**ANKORS reaches fundraising goal and buys FTIR spectrometer**

ANKORS is excited to announce that Shambhala Music Festival has donated the final **$10,000** needed for the purchase of a FTIR Spectrometer; an advanced drug checking technology which can detect many ingredients in one substance. The donation completed the GoFundMe campaign that ANKORS has been hosting for the past two years.

Shambhala Music Festival in British Columbia, Canada has long been championed for their work in harm reduction and continue to pave the way for other live events to follow their lead. One of the teams that has been essential to this mission is **ANKORS**, who are a not-for-profit organization that provide harm reduction services at music festivals through on-site drug testing returned for the **16th year** for Shambhala 2018 from **August 10th-13th.**

Their donation was in addition to the **$32K** that was raised by **Shambhala guests** through a ticket purchase donation option and other independent donations through GoFundMe. With better technology, ANKORS is able to give people who choose to use drugs more accurate information on the substances they might put in their bodies. This in turn reduces drug harm with attendees making more informative decisions. With this move, Shambhala and ANKORS continue to **invest in the safety** of guests.

"Shambhala has supported ANKORS in this fundraising effort to obtain an FTIR Spectrometer for our community and to use at Shambhala every step of the way” says ANKORS drug checking coordinator **Chloe Sage**. “After two years we will finally see this instrument in action. Im very excited to add the FTIR to our harm reduction service this year at Shambhala.”

Additional partners of ANKORS include **Interior Health** Medical Health OfficerDr. Silvina Mema, **ASK Wellness** of Kamloops, and the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (**BCCSU**), who have been leading the evaluation of drug checking as a harm reduction service.

This included research that ANKORS collaborated on with Interior Health and Dr. Silvina Mema**,** ASK Wellness in partnership with Interior Health sending their FTIR and a technician to be part of the team at Shambhala,an **additional FTIR Spectrometer** that was loaned by BCCSUto ANKORSand having one of their technicians sent out to the festival, and Dr. Ian Garber’s BCCSU technician **training science and tech volunteers** on the weekends ahead of the festival to ensure they were prepared.

Results from a **pilot study** led by the BCCSU revealed that most substances on the street may not contain what people expected – 90% of opioids and 6% of stimulants tested positive for fentanyl. For this reason, it is imperative that Shambhala is using the most advanced technology.

This year at Shambhala, ANKORS was able to test over 3000 samples for guests using four FTIR Spectrometers, a Raman Spectrometer, Fentanyl test strips, and reagents for LSD. Check our website for preliminary results of note that we posted on our info screens at Shambhala.

**Ankorsvolunteer.com**

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