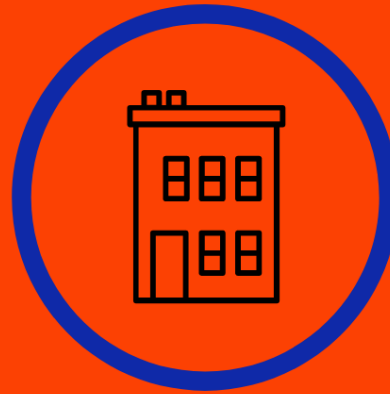


Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/558692079>

A RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR THE HOMELESS

- JOIN THE PEER MOVEMENT -





Mentor/Mentee Canada

GET YOUR MENTOR

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[@PeerEmployment](https://twitter.com/PeerEmployment)

**Providing
Peer
Support to
Positively
Impact
Service and
Success**

115,697 

Torontonians

On wait list for rent geared to income housing. Peer Housing Access Supporters for procurement of sustainable housing.



9,500

Homeless

Peer Supporters engage connection and navigate recovery resources



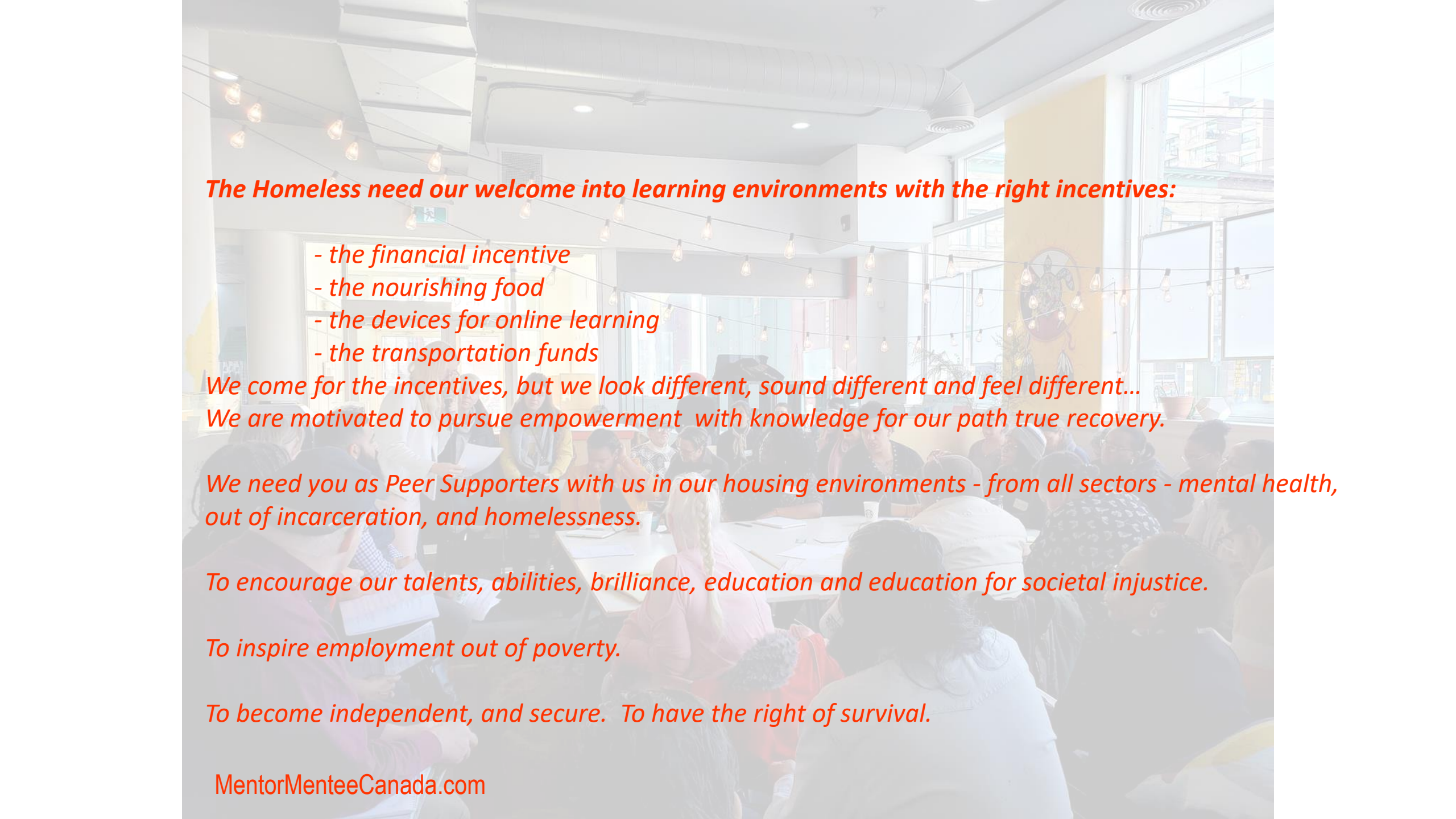
**121 Preventable
Deaths** in 2020.

+38 in February, 2021. Peer Supporters are on call harm reduction specialists.

100%

Capacity

In shelters and respites – Peer Supporters relieve overburdened systems allowing more time for trauma informed care, coordinated care.



The Homeless need our welcome into learning environments with the right incentives:

- the financial incentive*
- the nourishing food*
- the devices for online learning*
- the transportation funds*

We come for the incentives, but we look different, sound different and feel different...

We are motivated to pursue empowerment with knowledge for our path true recovery.

We need you as Peer Supporters with us in our housing environments - from all sectors - mental health, out of incarceration, and homelessness.

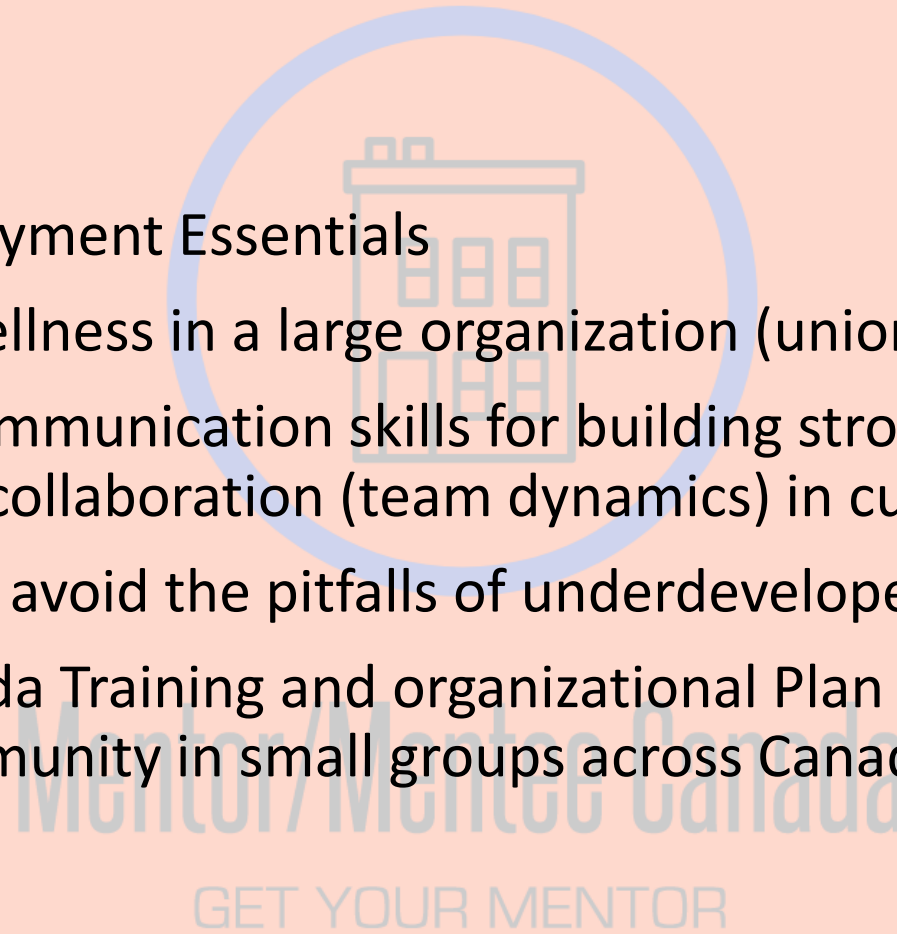
To encourage our talents, abilities, brilliance, education and education for societal injustice.

To inspire employment out of poverty.

To become independent, and secure. To have the right of survival.

Accessible Recovery based Peer Support Training

- Recovery based Employment Essentials
- Designed to sustain wellness in a large organization (union environment)
- Focused on healthy communication skills for building strong relationships to address challenges of collaboration (team dynamics) in current settings.
- Best practice tactics to avoid the pitfalls of underdeveloped Peer programs.
- Mentor/Mentee Canada Training and organizational Plan available for all Peers to duplicate in their community in small groups across Canada.



Peer Supportive Role for true Recovery

- Fight, Freeze or Flight - a fourth state of cared-for and spared.
- Trauma Informed Specialists – language of understanding to regain dignity.
- Engagement Specialists - encourage, accompany and show the way forward in Recovery.
- Transition Specialists – support challenge, change and reinvention.
- Resource Specialists - first hand experience of Community Recovery services and supports.
- Housing Access Specialists – Skills to sustain housing and prevent homelessness through Landlord and Tenant Board procedures.
- Our advocacy of the vision statement and mandated trauma informed care.

Recovery Start Up: Foundational Peer Support Training

- For healthy communication skills.
- For healthy relationships.
- For the group norms, safety and comfort agreement for personal and professional relationships.
- For recovery resource knowledge.

The Right Housing for true Recovery

- Supportive Developmental Housing away from dependence to empowerment.
- Built in foundational Peer Support training for cooperative living communication skills and relationship skills.
- Built in wellness programs to discover recovery.

Strategy: Involvement and Inclusion

Encouraging News in creative pathways to Peer Leadership:

- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) - community leadership and organizational skills.
- MAPhealth MARCO Project community developed research with Lived Experience evaluation. Co-creation and meaningful, employed Lived Experience involvement to Impact.
- Pipeline Project of the Toronto Shelter Network Survey (growing Peer House?)
- CAEH Lived Experience Leadership Portal. Supportive engagement.
- Shelter Recovery Network – aligned with Housing Recovery.

Recovery: Awareness and Invitation to resources

- At every Entrance – Peer Support recovery and community connection away from stigma and deadly isolation.
- Wide spread awareness of resources is the early education to both prevent and recover.

A Collaborative Strategy

A multi-sector Peer Movement for the complex (multi-sector) homeless.

- Lived Experience of highly developed Recovery programs and core essential Peer Support training for mental health and addictions.
- Lived Experience of Housing Recovery - Recidivism Recovery – Mental Health Recovery, from each sector for the homeless.

Peer Support is an Essential Service

*SAMSHA "Peer Support is the future of Behavioural Health".
- May, 2020*

\$114,000.00 per year on prison stays for one person.

\$54,000.00 per year on a shelter stay plus hospitalization stay.

- Important for sustaining housing as well as employment. Important in all housing environments (including hospitals, jails and prisons) and Government Ministries.
- Peer Support recovery programs for relationships that sustain connection.

A person is preparing food on a wooden table. The table is covered with various fresh ingredients including tomatoes, green bell peppers, a bowl of salad, a bowl of cucumbers, a bowl of red bell peppers, a bowl of shrimp, and a small bowl of spices. The person is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt and is using a knife to cut a tomato on a wooden cutting board. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with light coming through.

Built in Healthy Lives Programs

Healthy Lives Programs driven with the right incentives.

- Concurrent Disorders Self Care to Wellness.
- Pain Management
- Cooking and Nutrition

A faded background image of a living room. It features a patterned sofa, a small coffee table with a lamp, and a dog standing on the right side. The text is overlaid on this image.

Built In Healthy Homes Programs

Stop the Costly Uphill Battle: Bed bugs, infestations, floods, fires, faulty smoke alarms, broken appliances.

- Skill building: Home health. Documenting skills for Tenant protection. Educating Tenant rights.
- Skill building: Budgeting programs for money and debt management for employment and maintaining Independence.



Foundational Peer Support Training + Peer Entrepreneurship + Peer Community Organizational Skills Programs

- For cooperative living – relationships and communication
- Motivation to empowerment
- Purpose to passion
- To independence

Recovery Isolation Sites for Communities

Recovery Isolation Sites can transition/develop into recovery environments with Peer leadership programs:

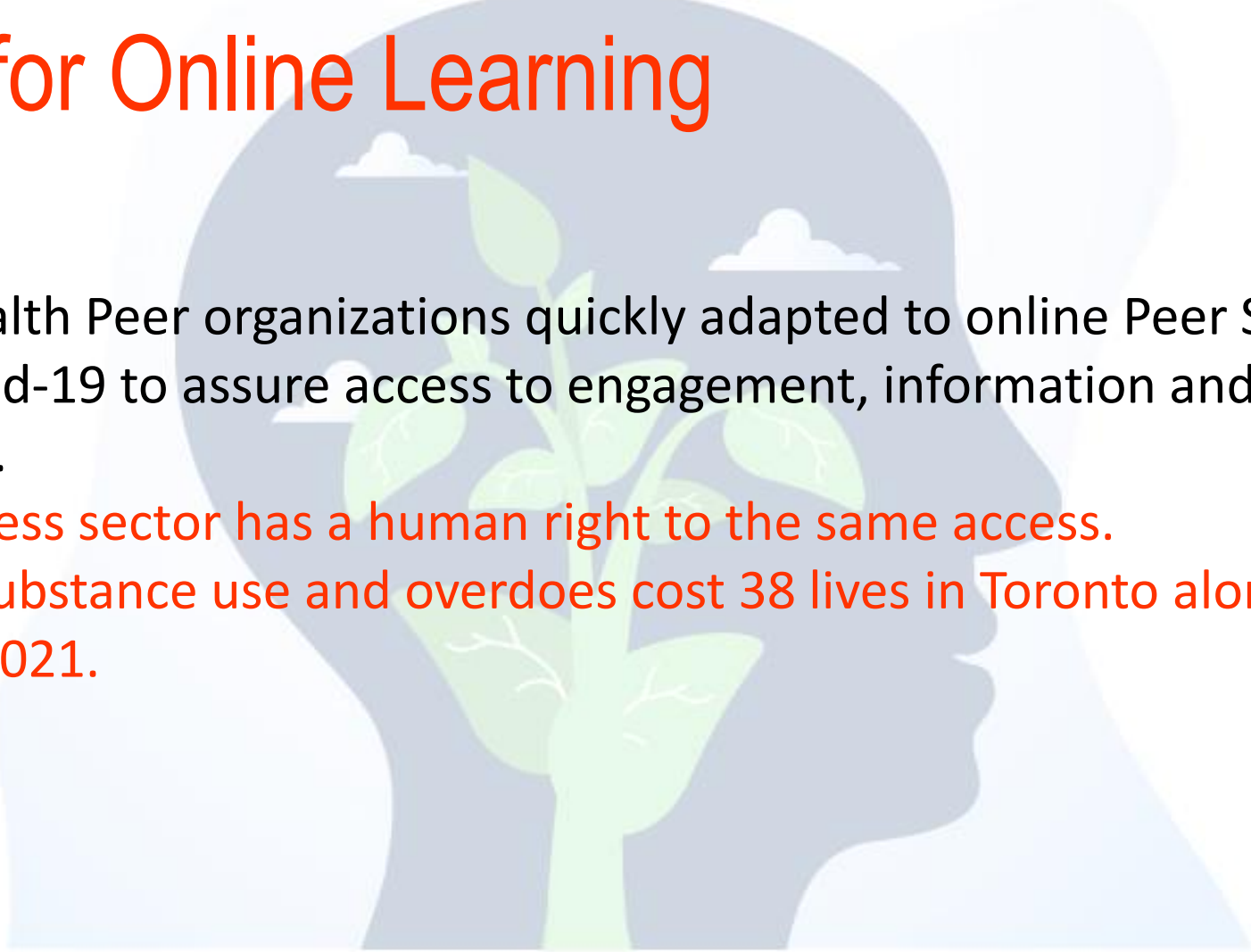
Right way:

- Foundational Peer Support Training for healthy communication and healthy relationships in cooperative living.
- Healthy Homes Peer Co-designed Programs; Healthy Lives Peer Co-designed Programs for life skills. Healthier residents and Healthier communities.

Wrong way:

Gatekeepers, Punitive 'Management', re-traumatizations, evictions without trauma informed transition resources or services lead back to the street, hospitals, prisons and jails.

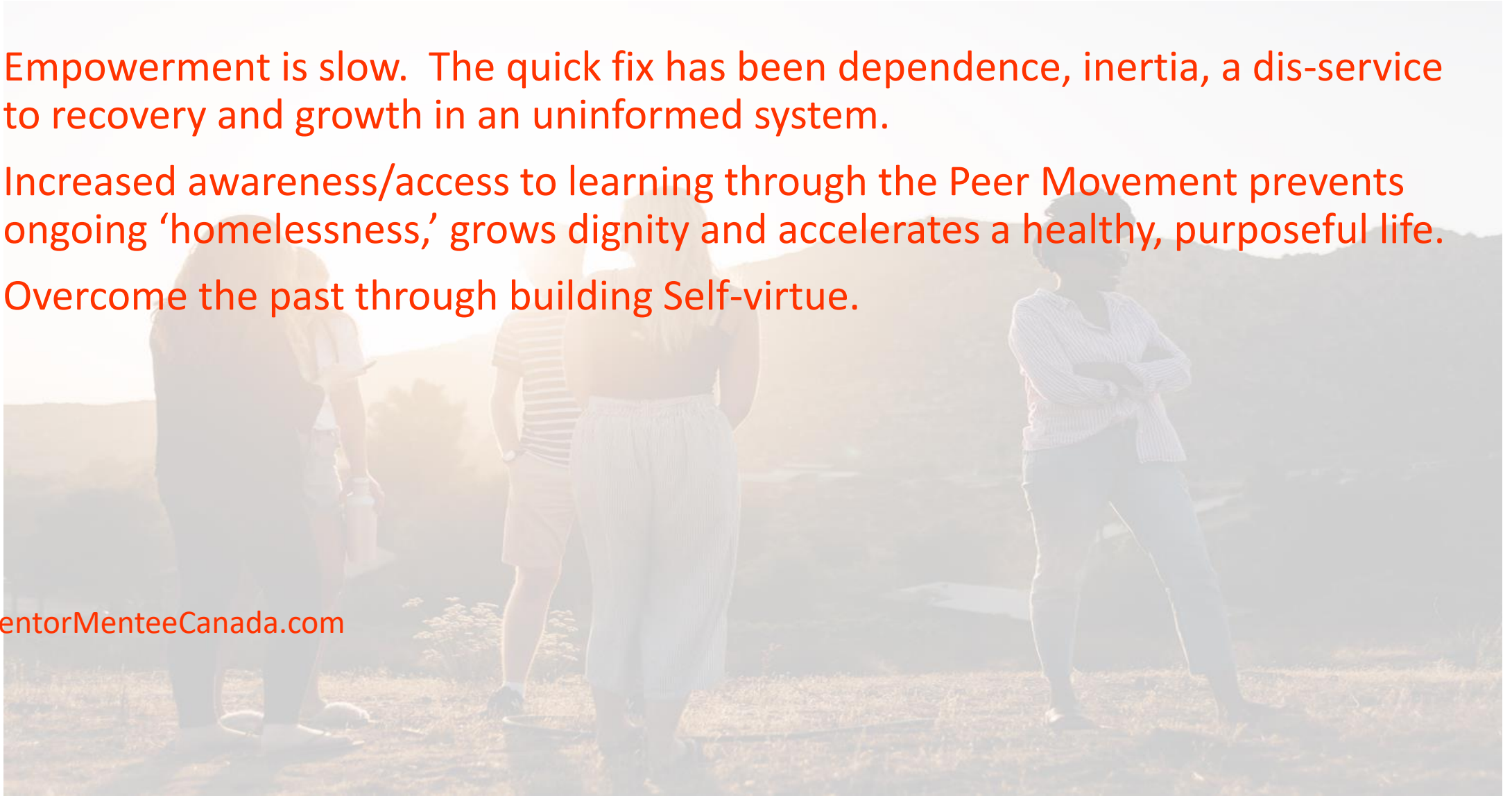
CHALLENGE: Adult Homeless Accessibility to Devices for Online Learning



- Mental Health Peer organizations quickly adapted to online Peer Support during Covid-19 to assure access to engagement, information and wellness knowledge.
- The Homeless sector has a human right to the same access.
- Isolation, substance use and overdoses cost 38 lives in Toronto alone in February, 2021.

Recovery is Empowerment

- Empowerment is slow. The quick fix has been dependence, inertia, a dis-service to recovery and growth in an uninformed system.
- Increased awareness/access to learning through the Peer Movement prevents ongoing 'homelessness,' grows dignity and accelerates a healthy, purposeful life.
- Overcome the past through building Self-virtue.



Changing the Perception of Homelessness

Changing the face of homelessness with employment and development housing leadership.

- **The sustaining, connective power of program, employment and ongoing development.**
- **You are our employers!**

Growth Strategy: Peer Recovery Roles

Wrong way: ONPHA (Ontario Not for Profit Housing Association) vast Supportive Housing worker role – a recovery conflicting Landlord representative.

Right way: Peer Supportive recovery roles involved in OCAN (Ontario Common Assessment of Need).

Right way: OPOC (Ontario Perception of Care) for ongoing measurement of housing program success and ongoing improvement for Lived Experience including the hard to reach (10% to 80% ratio of individuals).

Support Strategy: Peer Role Development

- **Housing Access Peer Specialist** - for the Recovery Shelter Network.
- **Transition Peer Specialist** - to prevent homelessness from evictions (and at Landlord and Tenant Board offices).
- **U.S. Peer Recovery Specialist:** - Bruprophemene in the Emergency Unit (prevent opioid deaths after first overdose).
- **Supporting gap times to all services. Complimenting Front Line roles.**
- **Employment Peer Specialists** active in Ministry employment and disability offices.

Peer Support Models for Collective and Collaborative Teams

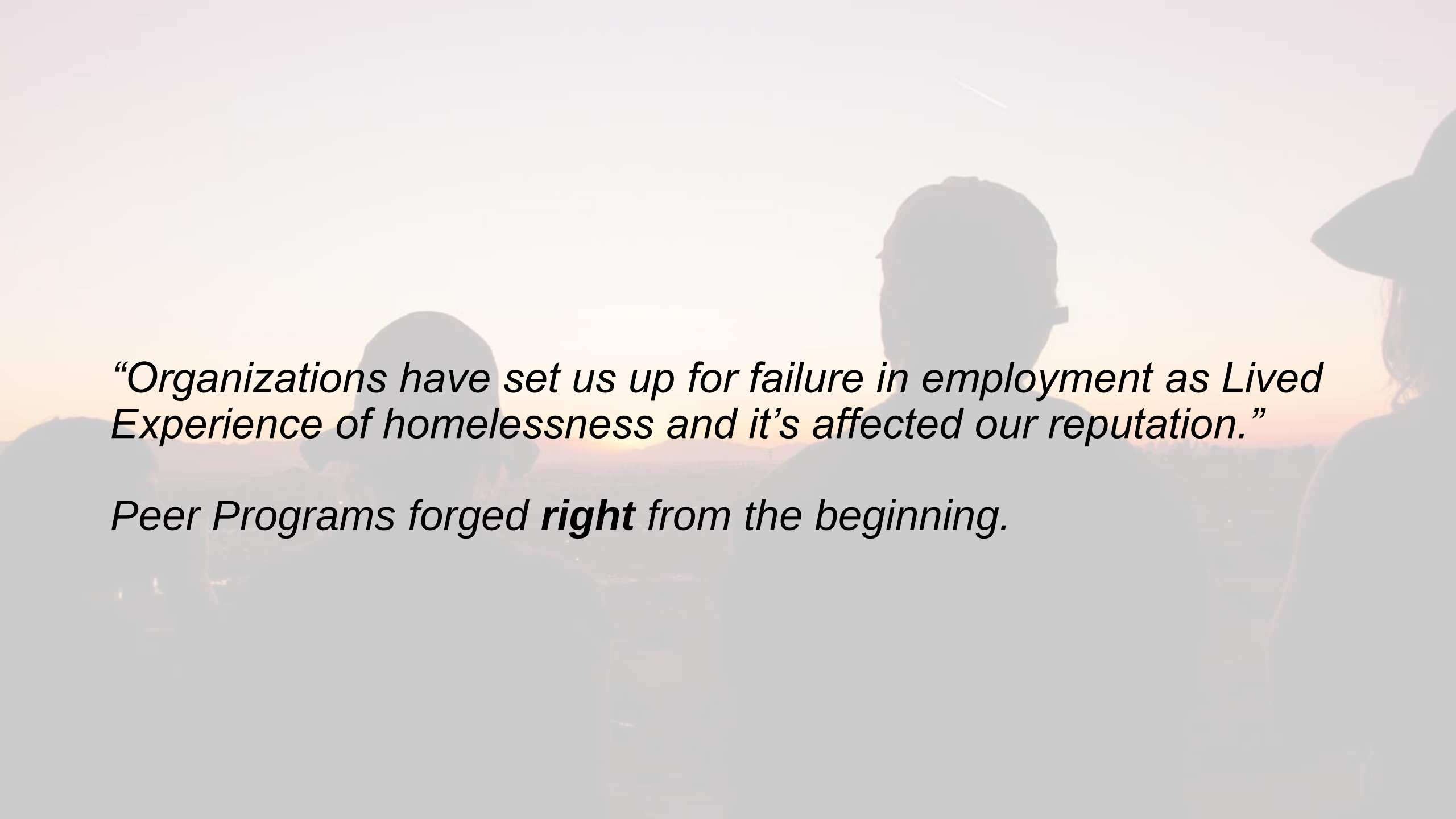
Organizations learning alongside us:

- Peer Models **share resources for community development to all best services and organizations.**
- Peer Models **support equal inclusion and involvement.**
- Peer Models **are collective and collaborative teams.**
- Peer Models **recognize the need to make space for one another.**
- Peer Models **build connection and relationships.**

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A close-up photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hand on the left is light-skinned and wears a thin, light-colored bracelet. The hand on the right is dark-skinned. Both hands are wearing white long-sleeved shirts. The background is a blurred indoor setting with light-colored walls and some indistinct shapes.

“ I’m advanced in my social service training and working in the field – I came in with a negative attitude to Peer Support training, but this is exactly what I needed. ”

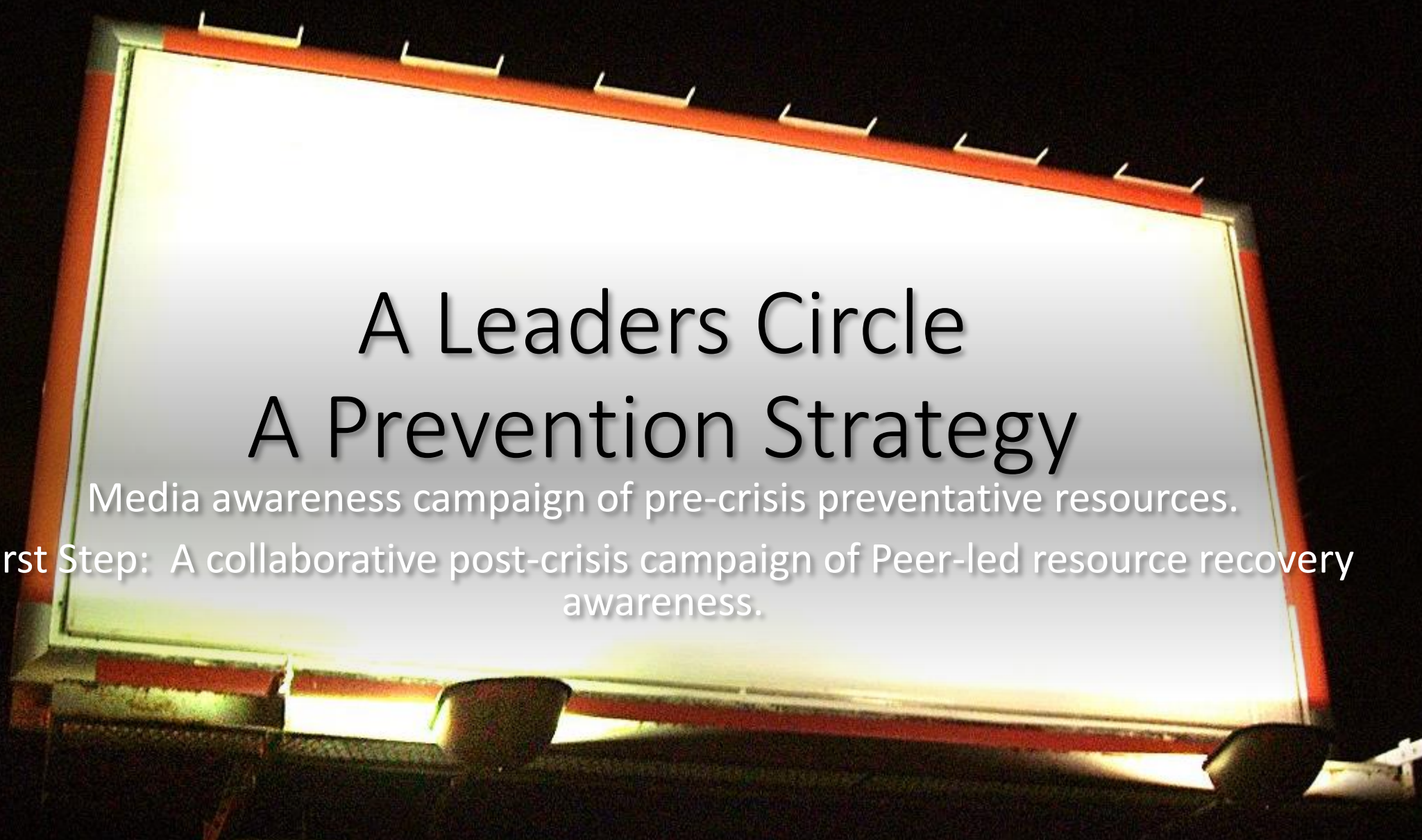
The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky in shades of orange, yellow, and light pink. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of three people are visible, looking towards the horizon. The person on the right is wearing a wide-brimmed hat. The text is overlaid on this background.

“Organizations have set us up for failure in employment as Lived Experience of homelessness and it’s affected our reputation.”

*Peer Programs forged **right** from the beginning.*

Myth Busting – We are not a threat

- *There are no hierarchies in Recovery for effective Person Centred Care.*
- *The social services are for overcoming social injustice.*
- *Collaborative, not competitive, to opportunity.*



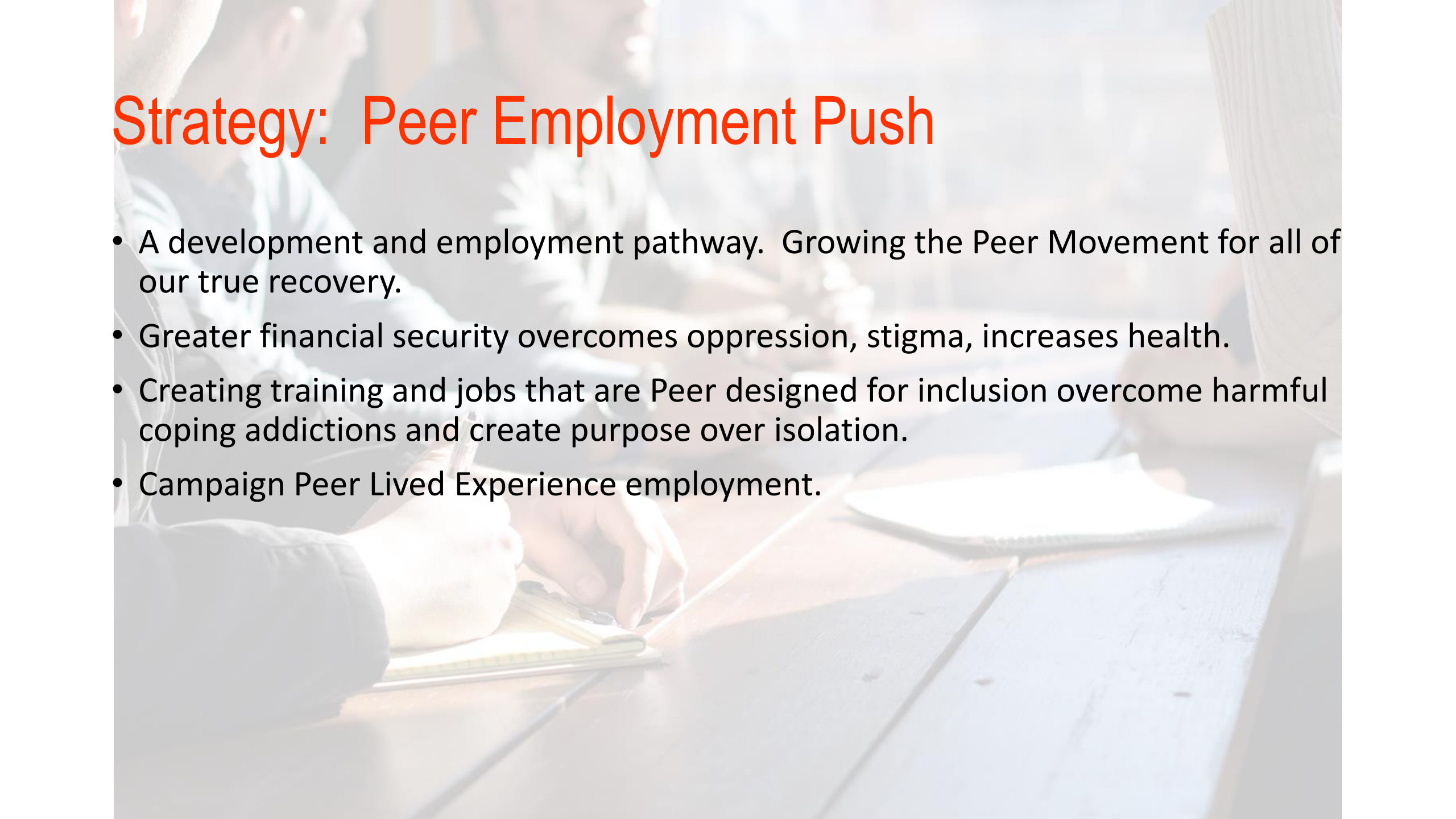
A Leaders Circle A Prevention Strategy

Media awareness campaign of pre-crisis preventative resources.

First Step: A collaborative post-crisis campaign of Peer-led resource recovery awareness.

Housing First Recovery, and true ongoing recovery through Lived Experience Peer Support.



A blurred background image showing several people sitting around a table in what appears to be a meeting or workshop. One person in the foreground is writing in a notebook. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid clearly.

Strategy: Peer Employment Push

- A development and employment pathway. Growing the Peer Movement for all of our true recovery.
- Greater financial security overcomes oppression, stigma, increases health.
- Creating training and jobs that are Peer designed for inclusion overcome harmful coping addictions and create purpose over isolation.
- Campaign Peer Lived Experience employment.

Fixing it is hard. Building it is easier.

- Peer House in Canada. A place to walk in and stay awhile for Peer Supportive recovery.



An Action Step

- Mentor/Mentee Canada Toronto Peer Network - Slack Channel
- Peer Supporters and Peer Coordinators registration: [The Peer Support Network \(Toronto\)](#)
- Our workplace url is: thepeersupport-yjo7125.slack.com
- New to Slack workspace sharing platform? [Your get started introduction.](#)
- CAEH Recovery For All Campaign - **and include true Recovery through Lived Experience and Peer Support Employment.**
- <https://act.newmode.net/action/budget-priority>
- *One day, everyone can have a Mentor. #EqualMentoring*

An Event – Invitation to a Leaders Circle

Inviting you to a Leaders Circle.

- Co-design strategy for empowerment building of the Peer Movement.
- A video awareness campaign of our best resources for the vulnerable to become successful.
- Bring our collaboration to the now re-set People with Lived Experience Connection Conference just prior to CAEH2021 in November.
- **Can we contact you for a Peer Leaders Circle to support the Homeless ?**

