



# UNSETTLING STIGMA

WITH THE INDIGENOUS STREET COMMUNITY IN VICTORIA, BC

WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE

**ESQUIMALT & SONGHEES**

NATIONS, ON WHOSE ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS WE WORK

## ABOUT

We learned from the Indigenous Street Community about their perspectives on the language commonly used to describe their lived and living experience. Wise practice for service providers to reduce the impacts of stigma was also shared.

**110**

SURVEYS CONDUCTED

## HARMFUL LANGUAGE

"STREET ENTRENCHED OR INVOLVED"

"CHRONICALLY HOMELESS"

"HARD-TO-HOUSE"



## COMMUNITY-CENTERED



Street family, I like that term; gives a sense of belonging

## DRAWS ON STRENGTHS



While not expressed by all participants, many shared identifying more closely with Nation-specific terms, rather than the term Indigenous

"STREET FAMILY"

"UNHOUSED COMMUNITY"



## PREFERRED LANGUAGE

## PERMANENT



"It's like saying we have a disease that can't be cured"

## PERSON-BLAMING

## DEHUMANIZING



Many shared they are more concerned about dehumanization from being put in a category than the language being used

## IMPACTS

INHIBITS ACCESS TO HEALTH & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

IMPACTS MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

CONTRIBUTES TO OVER-POLICING

BARRIER TO HOUSING

## WISE PRACTICE



USE COMMUNITY-CENTERED LANGUAGE



USE PERSON-FIRST LANGUAGE



AVOID HARMFUL, CATEGORIZING LANGUAGE



ACKNOWLEDGE DIVERSITY OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

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