

ANKORS AGM REPORT

June 2023

This past year working with ANKORS has brought endless learning opportunities for which I am grateful. Some of the highlights of these learning opportunities include round table discussions, knowledge exchanges, the CAI conference, CAT knowledge exchanges, the Getting to Tomorrow conference, the Grand Forks Compassion in Action Conference, and many more. My favorite of all has been the knowledge I've gained through networking with colleagues.

A Summary of My Work in the Community

The following is some of the work, and advocacy work I have done as an ANKORS employee in the last year.

- Harm reduction outreach support
- 1 on 1 support
- Referrals to community, and non-local organizations and Counselors
- Residential treatment referrals and applications
- Naloxone training (with co-workers)
- Attend Doctor's appointments with people
- Attended at Hospital with people
- Meet with Shelter Management to address complaints
- Meet with Debbie Pownall to assist with Ministry Clients
- Served Landlord Tenancy Act Documents
- Attended and assisted with Tenancy Act Hearings
- Advocated for a person with their Lawyer
- Supported in Court
- Been on an ICM team for an at-risk youth
- Assisted filling out different forms
- Refer people to free income tax services
- Provide rides to food bank and bottle depot
- Deliver food to folks from food programs
- Provided transportation to of town medical and Dental appointments

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND NETWORKING

I have established a working relationship with the City's Safety Officer as Well as the City's contracted Security team in Grand Forks. Jon Wilson (CSO) will notify me if someone is in need of harm reduction outreach, or if someone is in crisis. The security team will connect with me if a person is not doing well, or if they feel I should check in with someone. I am always grateful for our connection with City Council as well.

I have worked with Outreach for the Women's Transition house on many occasions, and recently met the new Indigenous Health Coordinator at COINS, as we both offer support for the same people in different capacities.

Grand Forks does not have an organization offering harm reduction from an Indigenous lens. A decolonized, Indigenized approach to harm reduction that re-connects people to culture is very important and very much needed in the work we do. HOPE's membership has a large number of people that self identify as Indigenous. I am happy, as an Indigenous person, to be able to offer cultural support, and referrals to Elders and ceremony, to those that request it.

HOPE

HOPE meets on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of every month. We currently rent a space at the Gospel Chapel in Grand Forks. In the late mornings, before meetings, Alex and I will drive around to the well known hang out areas in Grand Forks and pick up folks for meetings. Our meeting space is more in the West end of town, so is a bit out of the way for some folks to get to. We are currently renting at the Gospel Chapel and are very grateful for the Church's kindness and flexibility with their schedule in accommodating us with different workshops, roundtable events and knowledge exchanges's that we co-host. HOPE has been looking for a space for some time. We started looking at spaces to rent very seriously about 1.5 years ago. We have now found a location. This building is perfect and is very close to all services in the heart of down town Grand Forks. In the near future, we will be discussing renovations and recruiting volunteers to help with this project. With a more central location, I foresee our HOPE group growing as it will be more easily accessible.

DRUG CHECKING

Working with Amelia (and now Chris) has also been a highlight in my work this past year. We do drug checking on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in Grand Forks at the Gospel Chapel from 11 am until 3 pm. We have, on occasion, had a few people stop in with samples, but usually, I contact people a day or so before to remind everyone that we will be drug checking, and I ask if they have samples that they would like me to pick up. I then make the arrangements to pick the samples up the morning of drug checking. Historically we are always busy, and we just seem to be getting busier. I feel that once HOPE has their own space, and we can partner with ANKORS for additional services, that drug checking will get busier and folks will likely feel more comfortable bringing their samples in themselves.

Thank you



Tanis Carson

ANKORS

Outreach Support Worker