

The Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre is needed to save lives and support people's health and well-being.



MAY 2021

Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre

5878 YORK ROAD

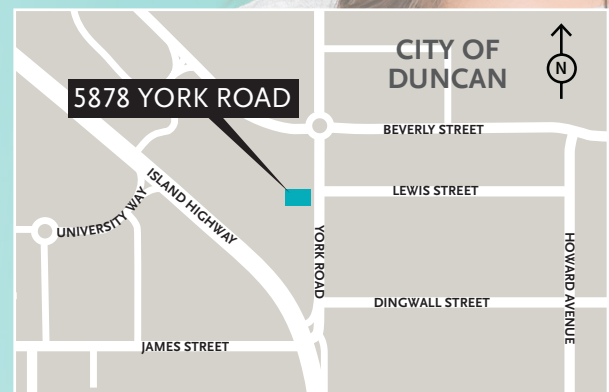
There is an ongoing toxic drug poisoning crisis and this is causing hundreds of people in the Cowichan Valley to suffer overdoses each year. Sadly, dozens of people do not survive.

The Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre will offer a holistic approach to mental health and substance use through prevention, treatment and recovery services.

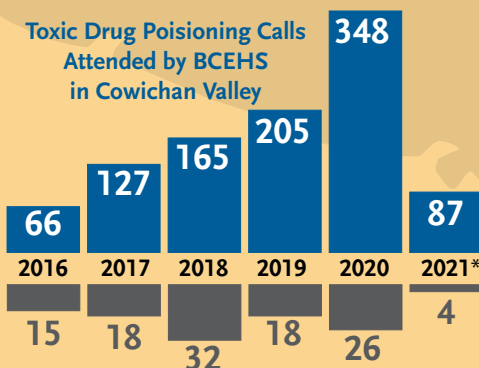
The Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre will be co-operated by Island Health in partnership with Lookout Housing and Health Society. Together, these organizations will work together to provide vital services, as well as to care for the property and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Health care providers will work closely with each person to understand their unique needs and connect them to the appropriate care.

Some of the services to help people on their wellness journey will be provided at the Centre and others will be delivered by teams of health care providers to people out in the community.



Toxic Drug Poisoning Calls Attended by BCEHS in Cowichan Valley



Toxic Drug Poisoning Deaths in Cowichan Valley

* to April 29, 2021

A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Toxic drug poisonings are killing people across the country. Death strikes people of all ages, income levels and ethnicity.

Overdose rates in B.C. are dramatically on the rise, and the devastating impact of a fentanyl-contaminated drug supply has pushed overdose deaths to levels never seen before, affecting people in urban, suburban and rural areas across the province.

Island Health, Lookout Housing and Health Society and community partners are taking action to respond to this public health emergency and save lives.

Understanding addiction and substance use disorder

Addiction can affect anyone. It cannot be cured by willpower, just as cancer or diabetes cannot be cured by willpower.

A person who is dependent on substances to function has reached a point where not having the substance, such as an opioid, will cause intense physical pain. As the dependency grows stronger, it can impact the brain's ability to reason and think, making it more difficult to overcome.

Substance use disorders can have a negative impact on all aspects of a person's life. Relationships deteriorate, jobs are lost, and this can often lead to homelessness.

Substance use disorder is a chronic disease that requires specialized treatment. With proper treatment and support, recovery from substance use disorder is possible.

A TEAM OF SUPPORT



Health care providers work closely with each person to understand their unique needs and connect them to the appropriate care.

WORKING TOGETHER

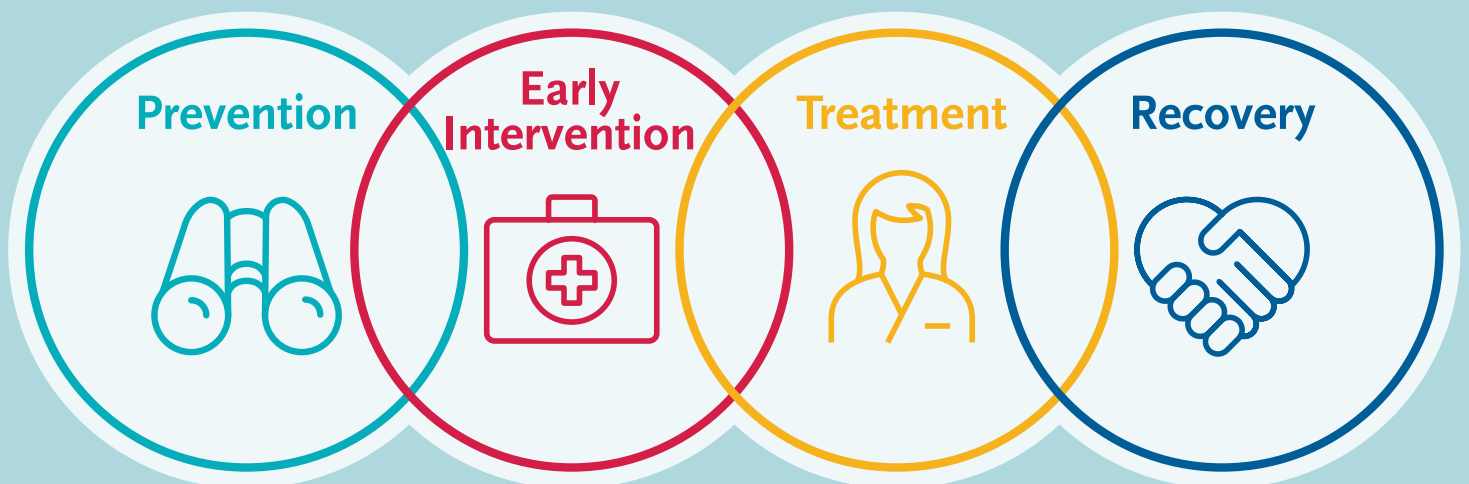
“Mental health and substance use is intrinsically linked to social, economic and physical wellbeing. Having a safe place to live, nutritious food and people who care about us, are fundamental to our mental health.

“For people living with substance use challenges, it is difficult to have healthy relationships with friends and family, go to work or attend school. These are societal issues which affect the lives of many people and their families. Only by coming together as a supportive community in partnerships can we make the changes needed to help people address their challenges and move forward in a positive and progressive manner.”

— Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Island

OFFERING VITAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Cowichan Wellness and Recovery Centre will offer a range of services to support people with substance use and mental health challenges. Some of the services to help people on their wellness journey will be provided at the Centre and others will be delivered by teams of health care providers to people out in the community.



- Primary Care
- Harm Reduction
- Overdose Prevention
- Encampment Outreach & COVID Response
- Peer Supports

- Primary Care
- Opioid Agonist Therapy
- Pharmaceutical Alternatives
- Managed Alcohol
- Addictions Medicine

- Primary Care
- Stabilization Medicine
- Behavioural Care Planning
- Concurrent Mental Health and Substance Use Services

- Primary Care
- Relapse Prevention
- Substance Use Treatment and Recovery
- Peer Supports



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Island Health recognizes the community's interest in continued dialogue about the Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre and the services the Centre will provide to vulnerable people living with mental health and substance use challenges in our community.

In the coming months, Island Health will be hosting a series of community conversations to share information about the centre and listen to feedback.

SESSION 1
Wednesday, May 19
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

SESSION 2
Wednesday, May 19
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

SESSION 3
Thursday, May 20
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To support the Centre, Island Health will establish a Community Advisory Committee to build and maintain positive relationships amongst the community, the Centre operators and program partners, facilitate information sharing and dialogue, and to identify and resolve any issues, opportunities and concerns related to the Centre.

The Community Advisory Committee will have approximately 10 members, representing a cross section of community groups and organizations, including local governments, the education sector, business sector, neighbour representatives, citizens' coalitions, clients/guests, and people with lived experience representatives, and will begin meeting just before the Centre opens.

PROJECT TIMELINE



CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: CVWRC@viha.ca

Website: www.islandhealth.ca/cowichan-wellness-recovery-centre

