

The following announcement is sent to you by the Canadian Harm Reduction Network
<http://www.canadianharmreduction.com>

THEORY AND HISTORY OF HARM REDUCTION (Online Course)

As part of the Certificate in Harm Reduction**

Course 1 - Theory and History of Harm Reduction

This course offers an introduction to the concept of Harm Reduction, its history and how it fits into a broader framework of working with people who use substances. It provides a foundation for understanding key issues regarding Harm Reduction, policy and practice.

Course 1: Theory and History of Harm Reduction

Location: Online
Semester: Winter 2009
Start Date: April 27 **End Date:** July 24
No. of Sessions: 13
No. of Hours: 39
Tuition: \$665 (GST exempt)

Learning Outcomes for Course 1:

Participants will be able to:

- understand the use of psychoactive substances (history, cultural context, history of treatment);
- understand neuro-pharmacological perspective on drugs;
- understand the history of drug policy in domestic and international contexts;
- undertake a historical analysis of stigma and the marginalization of drugs and the people who use them (and how this intersects with other types of marginalization);
- understand the theoretical foundation of Harm Reduction;
- understand the emergence of Harm Reduction domestically and internationally and analyze the evidence of its efficacy; and
- understand the historical role of peer involvement.

Program Instructors

Courses 1, 2 and 3: **Dale Kuehl**, MSW, RSW, is Discipline-in-Chief of Addiction Therapy at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto. He teaches in the School of Social Work programs at York and Ryerson Universities, is an instructor with the School of Health and Community Services at Durham College, and a harm reduction psychotherapist/consultant in private practice in Toronto.

Course 1: **Barb Panter**, BSW, is the IDU Outreach Educator at Queen West Community Health Centres in Toronto, where she works primarily with homeless drug users. She has worked in harm reduction for over 10 years in Toronto and in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. She obtained her BSW at the University of British Columbia.

Course 2: **Susan Shepherd**, MSW, is the Manager of the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat, the staff team that supports implementation of the drug strategy. Previously she worked ten years as a social policy analyst with the City, in the areas of substance use, poverty and

homelessness. She has a BA in Psychology and an MSW. Prior to joining the City of Toronto, Susan was a front-line worker in the community-based service sector.

Course 3: Peggy Milson is a medical doctor and Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Her current academic interests are in: injection drug use & HIV prevention; harm reduction; social, behavioural and epidemiological aspects of HIV infection, especially among women; care, treatment and support for HIV positive persons; tuberculosis and HIV co-infection; and epidemiology and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Overall Program Summary

***** The Certificate in Harm Reduction consists of 117 hours of instruction (3 courses in total) and is designed to introduce service providers, administrators and policy makers to the principles, concepts and practices of harm reduction; to provide an opportunity to critically examine examples of harm reduction work; and to become familiar with strategies for mobilizing support for and developing harm reduction programs in communities and institutions. Course #2 will be offered in-class at the York campus in the Fall semester 2009, and Course #3 will be offered in-class at the York campus in the Winter semester 2010, prior to being offered online.***

Participants who complete all three courses and all evaluative components will receive a Certificate in Harm Reduction from York University.

The National Program Advisory Committee assisting in the development of the curriculum for this Program includes personnel from:

The Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force

The Canadian Harm Reduction Network

Toronto Public Health

CounterFIT Harm Reduction Program, Toronto

HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Drug Sense

Canadian AIDS Society / Société canadienne du sida

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy

Streetworks, Edmonton, Alberta

Superior Points Harm Reduction Program, Thunder Bay, Ontario

South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Toronto

Community Services, City of Vancouver

Blood Ties Four Directions Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

Co-Sponsor

This course was developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Education, Field Development, York University.

Admission Requirements

1. a degree or diploma in a human or social service, allied health discipline; or
 2. a minimum of two years' full-time relevant practice experience related to Harm Reduction;
- or
3. current employment in a related position; or
 4. Permission of Program Manager.

For those who meet admission requirements 2 and 3, but not requirement 1, permission of the Program and Logistics Manager will be required.

To register or request information please contact:

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