



INHSU 2026 Final Session Outline

Session speakers

- Session organisers must ensure gender balance, geographic diversity and affected community representation where appropriate.

Registration for speakers, chairs and session organisers

- We are unfortunately unable to offer complimentary conference registration to session organisers/speaker/chairs

Registration for attendees

- Please note, all session attendees must be registered conference delegates. 1-day registration rates are available.
- Early bird registration deadline is **26 July 2026**.

Final Session Outline deadline

- Deadline for session outlines is **Sunday 21 June 2026**.
- Upload session outline to abstract acceptance portal using the link in your successful session notification

Please complete the form below.

Key contact	Full name	Magnus Nowell
	Title	Mr
	Role	Knowledge specialist, harm reduction
	Organisation	CATIE
	Country	Canada
	Email	mnowell@catie.ca
	Phone	+1 (613) 668-9513
Final session details <i>*Please include your final session details. Date and time have been set by the program committee and cannot be changed.</i>	Session title	Beyond the plenary: advancing harm reduction and rational drug policy reform in an era of political populism and polarization
	Short description	Following the plenary panel, this facilitated discussion space will encourage reflection on how rising populism, polarization and post-truth environments have influenced drug policy and harm reduction in recent years. It will provide space for participants to examine how ideologically driven narratives can vilify stigmatized communities and fuel opposition to community-based services. Attendees will be encouraged to share experiences from their jurisdictions, including responses to policy and funding reversals and shifting political narratives. A facilitated discussion amongst participants will also



		explore strategies for communicating evidence and priorities with decision-makers and communities.
	Objectives	Facilitate cross-regional exchange, sharing lessons on sustaining harm reduction and rational drug policy in our current environment Explore strategies to reclaim the narrative and build coalitions, highlighting approaches to protecting community-based services, evidence-based approaches, and human rights
	Date	
	Time	
	Agenda timings	5 minute introduction – recap of key themes in plenary discussion and objectives of discussion space 30 minutes – regional reflections on how populism, polarization, and post-truth environments have impacted drug policies and harm reduction services in participants' regions. Participants will also be asked to reflect on what has worked well and what has been challenging in responding to politicized environments. 20 minutes – future needs and directions. Participants will discuss what resources (e.g., communications tools, evidence, coalitions) might be needed to defend rational drug policies and harm reduction in their regions. 5 minutes – wrap up and final reflections
Chair 1 details	Full name	Magnus Nowell
	Role	Knowledge specialist, harm reduction
	Organisation	CATIE
	Country	Canada
	Email	mnowell@catie.ca
	Phone	
Chair 2 details	Full name	Melisa Dickie
	Role	Director, Knowledge mobilization
	Organisation	CATIE
	Country	Canada
	Email	mdickie@catie.ca
	Phone	
Speaker 1 details	Full name	Jason Altenberg
	Role	Chief Operating Officer
	Organisation	Dr. Peter Centre
	Country	Canada
	Email	jaltenberg@drpeter.org
	Phone	



	Presentation Title	
Speaker 2 details	Full name	
	Role	
	Organisation	
	Country	
	Email	
	Phone	
	Presentation Title	
Speaker 3 details	Full name	
	Role	
	Organisation	
	Country	
	Email	
	Phone	
	Presentation Title	
<i>*add more rows if you have more than 3 x speakers</i>		

Roles and Responsibilities

The chairing organisation/s will:

- Complete the form above
- Select and invite speakers for their session
- Ensure speaker panels reflect equity and diversity considerations
- Provide final details of session including: session title, format, timing, speaker details, etc. by **21 June 2026**.
- Ensure all speakers, chairs and attending organisers are registered for the conference before the early-bird deadline of **26 July 2026**
- Provide their logo for co-branding purposes
- Disseminate session marketing materials to their networks, as provided by INHSU
- Chair the session

INHSU will:

- Contact speakers once invited and confirmed by organisers to provide required information for their participation
- Provide organisers with co-branded marketing materials
- Ensure sessions feature on the INHSU conference program and promote via email and on the conference website
- Allocate a room for the session
- Provide opening slides for the session
- Provide AV technical and logistical support on the day