

Frequently Asked Questions:

BC Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting Project

Have questions about the BC BDAR project?

Learn more here:



1. What is Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting (BDAR)?

Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting (BDAR), sometimes called bad date reporting, is a sex worker-led response to report violent incidents or safety concerns to peers and/or outreach workers. These incidents and concerns are tracked in online databases and distributed to help keep each other safe.

BDAR is a useful tool for documenting and sharing information and is often a more accessible option for seeking support than existing justice system supports and programs. BDAR is not linked to law enforcement, but is a peer-based safety tool.

2. What is the BC BDAR Project?

The BC Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting (BC BDAR) Project is a three-year project to create a provincially-integrated bad date reporting system across BC. While multiple local bad date reporting systems exist in places like Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, and Prince George, these systems aren't linked together. Most communities in BC, especially those in rural and remote areas, do not have bad date reporting. The BC BDAR project will build a tool that will incorporate all communities and sectors of sex workers in BC.

BC BDAR aims to honour and build on the decades of hard work from sex workers and sex worker-serving organizations, including the existing local bad date reporting systems in BC and other bad date reporting systems around the world like the National Ugly Mugs (NUM) project in the UK.

The type of tool that this project will create is yet to be determined – it will depend on upcoming extensive consultation with sex workers of all sectors in BC to identify how the tool can best meet their needs.

3. Who is coordinating the project?

The BC BDAR Project Coordinator is Andrea Cupelli, who started in this position on July 5th.

Andrea Cupelli (she/her) is a settler grateful to be living, working, and playing on the traditional unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation (Comox Valley, BC).



Andrea is excited to begin her role as BCBDAR Project Coordinator. Previously Andrea was coordinator for the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and has also worked in the food security realm for many years. Andrea has lived experience in online sex work, and before then, in another universe, worked as a corporate accountant. She obtained her Bachelor of International Relations with a Minor in Women's Studies from York University.

Andrea is keenly aware of how deep-rooted colonial systems have created injustice in our world and approaches her work with an equity lens and a commitment to justice, diversity, and inclusion. Andrea is a member of the Comox Valley Food Policy Council, serves on the advisory board of the Comox Valley Pride Society, and in her free time loves to spend time in nature with her pug Mason, travel, pole dance, cook, and is currently teaching herself (awkwardly) how to play the guitar.

4. Who is guiding the project? Who will provide input into the project?

BC BDAR is guided by a Working Group of five organizations: PACE Society in Vancouver, Peers Victoria, SWAN Vancouver, WISH Drop-In Centre Society in Vancouver, and Living in Community BC.

Sex workers and sex worker-serving projects, programs, networks, and organizations across BC will be deeply involved in the design and implementation of the tool and related education. The next three years will include extensive province-wide community consultations with a diverse range of sex workers and sex work support networks and organizations. Many of these voices will be reached through the BC Sex Work Support Service Network, a group of over 20 sex worker-serving organizations across BC and in the Yukon. Others will be reached through various community networks, word-of-mouth, outreach, and networking.

This project will engage diverse sex workers at every phase; their expertise and knowledge will inform all policy and practical recommendations. It will also involve extensive research on legal education and law reform, as well as training with provincial stakeholders about how to advocate for this system and use it once it is established. Resources have been put aside in the budget to compensate sex workers, Indigenous leaders, and organizational representatives for their time and to cover costs related to participation in helping to co-create this tool.

5. Has the project started yet?

The project started on July 5th 2021 once Andrea began her work as Project Coordinator.

In early 2021, the Working Group received funding from the Law Foundation of BC and a private family foundation in BC for three years to develop and create the BC BDAR tool. The Working Group then began the hiring process to find a Project Coordinator. No project work has started yet, and no sex worker consultations have yet been designed or started.

6. Will the project build an app?

Not necessarily. In the media, the BC BDAR tool was often referred to as an "app," but this is misleading, as the type of tool that this project will create is still undecided.

The tool could take many forms and will need to be informed by, and responsive to, the needs of a diversity of sex workers. For example, while an app would be easily accessible for some sex workers, this would require data or internet access, which would be a barrier for other sex workers. The tool will also need to take into account different languages, (dis)abilities, as well as safety and confidentiality considerations. The extensive consultations to be done with sex workers across BC will inform all of these dynamics.

7. Who will have access to the information in the BC BDAR tool? How will the information be protected?

Confidentiality and accessibility are critical concerns for BC BDAR. The tool must be easily accessible to sex workers and/or to support workers at sex worker-serving organizations; at the same time, it should not lead to gatekeeping by sex worker-serving organizations who hold power over accessing it, and it must not be accessible to clients or offenders. Sex workers who use the tool must have their confidentiality and privacy protected.

The yet-to-be-designed consultations with sex workers across BC will help inform these important considerations. In addition, the project will conduct research into best practices from existing local systems, like Peers Victoria's system, and existing national systems like the UK's National Ugly Mugs.

8. How can I learn more about BC BDAR and get in touch?

To learn more, contact Andrea Cupelli, Project Coordinator, at coordinator@bcbdar.org. You can learn more about Andrea under question 3.

In the future, a project website will be created to house all updates and opportunities to be involved – watch for more updates on this in the next few months!