Boundary REDUN
(Rural Empowered Drug Users Network)
Boundary REDUN

• REDUN in Nelson started in 2004 as a project initiated by V.A.N.D.U.

• REDUN in the Boundary came out of the Rise-UP Community Engagement Project, with a first meeting July 19, 2010.
Boundary REDUN

REDUN: Who We Are

• A group of former &/or current drug users, their family, friends and supporters/allies.

• We are people who care. We have feelings. We have ideas. We have talents. We care about each other, the issues & our communities.

• We are capable of participating & contributing in positive ways to service delivery design & to policy development.

We know what the challenges that face us are, and we need to be a part of the structure that serves us.
Boundary REDUN

To help create an environment that supports dignity, health, human rights and respect for former and current drug users and the community at large.
Boundary REDUN

**REDUN: Activities**

- Monthly Meetings
- Presentations at Conferences
- Participation in Committees
- Peer Support
- Secondary Distribution of HR Equipment
- Peer Training
- Community Education & Awareness
- Advocacy
- Participation in Research & Consultations
- Contributions to Street Zine Publication
Issues raised in the Rise-Up surveys & focus groups, as well as issues that affect our daily lives are discussed. **Examples:**

- Homelessness
- Landlords
- Stigma (by health & social service providers, the police & community)
- Need for Methadone Maintenance locally
- Lack of Access to Detox & Treatment
- Cotton Fever
- Need for fixed-site Needle Exchange
- Lack of Affordable Nutrition
- Young Girls Trading Sex for Drugs
- Need to Raise $ to buy Laptop
• Panel presentation at first Creating Caring Communities conference hosted by ANKORS at Selkirk College – attended by ~110 service providers.

• Attended HR Conference in Edmonton, 2012 and 2013.
REDUN: Activities

• BC & Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors

• Local & Regional Creating Caring Communities Committees

• Pacific Hepatitis C Network

Creating Caring Communities
Harm Reduction is Health Promotion
Boundary REDUN

Peer Support

REDUN:
Activities

• Helping Others Stay Safe

• Keeping the Community Safe with Patrols for Discarded Equipment & Education for Community About Discarded Equipment

• Helping Other Drug Users to Organize (i.e. Kelowna)
• There is a substantial body of scientific evidence from around the world, that syringe exchange programs are effective in preventing HIV risk behavior & HIV seroconversion among people who use needles to inject drugs.

• REDUN members care for each other & supplement the ANKORS Needle Exchange program, by distributing HR Equipment from their homes.
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Peer Training

REDUN: Activities

• Health Advocacy: How to Build Relationship and Talk with your Doctor, 2011.
• First Aid & Overdose Prevention with First Aid certificates awarded, 2012.
• Naloxone Training, 2013
World Hepatitis Day, 2011:
Hosted a Hepatitis education session in Grand Forks for the community & for service providers.
• World Hepatitis Day, 2012 had an information & awareness booth at the Farmers Market.
• Created REDUN pamphlet to raise community awareness & to reach out to new people in town.

• Outdoor syringe disposal box for BETHS – maintained by ANKORS Needle Exchange.
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Advocacy

REDUN: Activities

• Wrote letter to IHA to protest stopping of STI, HIV & hepatitis testing by public health nurses.

• Advocate to get local Methadone Maintenance program.

• Collaborated with youth organizers to hold a dance event.
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Participation in Research & Consultations

REDUN: Activities

• Rise-Up Surveys & Community Forums
• BCCDC Caravan Project
• Evaluation Tenth St. Clinic
• Met w/ MH&SU staff to give feedback about service delivery.
• Take Home Naloxone (Pilot Project)

http://towardtheheart.com/naloxone
Our Streets

In this issue we have;

- Poetry & Art
- Overdose & Naloxone information
- Notes from the L.A. International Drug Policy Conference
- Personal Stories
- Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS Information
REDUN became possible through a project at ANKORS called RISE-UP. Thank you to ANKORS and especially to Alex Sherstobitoff. **REDUN is an ANKORS affiliate. The views & activities of REDUN do not necessarily reflect the mandates & beliefs of ANKORS.**

To connect with REDUN, call ANKORS @ 1-800-421-AIDS

Thanks also to IHA, especially the Communicable Disease Unit. Supporting REDUN is one of the many ways they practice Harm Reduction. Thanks too to IHA staff in the Mental Health and Substance Use office and to Public Health Nursing.