

Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Achievement 2024 ANKORS East

“A year of Resiliency”

Throughout the year 2024, my role under the population Health Team Lead and Harm Reduction was dedicated to supporting ANKORS staff and the clients we serve while community capacity building and strategizing with collaborative partners around the everchanging landscape impacting Cranbrook's most vulnerable citizens, including youth and adults. Adaptability has been a key component to supporting the amazing dedicated and incredibly compassionate staff at the ANKORS East Office. We have been highly impacted by the trauma and grief that the current toxic drug emergency has had on us and our service users with well over 100 deaths in Cranbrook since this nightmare began. I have dedicated my work to ensure that the wellness of staff has been paramount, building into our team strength-based approaches in our own wellness while building on initiatives, events, support with clients and community services offered at ANKORS east that are embedded in anti- stigma objectives. Our service delivery is purposeful in ensuring love, compassion in each program we offer. These including ;a compassionate and reachable drug checking program, extensive population health outreach, community harm reduction, drug information and naloxone training sessions, youth focused education and prevention sessions focused on risk mitigation, food is love programming that is supported by Cranbrook food recovery and food bank and our wonderful donations from Alliance church, general public, First Babtist, just to name a few! Our Wellness Tuesdays have grown to be an incredible experience and opportunity for our clients to receive on site physician care by Doctor Ryck Shelky and his team weekly, and we cannot say enough how much this has made an impact on clients but the healthcare system itself in reduction of hospital visits, the true essence of what harm reduction is. Upcoming is our continued commitment to support the amazing peers in our community receiving paid work that fosters skills, after hours programming at our new site at the dwelling place with such amazing support from Pastor Ron Short, and our shift to providing on site point of care testing and education for HIV, HepC. Lastly my role with the mayor's task force on homelessness has deepened our role in community, supporting common ground our local encampment, but bringing a voice to the table where our anti stigma messaging can be fostered. It's been a wonderful year, thanks to Cheryl Dowden our executive Director and all our funders for the incredible support.

Polly Sutherland/ Team Lead and harm reduction Coordinator ANKORS East