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## 2012 CNSA Western/Prairie Regional Conference Speakers

### **Friday night:**

#### *Keynote Speakers*

**Sally Thorne** - Director at large for the ARNBC and Professor at UBC School of Nursing

- Nurses influencing change

### **Saturday:**

#### *Keynote Speakers*

**Liz Evans** - Executive Director and Founder of the Portland Hotel Society

- Portland Hotel Society

**Darwin Fisher** - Insite Intake Manager

- Insite

**Ann Livingston** - VANDU Executive Director

- VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users)

#### *Breakout Session Speakers*

#### **1100-1145 - Breakout session 1**

- Barbe Pickering, Oaktree Clinic at BC Women's Hospital (max: 44)
- Doreen Littlejohn, Vancouver Native Health Positive Outlook Program, Circle of Care (max: 60)
- Corrine Blasius, Vancouver Native Health Drug and Alcohol Counsellor (max: 40)
- Lorna Bird and Kevin Yake, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (max: 20)

#### **1445-1530 - Breakout session 2**

- Cat Martin Langara Nursing Instructor, Influencing Policy Change (max: 60)
- Emma Garrod and Christina Chant STOP HIV Nurses, Developing Therapeutic Relationships (max: 40)
- Dave Murray, Abbotsford Survivors of Drug War Support Group (max: 20)
- Carol Hunter, Vancouver Detox/Daytox (max: 44)
- Inspector Scott Thompson, VPD, Harm Reduction: a decade of initiatives (max: 100)



## Organization Information

**ARNBC** - The Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (ARNBC) is the professional association representing Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in British Columbia. We are a strong, unified voice leading the nursing profession to develop, influence and promote healthy public policy for all British Columbians.

<http://www.arnbc.ca/index.php>

**Insite** - Insite is North America's first legal supervised injection site. The BC Ministry of Health Services provides operational funding for Insite through Vancouver Coastal Health, which operates the facility in conjunction with PHS Community Services Society. Insite operates on a harm-reduction model, which means it strives to decrease the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug use without requiring abstinence from drug use.

<http://supervisedinjection.vch.ca/>

**Portland Hotel Society** - Promotes, develops and maintains supportive affordable housing for adult individuals who are hard to house and at risk of homelessness due to their physical and/or mental health, behaviour, substance dependencies, and forensic history.

**VANDU** - As a registered non-profit, VANDU's primary objective is to increase capacity of people who use illicit drugs to live healthy and productive lives. This is accomplished through peer-based support and education. VANDU holds several weekly support group meetings, and its membership is actively involved in public awareness and education campaigns (through media, conferences, and outreach), hospital visits, and community and legal advocacy. Since 1998, VANDU's membership has grown to over 2000 strong, making VANDU the largest organization of its kind in the world.

<http://www.vandu.org/>

**Vancouver Native Health Society Positive Outlook Program** - The Positive Outlook Program provides care, treatment, and support services to over 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver, with a strong focus directed towards the First Nations people. The program offers nursing care and outreach services, drug and alcohol counseling, social work services, maximally assisted medication therapy, daily breakfast and lunches, a weekly food bank, and a rent supplement program.

<http://www.vnhs.net/programs-services/positive-outlook-program>

**WAHRS** - To improve the quality of life for people who are Aboriginal who use illicit drugs by encouraging the development of support, education and training programs that reflect values of Aboriginal people.

<http://www.vandu.org/groups.html#wahrs>

**STOP HIV/AIDS** - STOP HIV/AIDS, or "Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS" is a Pilot Project designed to expand access to HIV/AIDS medications among hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations in Vancouver's Downtown East Side and Prince George, British Columbia.

<http://www.stophivaids.ca/>



**Oaktree Clinic at BCWH** - Oak Tree Clinic provides specialized HIV/AIDS outpatient care for infected women, pregnant women, partners, children and youth, and support services for affected families.

<http://www.bcwomens.ca/Services/HealthServices/OakTreeClinic/default.htm>

**Vancouver Detox/Daytox –**

(Detox) Provides a safe, supportive residential environment for individuals withdrawing from the acute effects of alcohol or other drugs and who require on-site monitoring. Services include assessment, individual counselling, referral, educational groups, 12-step programs, acupuncture and other alternate therapies, and assistance in the transition to safe/supportive housing.

[http://www.vch.ca/403/7676/?program\\_id=2381](http://www.vch.ca/403/7676/?program_id=2381)

(Daytox) Provides a six-week outpatient withdrawal management program for adults. Tailored for more stable clients who have a safe, supportive living environment, the program provides medically monitored withdrawal services, assessment, individual and group counselling, psychoeducational groups, acupuncture and other alternate therapies, as well as medical management for clients on supervised prescription withdrawal protocols.

<http://find.healthlinkbc.ca/search.aspx?d=SV054665>

**Vancouver Police Department** - The VPD advocates strongly for the most vulnerable members of our city. In the VPD position papers Project Lockstep and Lost in Transition, the VPD advocated for better conditions for the city's marginalized population in the Downtown Eastside and the mentally ill, respectively. Part of this advocacy work involved the establishment of relationships between the VPD and partners in the community. The VPD believes that positive relationships with community partners are valuable, as these collaborations are vital to successfully implementing positive change. Initiatives like SisterWatch, a project aimed to protect vulnerable women in the Downtown Eastside, help to build trust and mutual respect between the community and the VPD. The VPD has consistently worked with its partners in the health and justice systems to improve conditions for Vancouver citizens.

<http://vancouver.ca/police/>