DULF origins: the 2019 conference funding test

Public-source investigation | Prepared 8 October 2026 | Scott Gilbert, independent researcher

The gathering is identified; the corporate funding and attendance hypotheses remain unproven. The evidence supports an implementation workshop as part of the event. It does not establish a corporate-directed operation or a coordinated prosecution. No records request or message was sent.

Question tested	Finding	Evidence status
Where did Nyx and Kalicum meet?	Safe Supply 2019 is the supported event identification. The exact day of their first personal meeting is unknown.	Retrospective reporting plus founders' account [S2-S4].
When and where?	17-19 October 2019, Poet's Cove, Pender Island; program sessions on 18-19 October.	Organizers' archived draft package [S1].
Was it a strategy session?	The planned format included implementation and funding discussions. Final proceedings were not recovered.	Primary program [S1].
Did J&J / Janssen or Purdue fund it?	No event-specific evidence recovered.	Unresolved; requires the final funding ledger.
Was McKinsey present or involved?	No event-specific attendance, payment, instruction or correspondence recovered.	Unresolved; direct archive searches described on page 3.
Was government involved financially?	Later commentary reports public funding. An event-specific grant or payment record was not recovered.	Secondary allegation requiring records [S5].

What would change the finding

A dated event payment, sponsorship agreement, professional registration record, planning email, contract or presentation could establish a specific link. A corporate link elsewhere in the sector, or a matching name without identity verification, cannot substitute for that record.

Event identification and funding leads

TIME reported that the founders first met in person at a 2019 safe-supply conference after planning calls. Their 2024 case study identifies Safe Supply 2019 as DULF's origin and gives the same dates as the package. These accounts corroborate event identification; they are not independent observation of the first meeting. [S2-S4]

Event	Date / place	Relevance
Safe Supply 2019	17-19 Oct 2019; Pender Island	Best match; primary package and founders' account agree [S1, S4].
Envisioning a Canada Beyond Prohibition	15 May 2019 public forum; Vancouver	Related policy event within a UBC research roundtable; no recovered evidence of the founders meeting there [S8].
CCSA Issues of Substance	25-27 Nov 2019; Ottawa	Program lists Kalicum and Kevin Donaghy on POW-R; no recovered Nyx listing in the abstracts [S9].

The February 2019 BCCSU compassion-club paper predates the October gathering. It provides a public intellectual precursor, rather than evidence of who paid for the conference. [S10]

What the package discloses

It names New Leaf Nanaimo and BC/Yukon drug-war-survivor organizers, lists Eris Nyx as funding contact, and proposes buyer clubs, distribution networks and legal exemptions. Its draft expense budget totals **$57,800**; funding is still being finalized. It contains no final donor ledger. Listed partners and speakers include BCCSU, Pivot, PHS, Dr. Scott MacDonald and Dr. Mark Tyndall. Listings do not establish actual attendance. [S1, pp. 3, 5-9, 11-13]

Leads that must remain separate

Organizer finances: February 2019 reporting describes earlier cannabis-industry donations to New Leaf. An April podcast transcript attributes a $20,600 BCCDC start-up contribution and cannabis donations to a New Leaf representative. Neither identifies the October event's funding. The transcript renders the representative's surname as Donnelly, while other sources use Donaghy; do not silently merge those names. [S6-S7]

Later DULF finances: the founders' paper names Canadian Mental Health Association / Community Action Initiative and VCH support after incorporation in 2021. This adds a later funding route to investigate, not proof of conference sponsorship. [S4, p. 4]

Broader corporate network: the archive custodians describe McKinsey records involving Purdue and J&J; from 2004-2019. This is a source for testing a local link, not evidence that one exists. [S11]

Direct industry archive checks

The public UCSF Industry Documents Library index was queried directly on 8 October 2026 using its documented search interface. Exact phrases searched the full corpus; separate queries restricted McKinsey or opioid records. Counts below describe that index and those terms, not every possible corporate record. [S12]

Search term / scope	Hits	Interpretation
"Eris Nyx"; "Jeremy Kalicum"	0 each	No exact full-name matches returned.
"Safe Supply 2019"; safesupply2019	0 each	No event-title or domain-string matches returned.
"New Leaf Outreach"; "Drug User Liberation Front"	0 each	No exact organization-name matches returned.
"Poets Cove"; "Poet's Cove"	0 each	No exact venue-string matches returned.
McKinsey collection + event / founder / organizer terms	0	No event-specific result in that combined search.
McKinsey collection + "safe supply"	8	Records dated 2014/2015; phrase matches require context.
McKinsey + BCCDC / BCCSU / "Mark Tyndall"	1	Same-name corporate executive match, not a link to the B.C. doctor.

Two false-link hazards were checked

Phrase overlap: a reviewed 2014 Purdue strategy deck uses safe supply in a commercial supply-chain context. It does not identify this conference. Eight hits are versions of two older document families; not all versions were read in full. [S13]

Same-name person: archive document ygbb0256 is a 13 July 2018 email chain with Mallinckrodt's government-affairs executive Mark Tyndall. His university biography and corporate filing describe a lawyer and policy professional. UBC's biography identifies the B.C. speaker as a medical doctor and epidemiologist. These are distinct identities and should not be merged. [S14-S16]

Limits of a negative search

OCR errors, abbreviations, missing attachments, informal intermediaries and incomplete archive coverage can conceal relevant records. General surname or place searches produced unrelated or earlier records. No finding of concealed funding, attendance, or absence can be made from search counts alone.

First records request: PHSA / BCCDC

Draft for submission to PHSA's freedom-of-information office. PHSA identifies corporate budgets, contracts, briefing notes and reports as requestable categories; BCCDC is a PHSA program. The request seeks existing records, not a new analysis. [S17]

Subject: Safe Supply 2019 conference - funding and planning records

Please provide records in PHSA's custody or control, including BCCDC-held records, dated **1 January 2019 to 31 March 2020**, concerning **Safe Supply 2019**, advertised for **17-19 October 2019 at Poet's Cove on Pender Island**, organized through New Leaf Nanaimo / New Leaf Outreach and the BC/Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors.

I request the following existing records:

1. Financial approvals and reconciliation. Funding applications, grant agreements and amendments, approved budgets, funding-source schedules, sponsor or donor agreements held by PHSA, payment approvals, payment records, final expense reconciliations, invoices and reports on event deliverables. Please include records distinguishing cash, in-kind support and any pass-through funding.

2. Event design and participation. Final agendas, briefing materials, professional speaker or delegate affiliation lists, institutional invitations, planning minutes, circulated slide presentations, workshop outputs and final reports. For other participants, de-identified counts and organizational categories are sufficient; I do not seek private contact details or health or substance-use information.

3. Organizer arrangements. Contracts, statements of work and payment records for event coordination involving Eris Nyx, Jeremy Kalicum, New Leaf Outreach or BC/Yukon drug-war-survivor organizers, insofar as held by PHSA.

4. Corporate involvement. Event-specific communications or agreements identifying sponsorship, donated services, consulting, speaker participation, supplier involvement or influence over the agenda by Johnson & Johnson, Janssen, Purdue Pharma, Mundipharma or McKinsey & Company. These are search terms, not allegations that those organizations participated.

5. Decisions and conflicts. Existing conflict-of-interest declarations and decisions about sponsor conditions, policy advocacy, supplier relationships or ownership of event outputs.

Please supply records electronically and disclose the releasable portions of partially exempt records. If the scope requires clarification or a fee estimate, please contact me before undertaking chargeable work. If another public body holds a category, please identify the likely custodian or advise on appropriate routing.

Submission route

PHSA accepts written corporate-record requests at **foi@phsa.ca**. The published process and form are linked in source S17. This draft has not been submitted.

Follow-up requests and evidence tests

Provincial funding trail - narrower second request

Request records from the B.C. public body holding the former Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions / Overdose Emergency Response Centre files. Use the same January 2019-March 2020 period and event identifiers. Ask for event-specific funding applications, approvals, contribution agreements, payments, source-of-funds schedules, correspondence with PHSA/BCCDC or the organizers, and final reporting. If funding came through a peer-network allocation, request the allocation and the event-specific subgrant record. Do not treat a general network grant as an event payment without that connection.

BCCSU / university records - establish custody first

Ask Providence Health Care and UBC which, if either, holds BCCSU participation records for this event. A targeted request should seek event invitations, institutional approvals, presentation files, planning notes, sponsorship declarations and any event-related consulting or supplier agreements. Do not assume that all BCCSU records are held by PHSA or VCH simply because the institutions collaborate.

Organizers - voluntary document request

Ask New Leaf Outreach, BC/Yukon organizers, and the conference coordinator for the final accounts; every cash and in-kind funding source; professional participants' affiliations; sponsor conditions; final agenda and decks; and any consulting or supplier role. Private organizations' records are not automatically available through public-body FOI. Records they supplied to a public funder may be accessible through that funder.

Proposition	Document needed	What would remain unproven
Company helped pay for event	Dated payment, agreement or documented in-kind contribution	Payment alone does not establish control over ideas.
Company attended	Professional registration, institutional travel record, minutes or corroborated participation record	Attendance alone does not establish sponsorship or direction.
Company shaped proposals	Agenda instructions, contract deliverables, commissioned pitch deck or documented decisions	Shared policy interests alone are insufficient.
Conference led to DULF	Contemporaneous workshop output, follow-up plan or documented founder account	Does not prove a later coordinated enforcement or court outcome.

Public wording supported now

The event was designed to help develop and implement safe-supply projects. Its final funding and professional participation records should be disclosed. J&J, Purdue and McKinsey involvement has not been established by this review.

Source register and locators

All sources checked 8 October 2026. Primary documents establish what was recorded or proposed; they do not automatically verify every claim inside them. Draft, retrospective and opinion sources are identified below. Links are clickable.

S1 - Safe Supply 2019 Conference Information Package
Archived organizers' document; pp. 3 (dates/place), 5-8 (draft agenda), 8-9 (speakers), 11-12 (partners/funding), 13 (draft budget). Replica provenance is archival, not a signed final record.

S2 - TIME, Paul Moakley, 25 Oct 2021
Retrospective reporting; paragraph describing first in-person meeting after planning calls.

S3 - The Tyee, Jen St. Denis, 10 Feb 2022
Retrospective reporting; meeting while organizing a 2019 conference.

S4 - Nyx and Kalicum, International Journal of Drug Policy 131 (2024), 104537
Founders' own case study; p. 2 origins; p. 4 governance/funding. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2024.104537.

S5 - Northern Beat, Fran Yanor, 1 Dec 2025
Opinion column reporting government funding; not a recovered event payment record.

S6 - Georgia Straight, Piper Courtenay, 6 Feb 2019
Interview-based report on New Leaf and earlier cannabis-industry donations.

S7 - Reefer Med, Healing Communities Part 1, 11 Apr 2019
First-person interview transcript; organizer funding. Name transcription requires caution.

S8 - UBC Nursing TouchPoints, Systems Change, 2019
Institutional account of 15 May public forum and related roundtable; distinct event.

S9 - CCSA Issues of Substance 2019 abstracts
Primary program: p. 12, Kalicum and Donaghy POW-R entry; 25-27 Nov, Ottawa.

S10 - BCCSU, Heroin Compassion Clubs, Feb 2019
Primary policy paper; precursor, not conference funding evidence.

S11 - Johns Hopkins Hub, 30 Jun 2022
Archive custodians describe McKinsey records and their litigation provenance.

S12 - UCSF Industry Documents Library search API
Direct search receipts retained during review. Queries are documented on page 3; index coverage and OCR limit findings.

S13 - McKinsey archive kglf0257, 26 Feb 2014
Purdue thoughts for new CEO; reviewed supply-chain phrase. Bates MCK-MAAG-3593926.

S14 - McKinsey archive ygbb0256, 13 Jul 2018
Two-page email; Mallinckrodt executive identity. Bates MCK-MAAG-1293191 to 1293192.

S15 - William & Mary, Mark Tyndall alumni interview, 29 Apr 2019
Corporate lawyer / policy professional biography. Also corroborated by 2022 SEC corporate filings.

S16 - UBC Medicine, Mark Tyndall appointment, 5 Sep 2014
Canadian physician and epidemiologist biography; distinct from S15.

S17 - PHSA Freedom of Information
Current corporate-record request route and scope guidance.