

FOR RELEASE
May 18, 2017

Government hosting opioid management conference

The Government of Yukon is hosting a conference on May 31 and June 1 called Preventing and Managing Opioid Addiction/Misuse Through Innovative Models of Care.

The two-day conference will provide Yukon health care providers and policy makers with an opportunity to learn about harm reduction in action, and the role of culture and community in recovery. Participants will explore community-based models of care that better support Yukoners struggling with addictions or pain. Finally, the conference will highlight evidence and current guidelines for opioid prescribing.

The event is an initiative of Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley, with support from the Mental Wellness Strategy team from the Government of Yukon's Department of Health and Social Services, and in collaboration with multiple community partners.

Quotes

"The recent report by our acting chief coroner, which confirmed five fentanyl-related deaths in the last year, is a stark reminder that the opioid crisis is also affecting us here in Yukon. Supporting this event is just one of the ways the Yukon government is addressing this serious issue."

–Minister of Health and Social Services Pauline Frost

"This conference is designed for anyone who works with people with addictions or chronic pain, particularly when opioids are involved. By the end of the conference, we will have a better understanding of approaches to managing pain and addictions, as well as improving our ability to prevent problems related to opioid use."

–Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley

Quick facts

Speakers at the conference include:

- Mae Katt, nurse practitioner, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Dr. Launette Rieb, University of British Columbia
- Hazel Booth, nurse practitioner
- Dr. Leo Elwell, psychiatrist, Mental Health Services
- Louise Hardy, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Health Centre
- Dr. Jonathan Hawkins, Chilkoot Chiropractic and Rehabilitation Centre
- Pam Holmes, Prime Meridian Physiotherapy
- Dr. Sharon Lazeo, Taiga Referred Care Clinic
- Mieke Leonard, Yukon Registered Nurses Association
- Kristy Lerch, Whitehorse Physiotherapy
- Karen Nicloux, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun
- Leslie van Tongeren, Therapy Services, Whitehorse General Hospital

Learn more: Whitehorse Opioid Management Conference

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News Release #17-106

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