

ANKORS AGM  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Grand Forks BC

Our ANKORS Grand Forks office has been opened and operational for 1 year and 4 months. We are very proud of this accomplishment. We have had zero community, city, bylaws officer or Police complaints during time that ANKORS/HOPE have been in our space.

Some of our key successes include:

- A significant increase in collaboration with community partners, particularly Interior Health, to support peers and to deliver peer engagements and workshops that are seen as beneficial by peers.
- Increase in HOPE memberships.
- Peers participated in workshops that were delivered and facilitated by Interior Health staff. This included a 4 part series with Interior Health on "Exploring Change" and the stages of change. We are continuing these personal growth workshops as requested by peers. All workshops are taking place at our ANKORS/HOPE location.
- We participated in a 6 part workshop series on non-violent communication, respectful relationships and anger management with Holly Hume from Freedom Quest. This is something that peers really enjoyed and have requested more educational awareness workshops.
- Pivot information session in July 2024
- Peers made hand drums with Elder Joanie Holmes. We learned the cultural relevance of the drum and had a drum awakening ceremony. We will continue to have cultural teachings and Indigenous led workshops.
- There is continued Peer participation in CAT monthly meeting. We are currently working on the continuation of the CAT harm reduction education and overdose prevention/Naloxone training and education tables which we have hosted on a monthly basis throughout the spring and summer season. The education tables are a collaborative effort with Peers and community partners such as Interior Health, City Council members, our dear late Elder Laura Savinkoff from the Doukhobor community and Indigenous Elders, a Pharmacist from the Grand Forks Pharmasave and a representative from the Circle of Indigenous Nations Society. We are currently seeking a Doukhobor community member to continue the work that Laura Savinkoff was doing with CAT/ANKORS/HOPE.
- On-going round table discussions with BC Housing representatives to address the local housing crisis, and the continuation of the current situation at our local stay safe shelter. It has been very empowering to Peers to have a voice in these discussions.

- Bi-weekly drug testing is consistently well utilized
- Continued 1 to 1 support and advocacy for peers.
- Referrals to community services as requested
- 4 referrals to treatment
- the Grand Forks ANKORS/HOPE office is a cooling centre in extreme weather, both summer and winter.
- HOPE/CAT Peers hosted a very successful IOAD in August 2024 in collaboration with Interior Health, Circle of Indigenous Nations Society, Tailgate Tool Kit, local RCMP, BC Ambulance, our MLA, Grand Forks Mayor Everette Baker and members of City Council, Fire Chief, Freedom Quest Youth Addiction Services, Stay Safe Shelter, members of Mom's Stop the Harm and multiple volunteers. There were many heartfelt speeches by one of our peers, youth from Freedom Quest, city officials, our MLA, and our fire Chief.
- We have participated in Eops Training with Amber Streukens from ANKORS Street College Training, and will be continuing with another session to prepare peers to provide harm reduction outreach in our community.

#### Challenges:

Folks continue to face every day challenges around the toxic drug supply and lack of safe supply options as well as lack of housing, particularly affordable housing for single people and couples without children and Seniors that are being turned away from the stay safe shelter because they can not pass an assessment ie: because of incontinence, or mobility issues. Grand Forks has no assisted care facilities that work from a harm reduction perspective/model and we have peers as old as 70 that cannot secure housing.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for folks to find places to set up a tent or camp where the bylaws officer doesn't find them and move them along, or worse, collect all the folks belongings and take them to the landfill.

The lack of OAT options and lack of access and transportation in Grand Forks keeps peers reliant on the toxic street supply of drugs. With the presence of stronger benzodiazepines and tranquilizers in the illicit supply of drugs, Peers are unable to be present in many situations, which at times affects the number of peers who attend meetings and workshops. Without a supervised consumption site, and lack of safe places to use, peers are forced to use outdoors in secluded places because of the no public use bylaw. Folks are treated as criminals if they are seen using drugs. Chances of overdose death is significantly increased because of these factors.

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