

# STIGMATIZING WORDS ARE COMMON IN OUR DAY-TO- -DAY LANGUAGE AND ARE A BARRIER TO TREATMENT AND RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

## WHAT YOU SAY

ABUSER  
DRUG HABIT  
ADDICT  
DRUG USER

## WHAT PEOPLE HEAR

IT'S MY FAULT  
IT'S MY CHOICE  
THERE'S NO HOPE  
I'M A CRIMINAL

BY CHOOSING ALTERNATE LANGUAGE, YOU CAN HELP BREAK DOWN  
THE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE.

## INSTEAD OF

ABUSER, ADDICT  
DRUG HABIT  
FORMER OR REFORMED ADDICT

## TRY

PERSON WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER  
REGULAR SUBSTANCE USE, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER  
PERSON IN RECOVERY OR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK. BECAUSE **ALL WALKS OF LIFE**  
ARE AFFECTED BY OUR WORDS.

JOIN THE **CONVERSATION**

#ALLWALKSOFLIFE



Canadian Centre  
on Substance Use  
and Addiction

Evidence. Engagement. Impact.