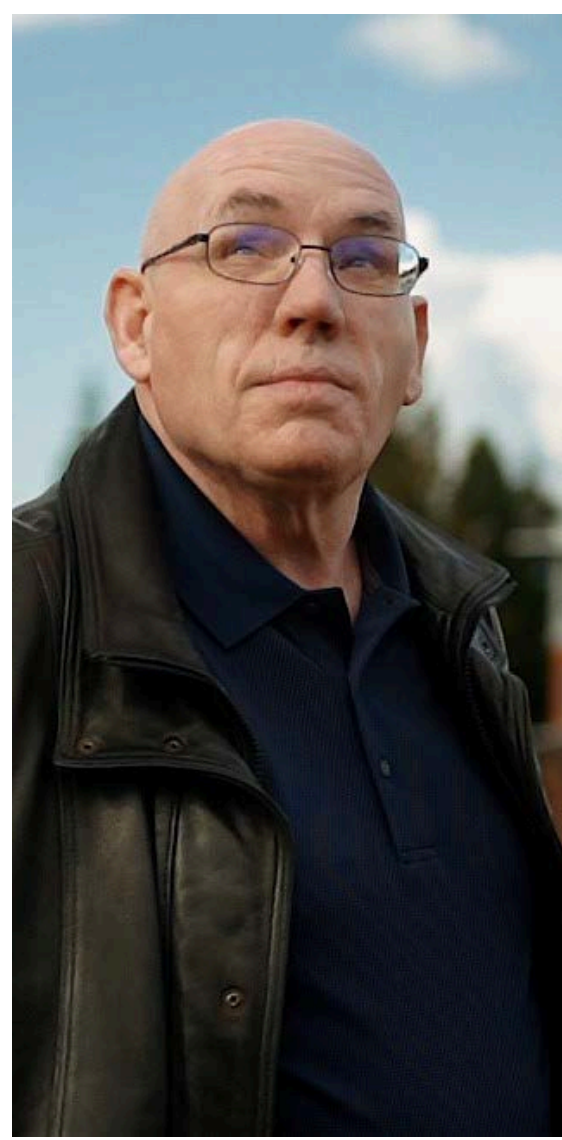




# Meet the Lived Experience Advisors and Partners (LEAP) Team

2024

The LEAP team's wisdom, expertise, passion and leadership is critical to ensuring that the preferences and perspectives of people with lived and living experience (PWLLE) of complex mental health and substance use (MHSU) issues are recognized, prioritized and enacted by the Provincial MHSU Network.





# Anita David<sup>she/her</sup>

LEAP Co-Chair

“I LOVE THE LEAP TEAM BECAUSE WE HAVE THE TIME AND SPACE TO HONOR AND VALUE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND FIND WAYS TO MOVE THEM INTO PRACTICE.”



Anita has transformed her lived and living experience into a career in MHSU advocacy, engagement, research and education. In 2019, Anita became the very first patient partner at B.C. Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) and is currently a lived experience strategic advisor and serves as co-chair of the BCMHSUS Patient and Family Experience Council and the LEAP team. Anita also co-chairs the Hallway Group, lived and living experience council, through the Mental Health Commission of Canada and was recently appointed to the inaugural Lived Experience Council for the Global Leadership Exchange. Through her personal and professional experiences, Anita has found passion and purpose.

# Chris Lamoureux<sup>he/him</sup>

“I LOVE THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE IN LEAP. WE DISCUSS THE DIFFICULTIES IN NAVIGATING COMPLEX SYSTEMS AND BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES.”

A Semiahmoo First Nation band member, Chris started as a patient partner with BCMHSUS, and has had roles as a lived experience strategic advisor, peer support worker, Indigenous care coordinator and is currently leader of Patient Experience. Chris spends his personal time participating in community cultural events with his family and friends.





# Mark Brady<sup>he/him</sup>

“IN THIS WORK, WE ARE ESSENTIALLY MAKING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS A NEED BY PROVIDING INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS. AS A GROUP, IF WE TAKE AN IDEA AND DEVELOP IT FROM THE “TALK” STAGE TO THE “ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION” STAGES, THEN WE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED A SMALL SUCCESS.”



Mark is enthusiastic about the Network concept, with all participants interconnected and able to contribute their unique thoughts and experiences. Mark is a patient partner with BCMHSUS and supports projects, including the 2024 Health Literacy Networking Day. Mark has significant lived experience of both mental health and substance use and enjoys the benefits and gaining knowledge from participating with professionals in this field.

# Mo Korchinski<sup>she/her</sup>

“I LOVE BEING PART OF THE LEAP TEAM, BECAUSE WE ALL SHARE A PASSION TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS IN B.C. THIS TEAM’S LEADERSHIP GIVES US RESPECT AND IS AUTHENTIC, EMPATHETIC AND IS ADAPTABLE TO DRIVE OUR VISION FOR IMPACT.”

Mo is the executive director of Unlocking the Gates Services Society and volunteers on the Board of Directors as board chair of Alouette Addiction Services Society. Her work as a lived experience strategic advisor with BCMHSUS includes evidence in care and co-facilitating focus groups with PWLLE of MHSU, criminal justice involvement and being unhoused. She is also a public speaker, author and filmmaker. She worked for many years in the field of community-based participatory research alongside the Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education at the University of British Columbia.





# Pam Young

she/her

“I REALLY LOVE BEING ON THE LEAP TEAM AND MEETING WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO IMPROVE THE CARE OF FOLKS WHO STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE. WE CAN SEE THE WORK WE DO MOVING FORWARD WHICH IS VERY MOTIVATING AND INSPIRING.”



Pam has worked with Unlocking the Gates since 2011. She is currently the program manager. It is her passion to provide support for people transitioning to the community from incarceration. She is also the peer coordinator for the Transformative Health and Justice Research Cluster where she provides leadership and guidance to support social justice-oriented research activities, policy action, and community-driven change for people in prison and post-release. Pam is a lived experience strategic advisor with BCMHSUS and supports projects including evidence in care and Health Literacy Networking Day 2024.

# Shirley Paulsen

she/her

“LEAP IS A SPECIAL GROUP, ONE THAT KEEPS ITS FOCUS ON IMPROVING POLICY AND PRACTICE THROUGH THE LENS OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF NEGATIVE OUTCOMES DUE TO DRUG TOXICITY. ALWAYS DEEP AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS IN A SPACE WHERE TRUST HAS BEEN CREATED.”

Shirley is a long-serving school trustee in Abbotsford, as well as an event and partnership specialist in the charitable and non-profit sector. She is married to her best husband, Larry, and is Mum to Maddi. Her son, Jacob, died from an overdose in November 2021. Shirley is a lived experience strategic advisor with BCMHSUS, supporting Dialogue + Action sessions and other Network projects including the family resource guide, evidence in care and health literacy. She is an advocate for mental health, ending the drug toxicity crisis and reducing stigma.

