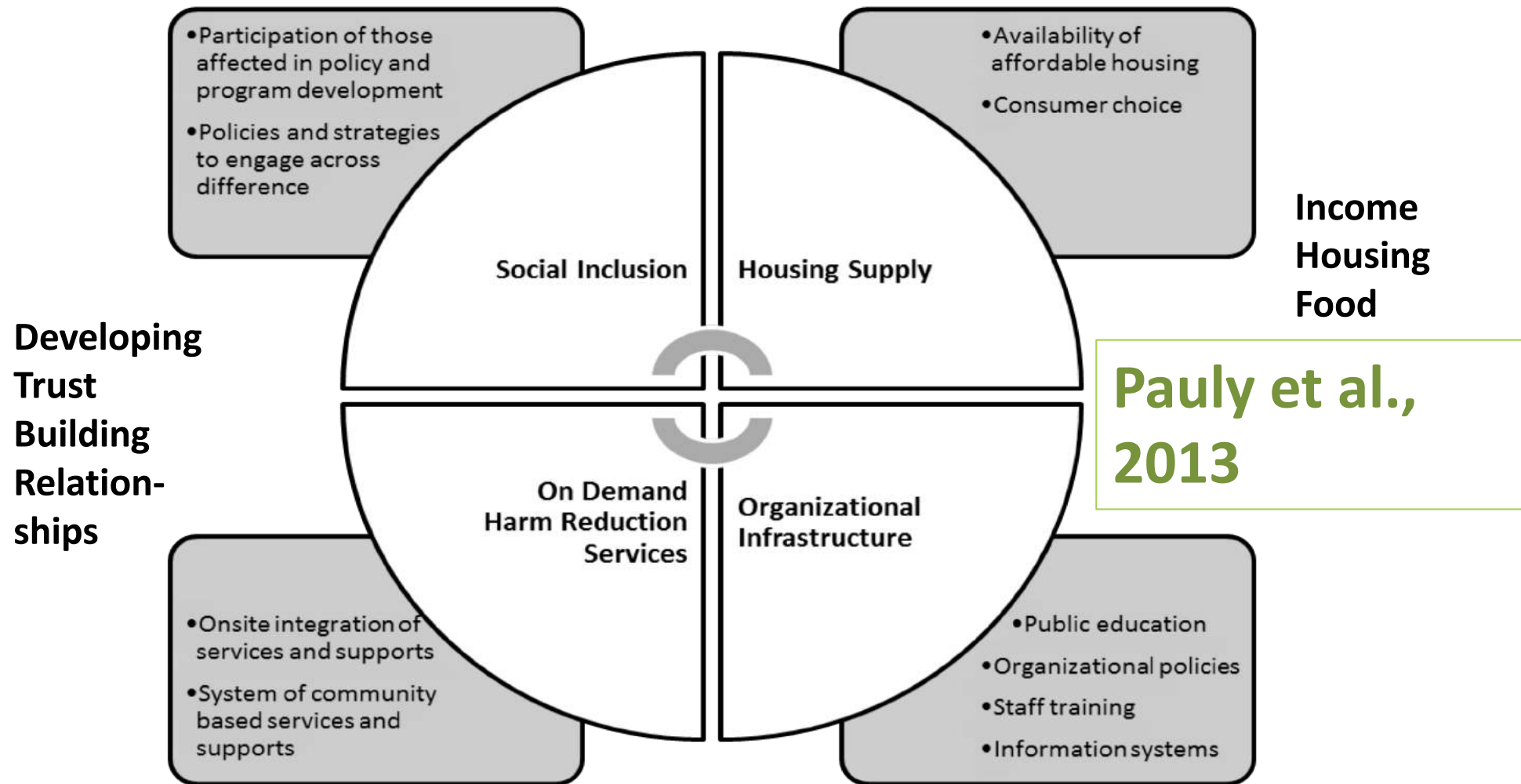


University  
of Victoria

Canadian Institute  
for Substance  
Use Research

Institut canadien  
de recherche sur  
l'usage de substances

# Harm Reduction in Action: Role of Harm Reduction in Addressing Homelessness



University of Victoria

Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

Institut canadien de recherche sur l'usage de substances