

# Overdose Prevention Site April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

Report written by Sheldon Antifaev

This past year has seen me transition from providing casual support to taking on a leadership role in the OPS. The main focus of the past 12 months has been training and team building to ensure adequate staffing for the original OPS at ANKORS as well as the newly established e-ops at the HUB. As we were saying goodbye to Vera, Brooklyn, Dakota and Senna, we were welcoming Wade, Thomas, Ben, Seamus and Ali to the team.

The OPS has been busy providing off-site Naloxone training to local businesses and agencies in addition to numerous requests at the door for one-on-one refreshers. Also seeing people showing up to re-amp their expired Naloxone kits.

I am happy to report that there were no fatalities in the OPS and all overdoses were reversed. That doesn't mean that we didn't experience some challenges. It remains a challenge to serve the overdose response needs of people who smoke substances. A lack of supportive housing coupled with an increasingly toxic drug supply is contributing to a strain on our services. For example, it has become nearly impossible to enforce time limits when our people are in a constant state of sedation/confusion from benzos and/or sleep deprivation. Although it is not the purpose of the OPS to provide people with a place to sleep, I predict that this trend will continue until there are more safe space options