

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HKLN Drug Strategy Hosts Regional Symposium to Discuss Opportunities for Collaboration on Substance Use**

*Two sessions will bring communities together to strengthen coordinated responses across the region*

**(April 22, 2026)** – The [Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes Northumberland \(HKLN\) Drug Strategy](#) is bringing community partners, service providers, municipal leaders, and people with lived and living experience together for *Connected Communities: A Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy Conversation Series*, regional symposiums focused on dialogue, shared learning and collaboration around substance use and the Four Pillars: Prevention, Treatment, Community Safety and Harm Reduction.

The first session will take place on May 28, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Victoria Park Armoury (210 Kent Street West, Lindsay) and is intended for residents and stakeholders in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. A second session will be held on June 17, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Best Western in Cobourg, for those in Northumberland County.

These symposiums will create space for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration across sectors responding to substance use and its impacts.

Each event will feature opening remarks, expert presentations, facilitated breakout discussions, a panel conversation, and a plenary session. Attendees will also have opportunities to network and connect with others working across the region. Lunch will be provided.

“These symposiums are an opportunity to bring together voices from across our region to share what’s working, identify gaps, and strengthen how we respond to substance use in our communities,” said Ashley Smoke, HKLN Drug Strategy Coordinator. “By focusing on prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety, we can build more coordinated and compassionate approaches that meet people where they are.”

Participants will engage in discussions aimed at identifying local priorities, sharing promising practices, and exploring opportunities to enhance coordinated responses across the HKLN region.

Registration is required, and individuals must register for their preferred session, including Lindsay (serving City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County) and Northumberland County (Cobourg).

## OUR VISION

The HKLN Drug Strategy strives for supportive and safe environments that promote the health and resiliency of individuals, families and communities, and reduce the harms and stigma associated with substance use.



**Connected Communities: A Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy Conversation Series**

**Event Details:**

**Lindsay (City of Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton County)**

**Date:** May 28, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Victoria Park Armoury, 210 Kent Street West, Lindsay

Registration information is available [here](#).

**Cobourg (Northumberland County)**

**Date:** June 17, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Best Western, Cobourg

Registration information is available [here](#).

**For More Information**

- Visit the [HKLN Drug Strategy](#) website to learn more about current harm reduction efforts.
- View the weekly [Opioid Overdose Report](#) produced by the Lakelands Public Health Unit
- Report a drug poisoning or substances of concern in your community [here](#).
- Sign up to receive [Drug Poisoning Alerts](#).

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**Media Contact**

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**About the HKLN Drug Strategy**

The HKLN Drug Strategy is a partnership of over 35 organizations, departments, and individuals across the three counties working directly or indirectly in social services, healthcare, or in harm reduction. Working collaboratively, the HKLN Drug Strategy strives to foster supportive and safe environments that promote the health and resiliency of individuals, families, and communities, and works to reduce the harms and stigma associated with substance use. Visit [hklndrugstrategy.com](http://hklndrugstrategy.com).

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