



Living in Community is an innovative community development model that offers new strategies, concepts, and ideas for improving the health and safety of sex workers. We focus on getting at root causes of issues like stigma, poverty, and gender-based violence that create systemic vulnerability for sex workers, and we seek to build understanding and common ground with other community members. 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 VISION

We envision a future where sex workers' rights are respected and where sex workers are free from stigma, violence, discrimination, and criminalization. We envision a world where diverse stakeholders can come together to share, learn from each other, and work through different sex work perspectives in order to achieve our common goals of health, safety, and well-being for all community members.

WHO WE BRING TOGETHER

- Sex Workers
- Community Organizations
- Government & Health Sectors
- Other Residents
- Businesses
- Community Safety Stakeholders

OUR MISSION

Centering sex workers' rights, Living in Community convenes diverse stakeholders in order to:

- Understand a range of experiences and perspectives
- Inform sex work-related policies and practices of governments, service providers, and community organizations
- Provide education to support these goals

HOW WE WORK

Our work is based on the following foundational values:

- Centering sex workers' experiences
- Addressing systemic root causes of harm
- Decolonization
- Using an evidence-based, harm reduction lens
- Listening and seeking understanding

FIND OUT MORE: www.livingincommunity.ca | email: info@livingincommunity.ca

Living in Community brings together diverse stakeholders to collaboratively improve the health and safety of sex workers and address community concerns as they arise.

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, policing and community safety, 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 and communities 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, safety, and rights of sex workers



HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

LIC works towards change in our 4 areas 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 and advocacy with government decision-makers at all levels 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