



Invest in Your Team's Education!

Best Practice Courses to Enhance Your Expertise

SafeLink Alberta is a non-profit organization that has served and advocated for priority populations in Calgary and southern Alberta since 1983. Our mission is to reduce the harms associated with sexual activity and substance use by offering low-barrier, nonjudgmental, and informed programs and services.

CHOOSE FROM SAFELINK ALBERTA'S FEE-FOR-SERVICE TRAINING OPTIONS.

SafeLink Alberta offers specialized training courses for service providers seeking intensive training, with certificate awarded upon completion. These trainings can be tailored to your organization's needs, strategic focus and the target demographics. Participants will engage in interactive learning that emphasizes practical application, cultural competency, and advanced strategies for addressing systemic challenges. Trainings can include lived experience speakers, scenario-based practice and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

More Information

www.safelinkalberta.ca

Read On 

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Available Courses

An Introduction to Substance Use and Criminalized Drugs of Canada

This foundational course is the first in a two-part series, introducing participants to the factors driving Canada's current drug toxicity epidemic. Participants will examine Canadian statistics on accidental drug poisonings and explore criminalized drugs most affecting the epidemic. The training will highlight commonly used substances, examine the benefits and risks of substance use, and address myths that contribute to stigma and discrimination.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

Supporting Canadians Who Use Substances

This course is the second in a two-part series. Participants will learn about safer substance use practices and safer substance use equipment, examine the complexities of substance use, and sharpen their understanding of how to best support individuals who use substances.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

**Prerequisite: An Introduction to Substance Use and Criminalized Drugs of Canada*

Harm Reduction, Sex, Drugs, and Human Rights

In this course, participants will be provided with a comprehensive look at the evolution of harm reduction in Canada. This course examines the formation of Canadian drug laws, discusses how risk reduction policies and practices have been implemented nationally and internationally, and critically analyzes how these policies and practices impact key population. The course aims to give participants a better understanding of harm reduction, the social determinants of health, and how to utilize evidence-based practice.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use in the Trades

The Trades represents one of the largest industries in North America. In Canada, people in the trades are disproportionately impacted by the consequences associated with poor mental health and substance use. Within the participatory action approach, we conducted an environmental scan using semi-structured qualitative interviews with people in trades, post-secondary institutions, and several other industry professionals. Using the results of our research, we developed this workshop with the focus of providing participants with a more robust understanding of the factors contributing to the increased risks of developing mental health and substance use related issues in the trades while expanding participant's skills in supporting themselves and their coworkers and developing coping skills to improve their mental health.

This workshop is recommended for everyone in the Trades industry from General Manager to Administrative Coordinator, Project Manager to Field Technician. Mental Health and Substance use issues can affect everyone, and it is something that we should all be informed about.

Length: 3 Hours | Cost: \$750

Available Courses

Introduction to Harm Reduction and Substance Use for Disability Support Workers

This course is tailored specifically for staff working in the disability services sector, providing essential knowledge and skills to better support individuals who use substances and address substance use in the community. Participants will develop a deeper understanding of harm reduction, the social determinants of health, and key factors driving Canada's current drug toxicity crisis. The training emphasizes evidence-based practices for fostering safer and more supportive environments. Key components of the course include Awareness of commonly used substances, their benefits and risks, and addressing misconceptions that perpetuate stigma; Understanding safer substance use practices, become familiar with commonly used equipment, and learn to identify and safely dispose of discarded materials using universal precautions; The importance of Naloxone in poisoning response and hands-on administration and The unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, including factors contributing to substance use or exposure, balancing individual autonomy with safety considerations and navigating ethical and institutional barriers in supporting individuals who use substances.

People with disabilities may use substances themselves, know others who do, and live and work in communities where substance use occurs. The outcome of this training is to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to address these issues, foster inclusion, reduce harm, and provide meaningful support.

Length: 4 Hours | Cost: \$1000

Supporting Dignity & De-Escalation Strategies: Tools for Community Safety

This course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the social determinants of health, trauma-informed care, and the principles of harm reduction. Participants will critically examine the underlying factors contributing to homelessness and addiction and discuss the stigma surrounding these issues. Through scenario-based learning, participants will explore both theoretical concepts and practical tools to uphold dignity and create safer, more inclusive community spaces for all people. The curriculum highlights nationally recommended best practices and care models, equipping participants with the skills to implement person-centered, trauma-informed de-escalation strategies effectively. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a robust set of strategies and actionable skills to apply within their professional settings.

Length: 6 Hours | Cost: \$1500

Language Matters

This course offers participants a valuable opportunity to explore how the thoughtful use of language tailored to specific communities and groups can foster meaningful connections. By emphasizing the importance of person-centered care and culturally appropriate services, the training delves into the history and evolution of terminology to help professionals communicate confidently and effectively with service users. The course provides a comprehensive understanding of diverse communities focusing on safer sex practices, HIV, substance use, sex work, and folks who are unhoused. Through engaging examples and real-life scenarios, this course serves as a practical starting point for creating a more inclusive and understanding workplace.

Length: 1.5-2 Hours | Cost: \$300

Available Courses

HIV: A Comprehensive Approach to Empowering Individuals through Prevention and Support

HIV and its impact have been widely researched and discussed, yet stigma around an HIV diagnosis persists despite medical advancements. This course is designed to challenge assumptions and misinformation about HIV, teaching participants about HIV, its effect on the body, current treatment options, and advancements in prevention. Participants will also gain essential competencies and critical support strategies to support people living with HIV.

Length: 3-4 Hours | Cost: \$750

Supporting Safer Sex Practices

This course is designed for any group in any sector seeking to better support and empower others in managing their sexual health. Participants will learn about the different safer sex supplies available, their risks and benefits, and proper usage. In this course, we cover prevention, testing, and treatment of common STBBIs and address the barriers to accessing care. Participants will learn evidence-based strategies for effectively supporting safer sex practices in the communities they serve.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

**Includes safer sex supply distribution, recommended as a partner course to HCV and Syphilis, Supporting Individuals impacted by STBBIs.*

HCV and Syphilis, Supporting Individuals Impacted by STBBIs

This course explores the causes, prevention, and treatment of Syphilis and Hepatitis A, B, and C. Participants will examine the factors contributing to the increased prevalence of sexually transmitted blood-borne infections (STBBIs) in Canada and Alberta and their consequent concurrent issues. This course provides participants with a statistical overview of the prevalence of syphilis and hepatitis, preparing them to support individuals impacted by the STBBIs.

Length: 3 Hours | Cost: \$750

**Includes safer sex supply distribution, recommended as a partner course to HCV and Syphilis, Supporting Individuals impacted by STBBIs.*

Party and Play, Sweat Sex, and Safety

In this course, participants will explore the complexities surrounding sex and substance use, also known as 'Party and Play' (PnP). We will examine PnP's key demographics, the drugs involved, and the various stigmas individuals may experience. The course aims to equip participants with strategies to best support those who Party and Play.

Length: 1.5-2 Hours | Cost: \$250

**Recommended partner courses: HIV, HCV and Syphilis and Supporting Safer Sex Practices*

Available Courses

An Introduction to Sex Work

This foundational course is the first in a three-part series that provides a high-level overview of what sex work is, who sex workers are, and the diversity of work. This training is an essential first step in understanding the realities of sex work, encouraging participants to reflect on current discourse around sex work and recognize misinformation. The course offers key insights on how to support sex workers, informed by primary consultations and ongoing evidence-based practices.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

Sex Work, Exploring Laws and Legislation

The second in a three-part series, this training focuses on Alberta legislation and the realities of sex work. It will cover local, national, and international laws related to sex work, examining their impact on Alberta and Canadian sex workers. This training is designed to help participants understand the barriers that sex workers face in their everyday lives and how to better support them.

Length: 2-2.5 Hours | Cost: \$500

**Prerequisite: An introduction to Sex Work*

Sex Work, from Stigma to Support

The third part of this series will engage participants in critical discussions about the perceived risks of sex work. Attendees will unpack the stigma sex workers face, using insights from previous sessions to apply support strategies to their work. Participants will gain an understanding of the types of support sex workers are asking for, practical approaches to implement, and how we can stand in solidarity with the community.

Length: 2-3 Hours | Cost: \$500

**Prerequisite: Sex Work, Exploring Laws and Legislation
Includes PWLLE Speaker

To receive a full-day workshop on our Best Practices for Supporting People Who Use Substances Toolkit, take the following courses:

- An Introduction to Substance Use and Criminalized Drugs of Canada Sex Work, Exploring Laws, and Legislation.
- Supporting Canadians Who Use Substances

To receive a full-day workshop on our Shifting Perspectives: Addressing Barriers to Care for Sex Workers in Alberta Toolkit, take the following courses:

- An Introduction to Sex Work
- Sex Work, Exploring Laws, and Legislation.
- Sex Work, from Stigma to Support.

To receive a full-day workshop on our Party N' Play: Sex, Substance Use, and Safety Toolkit, take the following courses:

- Party and Play, Sweat, Sex and Safety

**TAKE MULTIPLE
TRAINING SESSIONS TO
RECEIVE A
COMPLIMENTARY
TOOLKIT AND
PRACTICAL
APPLICATION
WORKSHOP!**

About Our Custom Trainings

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We had a great experience with SafeLink Alberta. Their Education Coordinators met with our agency and worked on tailoring a harm reduction training that filled the gaps we were seeing in our programs. After the training, they went a step further and came to our programs so that frontline staff could see harm reduction supplies in person as well as ask questions about safe use. In doing so, frontline staff were able to then support clients with reducing harm. We would highly recommend collaborating with this agency.

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Camille Schulz MSW, RSW
Mental Health Therapist
Trellis Society

Why choose a Fee-for-Service Training Option?

Choosing our customized training courses ensures your organization receives targeted, relevant education that aligns with your unique needs and goals. Our training introduces harm reduction principles and practical skills like managing biohazards and administering naloxone to your team, equipping them to support those you serve and each other. Participants receive a certificate upon completion, formally recognizing the valuable skills and expertise gained.

What does Customized Training look like?

Our customization process begins with a collaborative meeting where we learn about your organization, mission, and specific training needs. We then tailor our evidence-based research content to target populations or practice models and assess your team's preferred learning style— whether through interactive games, quizzes, formal presentations, or a combination. We determine the best format and duration for the training.

We also offer the option to include educational materials to enhance any subject matter. This can be on a smaller scale where we can distribute items like safer substance use or safer sex supplies, naloxone kits, or HIV self-test kits for participants to engage with. For larger set ups, we can arrange a full booth with supplementary information and materials available to participants throughout the training. Our Education Coordinator will present a personalized proposal for your approval, ensuring that you are always at the forefront of your education session.

Testimonial

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For the past few years, SafeLink Alberta has trained undergraduate nursing students in the Nursing Education in Southwestern Alberta (NESA) Bachelor of Nursing (BN) program at the University of Lethbridge. Our students were placed with agencies serving populations experiencing homelessness and/or substance use in their community health clinical experience. Orientation topics included substance use, safer substance use practices, naloxone training, safer sex practices, and infectious diseases.

The orientation provided by SafeLink Alberta was exceptional. The presenters were knowledgeable, engaging, and professional, tailoring the information to the unique learning needs and positions of our nursing students.

This training helped our students better understand the relationship between the social determinants of health and substance use, making them more comfortable discussing these topics with the populations they served. As an educator, I would have done my students a disservice by not providing this orientation before their clinical experience. I am grateful SafeLink Alberta was willing to provide this for us.

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Shannon Vandenberg, PhD, RN, CCHN(C), CCNE, CCC
Nursing Instructor, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Lethbridge

Contact Our Team

Contact our Education Team for a free consultation.

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