

## ANKORS Executive Director's Report for the 2025 AGM



It is my privilege to present this year's Executive Director's Report, reflecting on a period marked by resilience, adaptation, and the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners. As we navigated the challenges and opportunities of 2024-2025, ANKORS continued to advance its mission of harm reduction, advocacy, and inclusive support throughout the Kootenay and Boundary regions.

Throughout the year, we witnessed an increase in service demand, particularly in response to the evolving toxic drug crisis and the ongoing and complex mental health needs in our communities. Our harm reduction team expanded outreach efforts, distributing supplies, providing education, and fostering connections with vulnerable populations. We strengthened partnerships with local health authorities, Indigenous organizations, and peer-led groups such as REDUN and HOPE to amplify our impact and ensure culturally safe services.

This year also brought about significant program development. The launch of our Trail Outreach Team and the purchase of our new van, increased Naloxone training

sessions, the work of the e-OPS team in Nelson and the same day cash pay program in the East Kootenays have enriched our service offerings. We are proud of the strides made in our Trans Connect, Drug Checking, OPS, Outreach & Support, Lived Expertise, Nutrition Hydration, Harm Reduction Breakfast, Drug User Group Program (REDUN and HOPE), Harm Reduction Outreach, CAT Groups, Extreme Weather Response, Lived Expertise, Support Recovery, HIV/Hep C prevention and support services, as well as our ongoing commitment to decolonizing our practices and integrating lived experience at every level of decision-making.

Financial stewardship remained a priority, and despite funding uncertainties, we maintained stability through diligent management, diversified grant applications, and the generosity of our community. Our fundraising efforts included donations from members and community to our Foundation Fund, the Christopher Moore Fund and the Nutrition Hydration Program, demonstrating the broad support for ANKORS' work.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on building a future where everyone has access to compassionate, nonjudgmental care. I extend my deepest gratitude to the board, staff, peers, volunteers, and all those who trust us to walk alongside them.

Together, we will continue to rise, adapt, and envision new possibilities for the communities we serve. We value our collaboration with our community and partnerships. We always seek to maintain and enhance our connections and explore new partnerships that support us to fulfill our mandate and mission. As we move forward into this next fiscal year we will be focusing on strategic planning for the organization for the next 5 years; retention and recruitment and wage reviews to make sure we are aligned with employment standards in the sector; board and staff development; policy review and other organizational goals and objectives.

I remain very proud of the ANKORS staff team, peers, board, community partners and volunteers. I know how you meet this work with compassionate hearts, integrity, ethics and resilience. Each and everyone of you is of great value to this justice doing organization and I have deep gratitude for each and every one of you.