

## Seamus Judd OPS Year-End Report

My Fiscal year at ANKORS:

Volunteering - May 2022 - June 2022

Employment - June 2022 - Current

My time and experience in the ANKORS OPS have been filled with many obstacles. There have been many challenges, including the uprise of benzodiazepines and their unwanted addiction, and meeting each individual on their level. In the last year, I have noticed that the stigma in our communities around drug use and homelessness has increased, and with this stigma, follows the lack of necessary services to help get these people the resources they need; whether that is housing support, safe supply, treatment, and safe inhalation sites.

In the OPS, here and at the HUB we see people at their lowest and their highest and witness the challenges that people battling addiction, homelessness, and stigma go through every day. Even with this lack of services, we do all we can at ANKORS and in the OPS. I'm very thankful to say that because of my amazing coworkers and I, there have been 0 fatalities in the OPS this past year. I am also happy to report that the number of visitors to the OPS for safe consumption and Harm Reduction gear have gone up. It humbles me to hear folks thank us for all the work and support we do, and I am grateful to be able to contribute to this community and have such a supportive and healthy workplace.

I hope that moving forward into this year, we can continue to help and support everyone struggling to battle trauma, addiction, and homelessness. I hope that we can increase community

involvement in our society to increase the number of services available to all those struggling and to continue to make folks feel warm and welcome.