

Street Stories: Building knowledge and capacity for change

Presenter biographies

Don Cain - A social activist who has written for the *Street Newz* publication and is now on the board, Don is a UVic humanities scholar who hopes to soon be working on a bachelor of arts. He recently acquired a digital camera and a computer, and put them to good use creating photo montages for the Street Stories project. The project taught him that people from diverse backgrounds can work together well when the commitment is there - and that people who have experienced homelessness can and must be included in efforts to solve current problems in Victoria's downtown. "We can be inclusive. This project actually proves that."

Bernie Pauly - Bernie is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria. She co-teaches a course on housing and homelessness and is engaged in research related to reducing health inequities including those associated with homelessness and substance use. In particular, she is focused on mobilizing solutions to poverty and homelessness through action at local, provincial and national levels of government. She gained a new appreciation through Street Stories of the issues that need to be addressed and the incredible knowledge and capacity of the community to work together for positive change.

Rose Henry - This long-time First Nations activist describes herself as an educator on social justice issues. She has an extensive history of community activism that has included the foster care system, health care, racism and economic impairment. She has documented social issues since 2007 for Homeless Nation.org. "I have learned about the power of the media, pen and now the video camera." Rose's personal experiences fuel her activism, as does her commitment to leaving the world a better place for coming generations. "I am just a person who is awake and cares about the world, and is more than prepared to do the necessary work to improve the quality of life for everyone."

Josef Krancevic - Born in Victoria, Josef has seen much of the world in the past six years during a long stint of travelling. His first hands-on video experience was in February 2009 through a Homeless Nation project, and he's been shooting and editing video whenever he can ever since. He's had "many long talks with street folks over the years" and saw Street Stories as an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the lives of people living homeless in Victoria. "That brought me into contact with the wonderfully creative and funny Street Stories crew, and added immensely to my experience as a cameraman, editor and mentor to aspiring filmmakers."