

AGM Report – Outreach & Support.

For the last 11 years I have been going to school and working in the social service field. After completing my Human Services Diploma at Selkirk College in 2012, I started working for IHA in both community and at McKim Cottage. During this time, I also successfully acquired my Bachelor of Social Work from University of Victoria.

My first encounter at ANKORS was in 1995 when my brother was diagnosed HIV positive. The support I received left me feeling permanently grateful. In 2012 I started volunteering at ANKORS West followed by working part-time on the front desk for three/four years. I also bring with me experience working with children in schools, youth in ministry care, and eight years working with adults who encounter mental health and substance challenges. My fourth year BSW practicum this spring was at ANKORS with the REDUN group. This time affirmed my interest in being a more permanent part of the ANKORS team.

My vision in the Outreach and Support position is to be a flexible team member contributing to social justice through comprehensive harm reduction and ethical practice. As per ANKORS mandate my focus is centering people who are Indigenous, HIV positive, and Hep C positive. Simultaneously I am committed to addressing intersectional oppression for all people on the gender spectrum, those who are homeless, use drugs, experience disabilities and are of colour. I am also here to mutually support the ANKORS team by offering a compassionate and supportive ear and anything else I can help with.

My first month has included settling into my new role, meeting co-workers within in and outside ANKORS and many clients. I appreciate the numerous fresh experiences and relish the diverse opportunities to learn. I thank everyone for their support during this exciting time.

Katia Dolan