

Session #1

Revisiting the Principles of Engagement and Inclusion of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network



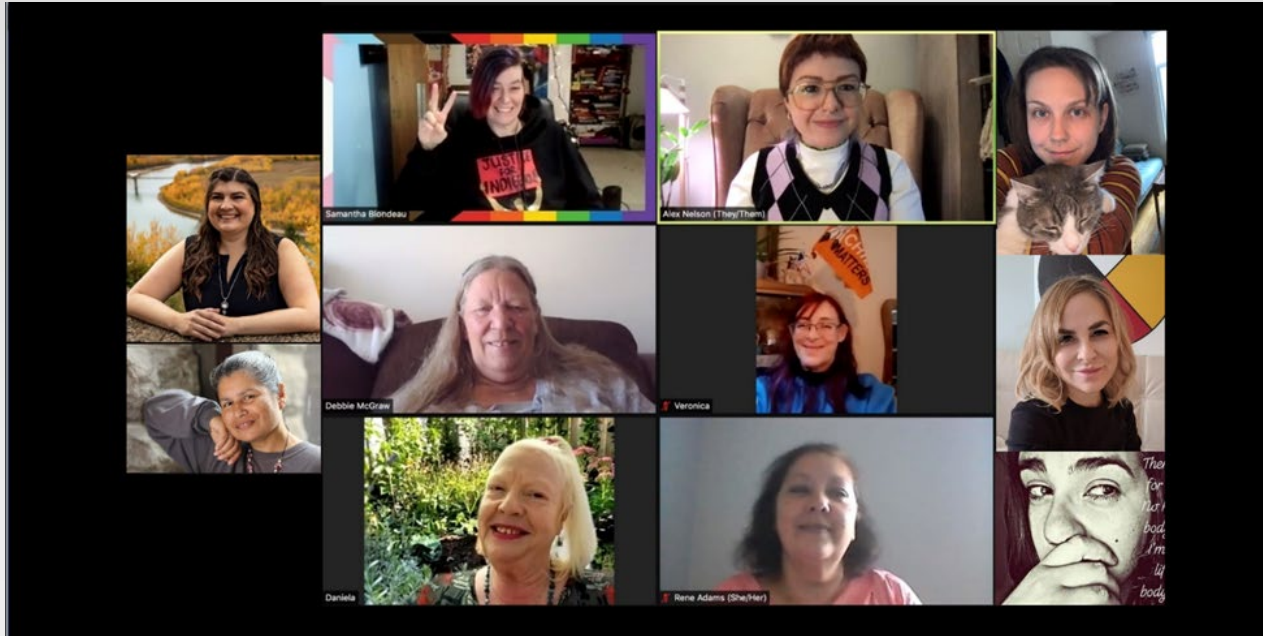


• Territorial/Land acknowledgement

Agenda:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-10:15 | Introduction to CLELN and the Principles Taskforce |
| 10:15-11:10 | Experiences of Taskforce Members in Revisiting Principles |
| 11:10-11:30 | Audience Q&A, Closing and Remembrance |

Who are we?



Left-right*: Pamela Spurvey, Samantha Blondeau, Alex Nelson, Jayne Malenfant; Debbie McGraw, Veronica Snooks, Michelle Bilek; Phoenix Winter, Daniela Mergarten, Rene Adams, Cheyanne Fath

***Not pictured:** Cathy Dziak, Nancy Henderson, Mirza Nabeel Baig. Special thanks to Laura Norin for supporting this project.

The background is a light gray gradient. It features several decorative elements: a yellow and orange circular arc in the top-left corner; a yellow and orange paperclip-like shape in the top-center; a vertical column of four overlapping white diamonds with gray shadows on the right side; a horizontal row of four overlapping gray diamonds with white shadows at the bottom; and a red and orange circular arc in the bottom-right corner. Scattered throughout are small yellow and orange dots.

Part I:

WHAT IS CLELN?

- This project is part of the Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network (CLELN).
- CLELN is a collective of diverse people with lived experience of homelessness and expertise in grassroots organizing, advocacy, mentorship and peer support.
- CLELN works to ensure that the voices of people with lived experience are in the forefront of all matters regarding homelessness
- We want to eliminate homelessness and housing insecurity through research, policy, advocacy, training, and collaboration.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

1. Bring the perspective of our lived experience **to the forefront**
2. Include people with lived experience **at all levels** of the organization
3. **Value our time** and provide appropriate supports
4. Challenge **stigma**, confront **oppression** and promote **dignity**
5. Recognize our expertise and engage us in **decision-making**
6. Work together towards our **equitable representation**
7. **Build authentic relationships** between people with and without lived experience

PREVIOUS PRINCIPLES: WHY REVISIT?

- We recognized the need to update the original Principles:
- The original Principles served an important purpose for many years
- Opportunities for people with lived experience to engage in housing decisions increased since the time of publication
- The housing crisis, the climate crisis, and the drug poisoning crisis have deepened, and COVID has put further pressure on our communities
- New and different language, context, and perspectives are needed to ground the Principles in action and justice

Our Process:

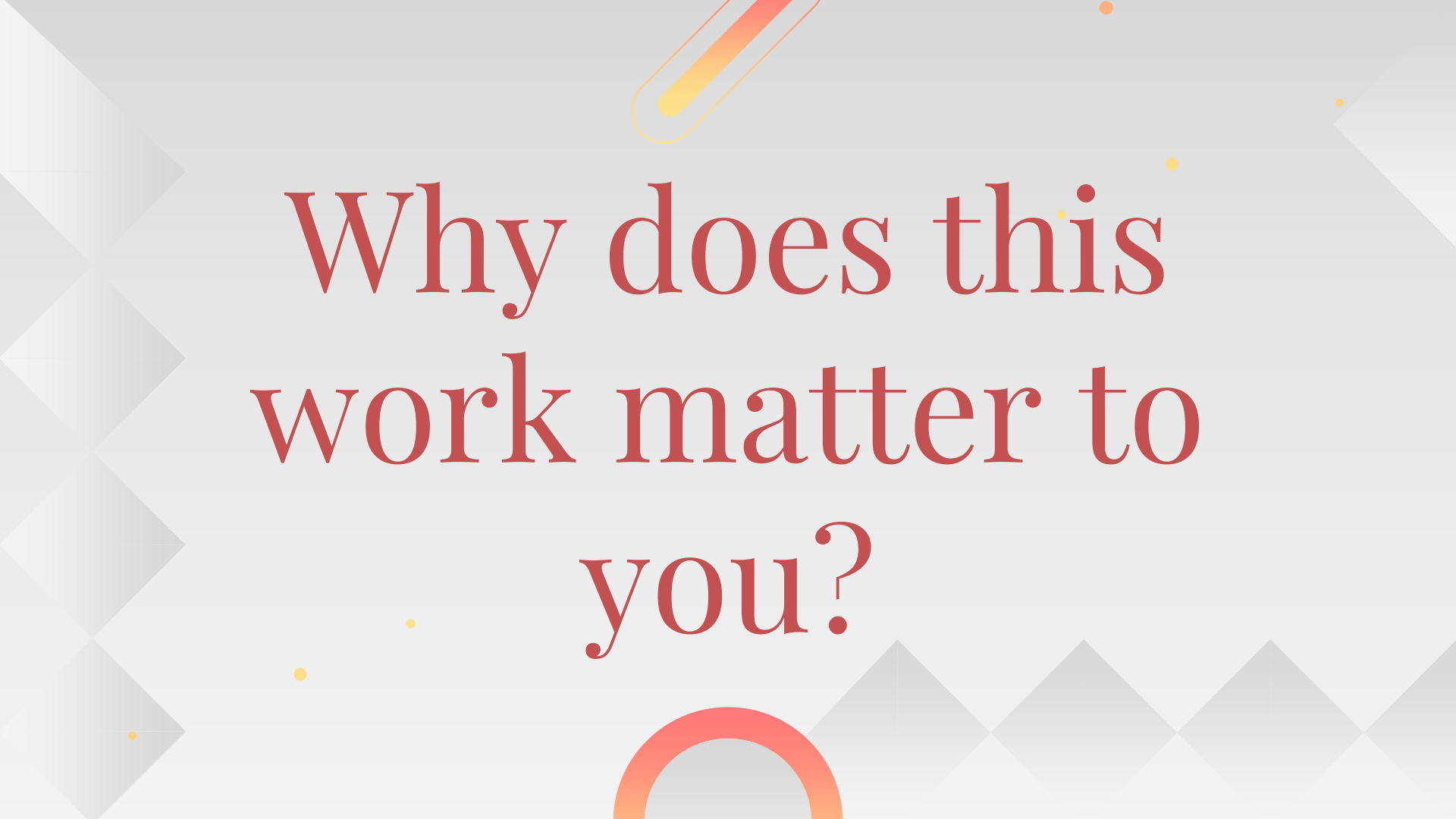
- We began this work by reflecting on the original Seven Principles
- Every two weeks, we covered one of the original Principles each meeting
- We built our timeline around the needs of the team, and the project grew into a space where we supported one another while using the content of the original document as a guide
- Reflections on our lived experience, and advocacy journey
- We got funding to continue this project, and to compensate time and labour of team members
- Our long term goal: to build a revised set of Principles that we can share with decision makers, researchers, and other people with lived experience

The background features a light gray gradient with various decorative elements. In the top left, there is a partial orange and yellow circle. In the top center, there is a yellow paperclip-like shape. On the right side, there is a vertical column of overlapping white diamonds with a gray gradient. At the bottom left, there is a horizontal row of overlapping gray diamonds. Scattered throughout are small yellow and orange dots. In the bottom right corner, there is a partial red and orange circle.

Part II:

What brought
you to this
work?



The background features a light gray diamond pattern. At the top center is a stylized thermometer with a yellow-to-orange gradient. At the bottom center is a stylized rainbow arch with a red-to-orange gradient. Several small yellow dots are scattered across the background.

Why does this
work matter to
you?



How has this impacted your other roles outside of the principles committee?

What's Next?

- Our next steps for the project will include:
 - ● Drafting Principles
 - Building a glossary of lived experience defined terms
 - Launching the Principles, hoping to change decision-making processes to reflect these Principles
- You can find out more about our work on the CLELN website, or contact us through Facebook or email
- We will have a Principles page on the CLELN website soon

We will also be holding a second session **at 1:30 in room 204 C**

- ○ This session will be a workshop where you can give feedback on the original Principles to help us build the next version



Questions?



- Remembering those who came before,
• who we've lost, on whose shoulders
• we build our work



Thank you

We would appreciate your feedback we invite you to fill out an evaluation of this session!

With thanks to our supporters:

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, the Maytree Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and United Way Edmonton

