

# *Somebody's Someone Memorial Bench*

## Why a memorial bench?

This bench will raise awareness of the impact of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related deaths; and will also acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose.

## Who will use the bench?

Like all memorial benches, we hope the whole community will use the bench. The bench represents a recognition of the ongoing Opioid/Overdose Crisis that has been declared in BC and has impacted Kamloops and many other communities. Our goal is to make **a dedicated space to share, a place for families and friends to gather, reflect and remember.**

## Why was Riverside Park chosen as a location?

Riverside Park is in the heart of Kamloops, where the 2 rivers meet. Benches in a park setting contribute to connect members of a community; to give a sense of belonging; to see and be seen. As Kamloops waters are a meeting place, so can the bench be too many in our community.

## How were the funds raised for the bench?

Fundraising started in August 2018 with a Go Fund Me page – family members and friends that have been impacted by this crisis contributed as well as community members, group donations, and funds raised at other events allowed for the purchase of the bench. A special thanks to Addiction Matters Kamloops Coalition and the Men's Night Group at the Bighorn Golf and Country Club for their contribution.

**To anyone affected by this crisis – we see you, we love you and we grieve with you**