

Recovery Café Vancouver

A community where recovery is strengthened through connection, purpose, and belonging



Recovery Café is a community where connection, support, and shared responsibility help people build lasting recovery.

Missing pieces in Recovery

Recovery affects people from all walks of life. Yet many individuals rebuilding their lives encounter similar barriers once formal treatment comes to an end.

CHALLENGES IN RECOVERY

Existing Experience

Many people leave recovery programs without a supportive, ongoing network of peers who understand their journey.

Loss of Belonging

Recovery often requires leaving behind environments and relationships tied to substance use. Without a new community based on recovery, individuals can feel isolated.

Navigating Daily Life Alone

Maintaining recovery involves housing stability, employment, health care, and rebuilding relationships. Accessing and coordinating these systems can be complex and difficult to manage alone.

Limited Long-Term Support

While treatment programs focus on stabilization, fewer services provide the ongoing peer community needed for sustained recovery.

Recovery is strengthened when people are **known, supported, and accountable** to one another.

HEALING NEEDS A VILLAGE

For many people, beginning recovery is an act of courage. Treatment programs, counselling services, and recovery housing can provide important support at critical moments. But once those supports end, many individuals continue their recovery without a steady community around them.

For many, recovery is not a single step or short program – it is a long process of rebuilding routines, relationships, confidence, and stability.

Without spaces that nurture connection and accountability, the recovery journey can be difficult to sustain. Healing requires something much deeper – **community, accountability, and belonging.**



WHY RECOVERY CAFÉ MATTERS

For the past five years, Recovery Café Vancouver has provided a steady, peer-driven community where individuals rebuilding their lives can find support, connection, and purpose.

Since opening in 2021, more than 430 individuals have joined the community.

Members come not only to sustain recovery, but to rediscover their strengths, contribute to others, and rebuild meaningful lives.

Recovery Café offers something many traditional services cannot: **a place where you are known and loved, and expected to show up, contribute, and grow.**

This model complements treatment and housing by providing the enduring support needed to sustain recovery over time.

A Welcoming Community

Recovery Café operates as a peer-driven community built on mutual care and support. Members regularly participate in activities that strengthen their recovery and connection.

HOW THE CAFÉ WORKS

Recovery Circles

Small weekly peer groups where members share their experiences of the past week, their goals for the next week, offer mutual suggestions and support, and hold each other accountable.



Community Meals

Shared meals create opportunities for stronger connection and relationship-building.



Skill-Building Activities

Workshops support life skills, confidence, and personal growth (e.g., boundaries, financial literacy, music therapy, anger management, employment readiness, etc.)



Outreach

Visits to community health centres, recovery houses, treatment programs, and pharmacies to share personal experience and opportunity to become a member.



Today, the Café hosts 13 Recovery Circles each week and offers 40+ unique programs based on member input. Since opening in 2021, more than 430 individuals have joined the Recovery Café Vancouver community.

Brad's Journey

Brad came to Recovery Café Vancouver seeking stability and a fresh start. Through community and peer support, he began rebuilding his life.

When Brad first walked through the doors of the Recovery Café in early 2023, he was waiting for a space in residential treatment and searching for connection and stability. He had picked up a pamphlet in detox and decided to give the Café a try.

What he found was more than a program – he found community.



Brad joined a Recovery Circle, explored art and music therapy, and accessed counselling and group outings. Over time, the Café became a steady part of his healing and daily life.

Today, Brad leads a Recovery Circle of his own and helps refer others to the Café, supporting people who are beginning their own recovery journeys.

“

I'm grateful there are groups willing to look past the stigma of substance use and realize we have a lot to offer the world.”

IMPACT SO FAR

Through ongoing engagement, members build relationships, regain confidence, and reconnect with the systems and supports that help them move forward.

Recovery Café makes possible:

Sustained recovery and reduced relapse

Peer support and accountability help members maintain long-term recovery.

Stronger social connection and reduced isolation

Regular connection replaces the the isolation that often undermines recovery.

Improved access to housing, healthcare, and employment

Members connect to essential services that support stability and independence.

Reduced reliance on emergency services

Stable community support reduces crisis and the need for costly interventions.

A replicable community-based recovery model for BC

The Café demonstrates how peer-driven support strengthens recovery systems across the province.



95%

of Recovery Café members say participation strengthens their commitment to recovery.

GROWTH SCOPE

Today, there are **more than 90 Recovery Cafés across North America**, yet only one in Canada. Communities and municipalities across British Columbia have expressed strong interest in replicating the model to support recovery in their own regions.

Investment Opportunity



Streetohome has committed **\$2M in operational seed funding** over five years to ensure the Recovery Café becomes a permanent part of the Vancouver landscape. The Kettle Society Board has confirmed continued funding for Recovery Café operations.

Funding Status

Total Project Commitment: **\$16,000,000**
(includes donor purchase and renovation of building at 620 Clark Drive)

Fundraised to Date: **\$15,327,656**

Remaining to Raise: \$672,344

To support the first Recovery Café in Canada, we are seeking a lead partner, or small group of partners, to close the final \$672,344 gap. This is more than a capital contribution: it is an investment in individual recovery journeys in British Columbia.



Hand-painted mural by Jen Clark

depicting 'transformation' at Recovery Café Vancouver.

An Invitation

This is your opportunity to back a model that empowers people, cultivates community, and provides steady support beyond treatment.



The Recovery Café in Vancouver represents a rare opportunity to establish a proven model that transforms lives while reducing long term public costs. Streethome envisions this as the first of many Recovery Cafés across the province. The Kettle Society is willing to provide tours and share the program model, financials, annual outcome data, and lessons learned – providing a ready blueprint for others to build upon.

Help us bridge the final \$672,344 gap and secure Canada's first Recovery Café.



CONTACT

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Scan the QR Code with your mobile device to access the project page on our website.

