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**ANKORS now offers FTIR Spectrometer Drug Checking in Nelson and at Shambhala**  
FTIR Drug checking to offer improved accuracy and reporting now available at ANKORS

Nelson, BC: ANKORS has secured the loan of an FTIR Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer for one year from the BC Centre for Substance Use (BCCSU). This has allowed us, in partnership with BCCSU and Interior Health, to improve our drug checking service for the whole community. The testing technology offers increased accuracy and range of results. ANKORS is can test any synthetic substance for free. No judgment and completely confidential. The drug analysis is made with no requirement for sample destruction, however, we offer safe disposal. Testing is offered at 101 Baker Street Nelson – 10-12 and 2-4 Mon-Wed. ANKORS is also delighted to announce the introduction of this service during this year's Harm Reduction tent at Shambhala. We will have three FTIR Spectrometers and a Raman spectrometer available for testing at the festival.

*'Testing what you put in your body **before** you ingest can help prevent overdose. The drug-checking FTIR spectrometer will assist in creating early warning systems for dangerous substances in our community. This device allows us to detect multiple substances in a sample, allowing people to make informed decisions'* Chloe Sage- Drug checking program coordinator

Harm reduction is the cornerstone of the drug checking service at ANKORS allowing individuals from all walks of life to make informed decisions with street acquired substances, as well as providing an opportunity for conversations and support in other aspects of life. Anonymous reporting of sample analysis to Interior Health also provides invaluable data on the drug landscape of the province when combined with other similar programmes across BC. More in-depth information can be found in the attached report from the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (Dec 2017).

We invite all members of the community to visit us at 101 Baker Street during our checking times to see our new service open now. Contact Chloe Sage at ANKORS for more information [hrankors@gmail.com](mailto:hrankors@gmail.com) or 250 505 5506

Summary:

- ANKORS now provides improved drug checking for fentanyl and other opioids, party drugs, methamphetamine and other substances at its Baker Street Site.
- This new service is completely confidential, non-destructive and non-judgemental offering practical harm reduction information for identified substances.