

GET TO KNOW YOUR ED PATIENTS

Access more stories



The Stories and Life Journeys of People Who Use(d) Substances



“As a peer navigator, I've had the chance to present things to others from an Indigenous perspective, a two-eyed seeing approach.”

“Offering to chat or offering a sandwich, that makes the experience so much better because it makes them think - wow this person cares about me.”



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People just need someone to listen to them.
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MR. FISCHER

Peer Navigator, International advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS, community garden director, and electric scooter fan.



Mr. Fischer is a proud Mi'kmaq man from the East Coast who has worked hard to advocate for the health and social needs of people living with HIV. After his diagnosis of HIV in 2012, he started using crystal meth with the intention of escaping from his reality. Eventually, he came to realize he needed to regain control of his life, and began to volunteer with AIDS Vancouver, ultimately helping him cut down and stop his drug use. Throughout the years, he is grateful for the Fast Track at the St. Paul's Hospital Emergency Department, where the quiet environment and quick access to care “makes a big difference when you're not feeling well.” His personal experience with peer navigators at St. Paul's Hospital led him to become a peer navigator himself, helping guide and support others through their health journeys. He strongly believes in the importance of having allies and advocates for patients who otherwise face barriers to accessing care. Simply offering to chat or provide some food goes a long way. He looks forward to continuing to be a peer navigator and proponent of health systems change both at a local and international level.