

Living in Community is a unique initiative bringing together community organizations, sex workers, government, residents, businesses, and police. LIC works collaboratively to address health and safety issues connected to sex work and sexual exploitation, while balancing the interests of residents, businesses, and sex workers. Given the complexity of sex work issues, LIC is continuously adapting how it works to respond to the current context and to what we are testing and learning along the way.

OUR IMPACT

The intended impact of Living in Community (LIC) is to reduce sex work stigma, increase knowledge about sex work knowledge and the adoption of a rights-based approach to sex work that will support sex workers rights to health, safety and wellbeing.

WHO WE BRING TOGETHER

- Sex Workers
- Community Organizations
- Government & Health Sector
- Residents
- Businesses
- Police

OUR GOALS

Living in Community works towards these long-term outcomes:

- Improved safety and health of sex workers, those at risk of sexual exploitation, residents and business persons
- Comprehensive and coordinated approaches to support health and safety around sex work issues and address community impacts of sex work
- Increased societal support for the health, well-being and safety of sex workers

HOW WE WORK

Our work is based on the following foundational principles:

- Rights-based, Evidence-based Approach
- Harm Reduction
- Equity & Social Justice
- Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Consensus
- Addressing Root Causes
- Including & Valuing Diversity and Lived Experience

Living in Community works collaboratively across diverse stakeholders to improve the health, safety and well-being of all community members, including sex workers

WHAT WE ARE WORKING TO CHANGE

LIC embraces a multi-faceted approach to change-making. LIC's strategies and approaches aim to influence 4 key areas of change including:

Change in Culture & Mindsets

- Reduced stigma and stereotypes of sex workers through shifting narratives, increasing empathy, and rights-based approaches

Change in Practice

- Increased support, accessibility and responsiveness of health and social services, police and other key institutions
- Increased collaborative, consensus-based solutions and actions across diverse stakeholders
- Increased evidence and research about sex work, informed by lived experience

Change in Relationships & Collaboration

- Enhanced coordination and collaboration across stakeholders through the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives in all levels of decision making
- Reduced conflict in neighbourhoods around sex work

Change in Policy/Systems/Structures

- Increased adoption, implementation, and commitment to policies in community organizations, policing and government that support the health and safety of sex workers



HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

LIC works towards the above change through 6 key strategies:

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration

- Engaging diverse stakeholders in collaborative action and solutions

Training & Curriculum Development

- Supportive tools and training to improve practice, reduce stigma and increase knowledge

Public Education & Awareness Raising

- Methods to increase understanding of sex work issues and promising approaches, such as multimedia materials, reports and presentations

Advocacy and Policy Engagement

- Civic engagement to keep sex work issues on the political agenda

Mentorship about the LIC Approach

- Sharing the Living in Community model with other municipalities, and training stakeholders in a collaborative approach to sex work issues

Network/Movement Building

- Creating platforms for better networking among diverse stakeholders
- Provincial network and learning events