

The Peterborough 360 NPLC Safer Supply Program:

3 YEARS OF LOVE

&



what im going to lose
is not my life
a life lived
not lost
thanks ssp i am alive

Peterborough 360 Degree
Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic



Introduction

Welcome to *3 years of love and radical nonsense*, otherwise known as the 360 Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic's Safer Supply Program. As the full program sadly comes to an end at the end of March 2025, everyone involved wanted to create some memories of the successes and achievements of the project. Though participants will continue to receive their safer supply medication through the clinic, the full team of staff, and the dedicated wrap-around supports of the project will no longer be there. This (maga)zine shares and celebrates three years of amazing

"The honesty here and you know, the love. All of it. It should be a fucking book!"

Acknowledgments

Everyone involved in this zine would like to thank the staff of the SSP and the whole 360 NPLC for offering such unconditional support to all the participants and community members who walked through the doors over the last three years. We also want to offer our deepest thanks to the participants who came with open minds and joined the journey of learning and love that resulted in a radical new community in Peterborough. Together you created a new way of responding to the drug

Colonialism acknowledgement

The 360 Degree NPLC recognizes that any work we do with people experiencing structural barriers to health and health care, including the impacts of colonialism, racism, poverty and homelessness must incorporate an understanding of cultural humility and the work of educating ourselves about colonization, settler treaty obligations and the Truth and Reconciliation Report. We acknowledge the pervasive health inequities created by the devastating colonial project, including intergenerational trauma and homelessness which disproportionately affects Indigenous peoples across this territory.

The 360 Degree Safer Supply Program team created, at our inception, the following

achievements by the program participants and SSP team, and recognizes all the hard work done to make this program a success. Share the love and support, friendships and community, and amazing journeys of everyone involved. Dive deep into this celebration and see what can be done when we work from a place of love, trust, and no judgment.

All the art in this zine was made by participants, staff, and supporters of the program; all the quotations come from program participants unless otherwise acknowledged.

poisoning crisis that has hurt and taken so many of our friends and family. Thank you to the participants and staff for all the beautiful art you made, and for sharing your ideas and insights with the research team and beyond.

The 360 NPLC and the Safer Supply Program would also like to thank Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program for supporting the Safer Supply Program for 3 years.

Graphic Design: John Marris

acknowledgement of our work's location in geography and in history:

The Peterborough 360 Degree NP-led Clinic is located on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. The 360 NPLC's Safer Supply Program recognizes the significant harms caused by systemic racism embedded in drug policies, health care institutions and beyond. We stand in solidarity and in gratitude for the brilliance, resilience and resistance of all communities disproportionately affected by the ongoing colonial war on drugs.

What is Safer Supply?

Safer supply programs (SSPs) are one of many needed responses to the drug poisoning crisis. Typically, safer supply programs provide participants with a known, regulated pharmaceutical supply of medications that can either replace, or in part replace the toxic street supply. The aim of SSPs is to improve the safety and quality of life of people who use drugs. Safer supply programs are sometimes referred to as Prescribed Alternatives programs (PAPs).

"I thought it was going to be like a methadone program, and it's not. It's good. It's welcoming."



"If it wasn't for safe supply, I'm certain I probably wouldn't even be here to have this conversation."

Disclaimer

Production of this document has been made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

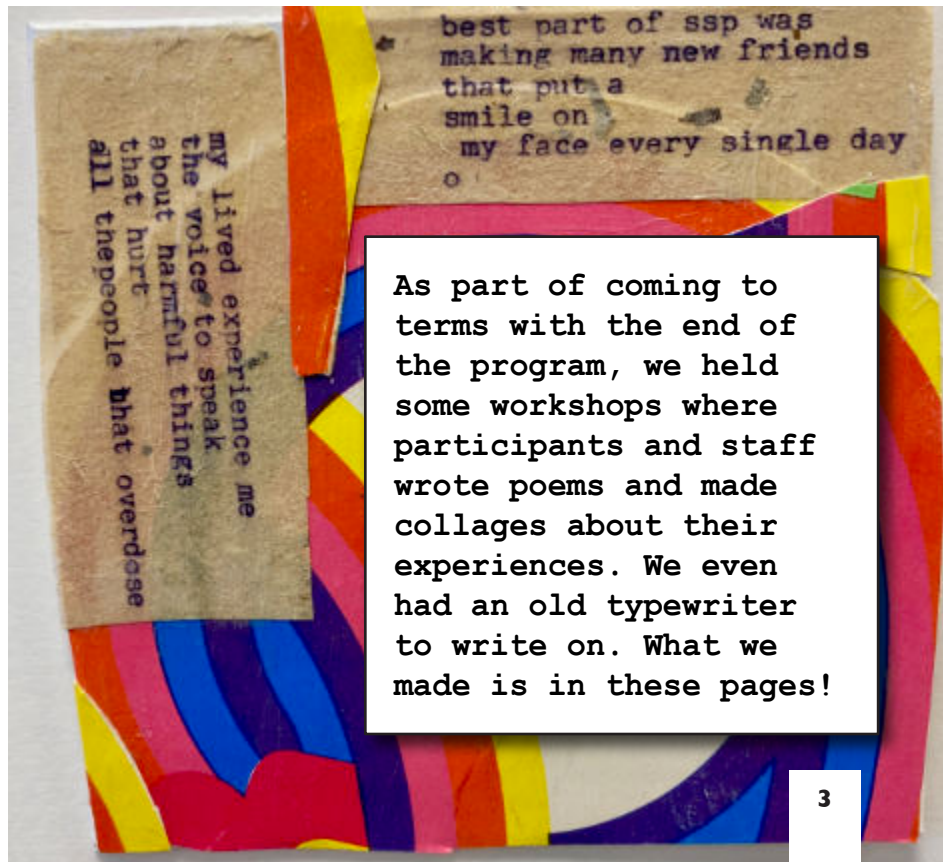
The views expressed in this document represent the views of Safer Supply Program participants, staff, and others who have contributed to the Safer Supply Program. Views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the 360 Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, its management, or board.



Safer Supply @ 360 NPLC

At the 360 NPLC, in addition to providing a safer alternative to the toxic street supply, the program includes primary healthcare, social support, community space, access to harm reduction supplies, and social programming.

"They actually seem to have more care for you. And you're not just going there and all they're worried about is your prescription, they wanna actually help you better yourself."



How does Safer Supply help?

The Best part of SSA was: 8
We are Non-judgmental, compassionate, driven, PWUD group 7
who ~~was~~ try to reach common goals 6
That started as people who 5
were struggling ~~at~~ daily with acceptance 4
and hopeless. Dreaming 3
of one
Truth.

"It saved my life, and it gave me a whole new outlook on it. It gave me a chance to actually live instead of just being bound by drugs. You got me to the point where I don't even care about drugs anymore. And I'm glad to see them go, and I'm starting to work my way, starting to decrease my methadone and my Kadian now too, trying to get off that."

"I don't depend on it when I wake up every morning. I'm not thinking about the hustle. I am not dopesick, and it's made a big change in my life."

Support
Creative & constructive.



The term "Radical Nonsense" is a term that has been used against the ideology of SSP and harm reduction which the team and participants took ownership of and rebranded it into somewhat of a slogan. Within our walls, "Radical Nonsense" is seen positively.

"The Dilaudids help with the withdrawal and take a lot of stress off my running around to get drugs."

How does Safer Supply help?

"Like I've never been this stable ever since I got on this roller coaster. This is the first time you know I've been stable enough to work, been stable enough to have a car, stable enough to have a house, be around my kids. You know this is what I mean when I say it's helped me so much. Yeah, it's beautiful."



"I got 12 hours a day back!"

I am excited to be
In a peaceful place
Where I am
Able to
Unlearn the things before me

"It's given me the ability to not be completely dopesick and have to seek out meds that could potentially kill me."

"Not doing stuff you don't want to do, just having your life back. Like you're not going out to do stuff to get money for drugs because you don't need them."

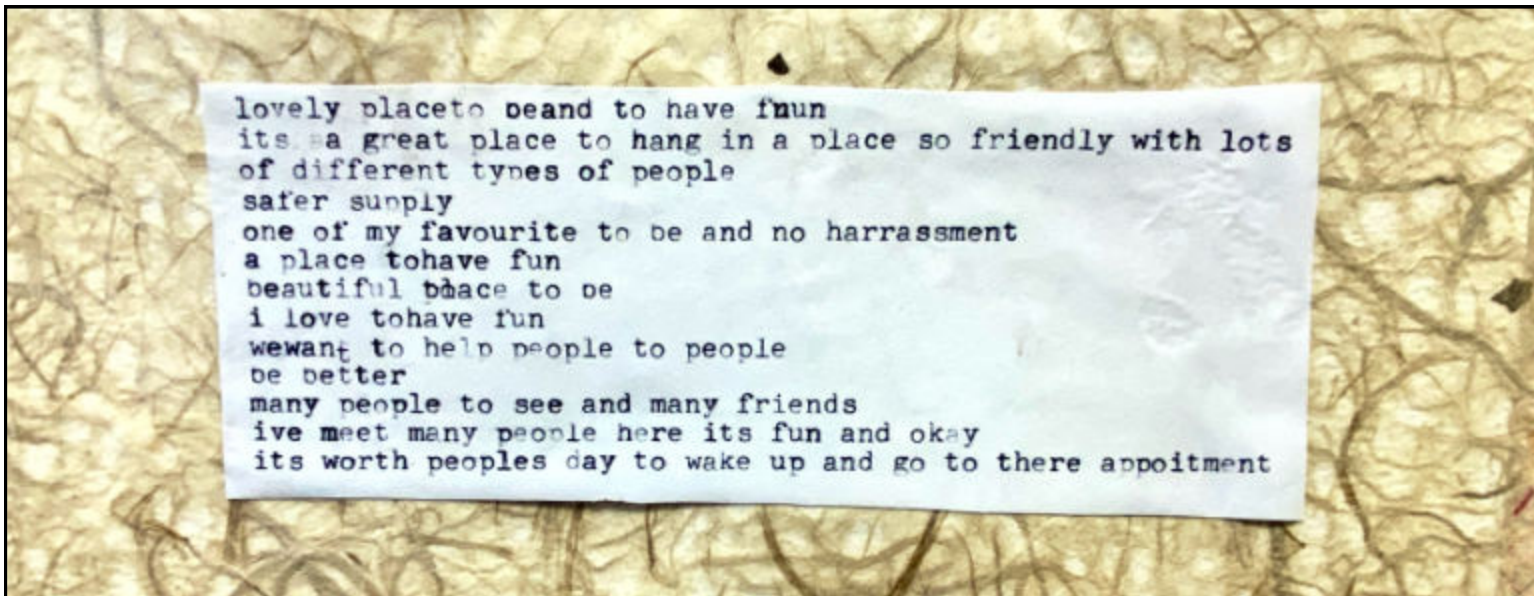


How does Safer Supply help? Team Perspective



"I think it just helps them to be able to manage their day-to-day life better because there's not that heightened fear or anxiety about first of all getting the drug and then wondering what's in it, how is it going to affect me the rest of the day." (SSP Staff)

"So the gift of time in participants' lives means that they can have lives and steer their lives in certain directions." (SSP Staff)



"I constantly say that my favourite thing to ever witness is people who use drugs who felt hopeless and self-loathing and in despair and, you know, at the point where they did not care if they lived or died see the light come on. It gets me every time, seeing personalities come up where there was before just a husk. Seeing people

laugh for the first time in a long time, like just watching people become human when given the opportunity to do so; you don't get that anywhere else. And I'm so deeply personally connected to that process and know how it feels to not have access to your own humanity and to be denied your own humanity? Yeah!!" (SSP Staff)

What you need to know (about SSP)

Why SSPs are good for everyone

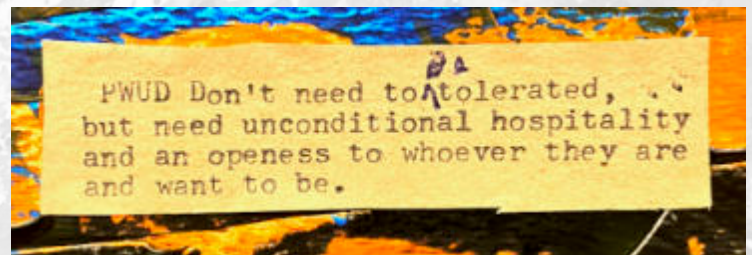


79% reduction in overdoses

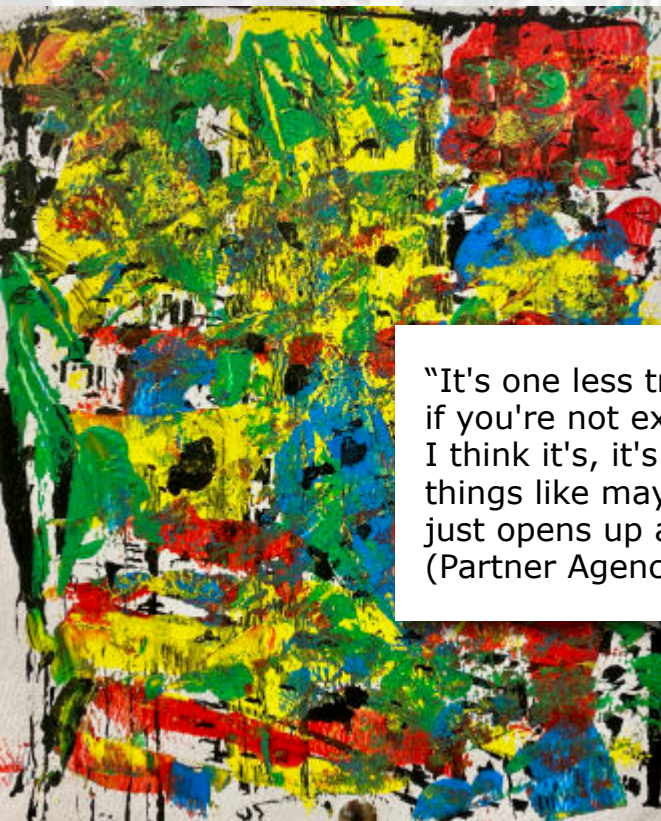
58% reduction in emergency department visits

"When somebody's using harmfully in the black market, it doesn't just affect that person. It affects the whole community he's using in. So he commits crime. He'll overdose. Paramedics come. That's waste. He gets arrested. Now, the judicial system has to pay for that. The jails are full of people using, committing these crimes. The strain is just on the whole society itself that this whole black market brings, and they're not looking at that."

"It's probably stopping a lot of crime. Like it's doing more than just helping us, it's helping the community."



71% reduction in criminalized activity



"You know if my life was affected, it would affect my kids, then it would affect my mom. You know this thing is generational. If I was to be broken and if I stayed in my old path, it would not only break me, but it would break my kids, and it'll break their kids. It would have been a curse passed down."

"It's one less traumatic experience for yourself, friends and family if you're not experiencing any more drug poisonings or overdoses. I think it's, it's huge, because then you're able to focus on other things like maybe you want to be able to afford rent... So I think it just opens up a lot of doors and opportunity for folks."
(Partner Agency staff)

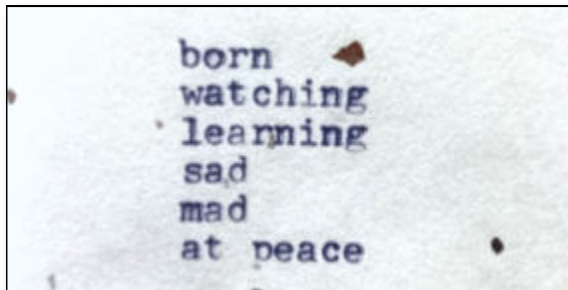
"Addiction is passed on from generation to generation"

What you need to know about people who use drugs (PWUD)

"We are not all the same!"

For participants in the program, it is really important that folks understand that drug-users are not all the same, and that there are many reasons that people started using and continue to use.

"An addict is not just an addict. They're still individuals."



"I've met some of the sweetest people, actually, you know that are addicts and you know have hearts of gold."

"My main hope is that they see past that and they see us as human beings and that we just want to better ourselves and we're here for help. You know?"



Trauma & more trauma

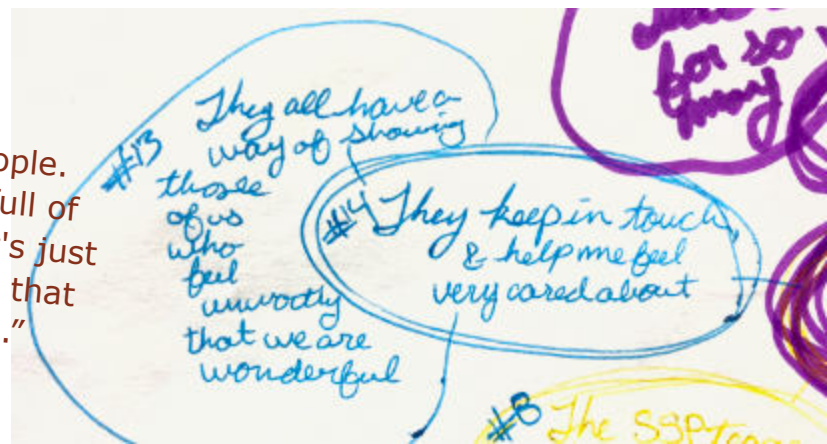
For many, traumatic experiences are part of the history of starting illicit drug use, and the ongoing drug-poisoning crisis continues to add to this trauma.

"They just need to know that we've been through the ringer. You know most of us have been homeless. Sometimes we don't know where we're getting our next meal or where we're sleeping next."



"And we've all lost people. We're full of grief and full of stress. And sometimes it's just yeah, they should know that about us, I believe."

"It's just incredible to see how like... people have passed away. You never would have expected it. Like the overdoses have been, I mean, I've lost so many friends due to the overdose problem."



Facing Judgement

"If it's an appointment at the hospital you're treated like less than a human. And it's been that way for a while."

CLEAN WHITES
CLEAN WHITE COATS AND STETHASCOPIES
LOOKED DOWN HIS NOSE
NO NARCOTICS PRESCRIBED
DRUG SEEKER?
I ONLY WANTED SOME STITCHES
STAIRING AT THE FLOOR
QUICK JUDGEMENT DOC
THANKS ALOT
ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE

"I think that they just look at me like oh, here's another fucking drug addict and just push everything else aside."

You are perfect
as you are.
DON'T CHANGE
ARE FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU
P.S. You are loved.
ER

Clench parts of your body for 5 seconds and then release. Start from your head, moving down to your toes.



History and reasons for using

When our researcher asked participants about why they started using drugs, there were lots of different answers, but many had a history of being prescribed pain killers by a doctor. For others it was emotional pain and trauma, and for some it was a way to escape the pains of homelessness.

"I got a script for pain when I was like 15, for broken ribs. This doctor gave me like 200 a month, and it was like an endless supply."

"I started off with prescription drugs. And then it just went from there."

"Yup, I got cut off and then realized, I thought I had the flu. My friend came over. Yeah, I was dopesick. So buddy said, go straight and do a line of that. And I said hey, that stuff's great, it cures the flu and everything. And he said, no, you're dopesick pal."

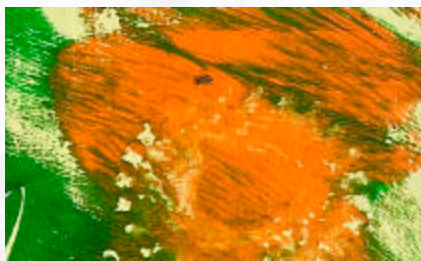
"You wanna know the big problem that leads to most of it? Lack of housing. You get stuck on the street, you get miserable. So what do you want to do when you're down and out a lot of the time? Awesome, just catch a buzz and get high. And then they get caught in that routine because their life is so miserable, because there's nothing out there."



"And that's a lot to do with it because I have no control over what's going on. So I'd rather just you know flood myself with something that makes me feel better rather than think about the things that I can't control."

"Like you don't got a house and you got five bucks in your pocket. You get stoned and forget about it."

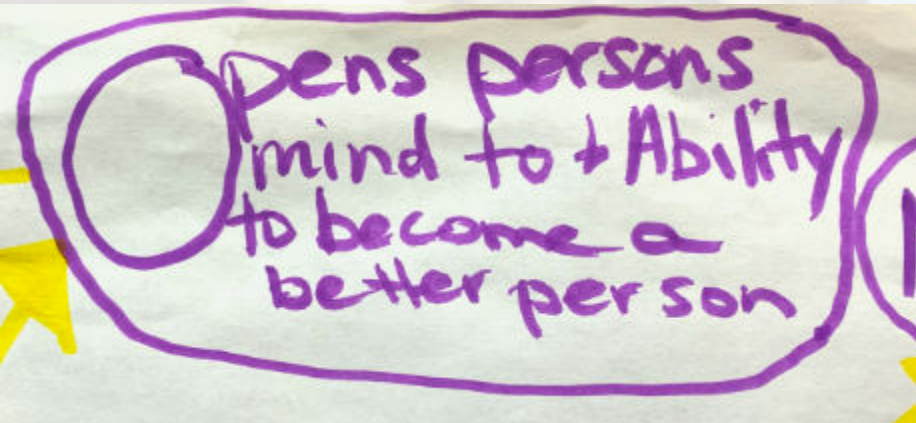
"When you're homeless, it's yeah, I mean, it's everywhere and you got so much time on your hands and it's so accessible that sometimes you end up doing it."



Life changes and celebrating achievements

"I'm just doing overall better with myself. Overall mental health, too. Everything."

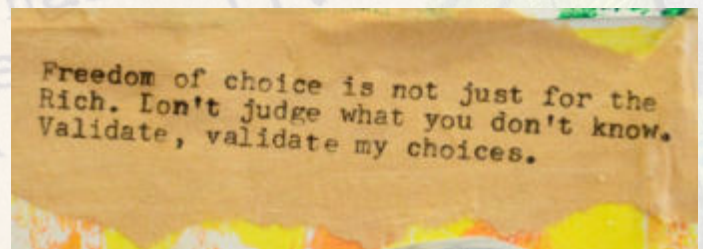
"Well, I didn't expect to get off fentanyl, to tell you the truth, but I did."



"Since I've been on the program, I've gotten off of fentanyl. And I've reduced my, my methadone and my Kadian. And, you know, it's given me chances to do more things because I wasn't headed for, I wasn't going in a good direction until I came here."

"It shows that we can rewrite our stories. And it doesn't have to be the same old thing of scamming and using it until the end of it; until dust comes."

I don't depend on it when I wake up every morning. I'm not thinking about the hustle. I am not dope sick, and it's made a big change in my life.

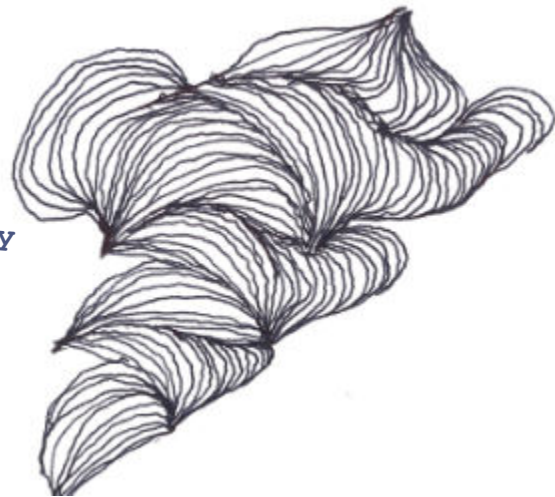


"Got a nice apartment. I'm sober. Got a lot of things back that I've lost due to my addiction. And now I've got a dog. Makes my life a lot better. Yeah. He's unexpected. I'm glad I ended up with him."



"Well, I want to try to go back to work. That's a new thing. I've been on disability for a long time."

"I want to try to get off it. Eventually, I want to get off everything altogether, including methadone, Dilaudids, everything. That's what my end is. I just work in there with smaller steps so I don't get overwhelmed."



small
bigger
wiser
scared
falling
winning

"I guess it surprised me that it has made an impact on my life and that I've committed to do things that I never thought that I would be committing to do before. Like being able to find my inner peace with myself, being able to open up and be able to share experiences with friends, and be more open with stuff that I was never open with before."

"Like I said, I got a good place to live. I make my appointments. I'm seeing my son every week. You know, I'm working at getting my son back. All areas of my life are getting better."

"We could have but we didn't [die]"

"Staff have helped me with my, you know, get my ID, get my status, my native status. Working with ODSP for me. You know, they've been the in-between for a lot of stuff."



What the 360 NPLC team noticed

"People are consistently talking having access to their kids. That's a big one. Education finishing, whether it be high school, or for folks who maybe have already finished their high school, maybe, you know, looking forward towards career training or getting back into the workforce. Like, the sort of stable type things that you and I might take for granted, that due to the substance use, and the marginalization, and the criminalization, just has completely fallen off the radar." (SSP staff)

My lived experience gives me
Hope for better tomorrow. 4
To be able 3
to love 2
myself. 1

"There's just less urgency and emergency to everything in their lives. It seems there's more calmness and a greater sense of control." (SSP staff)



One Day When The
World No Longer Stod
Still, We'll ~~go~~ ^{look} Back
And BREATHE.

"Just seeing people get more freedom, like some people are able to go on vacations or go camping for a weekend or do things that they couldn't do when they were, you know, really entrenched in their addiction." (SSP staff)

"So, community is a big thing, right? That's something that has changed for many of these participants, is a new form of community." (SSP staff)

Safer Supply
has safe Supplies
& Healthcare
TEAM
Committed 2
Understanding

Community & Friendship

"The love, how you can come in here and you can just feel like you don't have to be embarrassed. You don't have to be shy.. You get what you need. You ask for what you want. You can talk about what you want. You're given the answers. You're given the solutions. Whether you're taking it or not, but you're given it. Yeah!"



"But it also gave me a sense of community, knowing that there's people behind me and knowing that, you know, if I need help even, or something not to do with my medications or something to do with any assistance somewhere else in my life, then they can point me in the right direction."

"Just the friendships that I've made. You know I've made some just out of the program, I've made some life friends that you know if I were to see in the street in public, we'd sit and have a conversation of how life's going. And yeah, it's just been great making real friends rather than just acquaintances, people that are willing to help."

"Being able to come in, it's like the show *Cheers*. If that makes sense? You come in and everyone's like, "Hey, how's it going?"

"What's really been the best part is to see the whole program together, you know. It works. It gives us what we need to handle withdrawal, and support and it gives us you know, a place in the community, right? Which a lot of a lot of people like me never felt we've had that before."



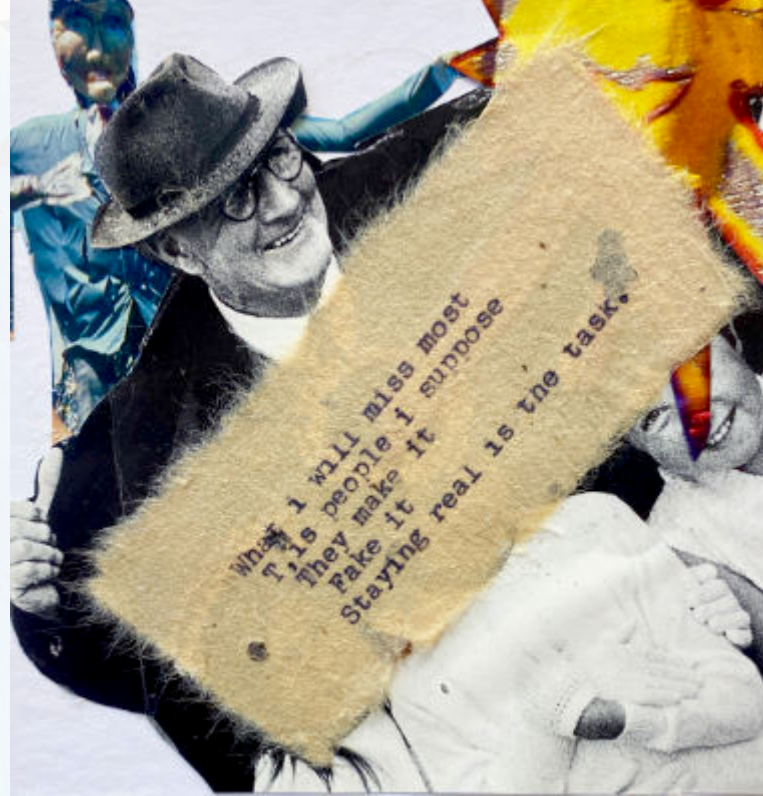
"They're kind of like an extended family. You know, so that's one thing. And then being part of the LEAC [Lived Experience Advisory Committee] meeting has been really cool for me. Yeah. Just being part of this extended family has been great."

"I like that it's community based and you know, trying to get people together. It's about reconnection. I guess with addiction a lot of people disconnect from the world."

Good
can
come
from
shit

I SUPPORT

"I'd like to tell the entire team that they are more than just a team that I've worked with. They're more like family, and that they were all huge parts in my life, and if it wasn't for them, the role of any one of these people could have been a fine line without me even being here and talking today. So I think that in a way they saved my life"



"I think it's awesome that I can come in, just sit down, talk to people, have a drink, coffee, whatever, you know? Communicate with some people that I know. Yeah."

"they're not dull by any means, you know what I mean? It's generally happy and it's a good environment for not being stuffy."



Community and friendship, the staff perspective

"But I think it also gives them like you mentioned earlier, a sense of community, it's a very community based relational setting. And I've seen people, even if they're not coming for their safer supply, drop in. They stop by just for a chat, just to say hi. So I think there is also some benefit that way as well with building connection and having more like social relational experiences." (SSP staff)

"I just feel when it comes to addiction, and substance use and homelessness, like building community is absolutely essential for people to be successful in their recovery, however that may look. And having something to look forward to, in a safe space where they can express themselves is a huge, huge part of that."
(partner agency staff)

Best Part of SSP Was
Making many new Friends
That Put a
Smile On
My Face every single Day

"The sense of community. Yeah, the sense of community and belonging with the clinic. Like I wasn't quite expecting that. I was expecting people to experience more stability in their lives and be able to sleep through the night, and not have to hustle like full time, right! And just be able to have some calm like, that was a relatively unsurprising outcome. But I wasn't really expecting the bond, the attachment to the clinic and the clinic staff, and sense of community that developed." (SSP staff)

Describe the shape, texture, colour, size, and weight of an object as though you've never seen it.

MY LIVED EXPERIENCE GIVES ME ...
EXTRA LOVE FOR EVERYONE
A GRATEFUL HEART
IMPORTANT INSIGHT
PROFOUND AND RADICAL COMMON GROUND



Worries about losing community

What I will miss most
It's people I suppose
they make it
Fake it
Staffing real is the
task.

"Just, I guess, not seeing the staff as much and just having a different environment."

"Not having the people to vent to when I'm in trouble because that seems to happen a lot. And you know just the friendships."



"Because it's not only when I'm here. It's when I leave here. I still have that love follow me because people like _____ and _____ and whoever phones me to see how I am, see about appointments, and see how my new worker is, that kind of stuff."

"There's honestly no other place like this. There really isn't. You know? Not even close. It's nice. I don't think people realized as much or you know maybe it's too late, you know but it's too bad."

"Losing contact with everybody here, as far as staffing goes."

Co-operation is key, Great employees
Great friends, long-lasting / Life, happiness,
Joy / Friendship, loving, Caring / Healing / Safety /
Health / DOPE / Work / Learning is / Awesome !!
Comoderie is key also / Clinic / LIFE / Safety
Done!



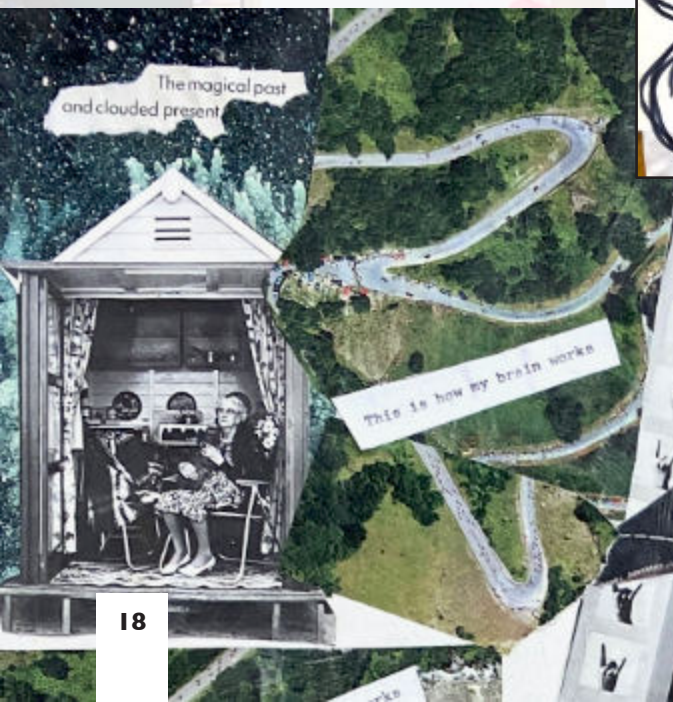
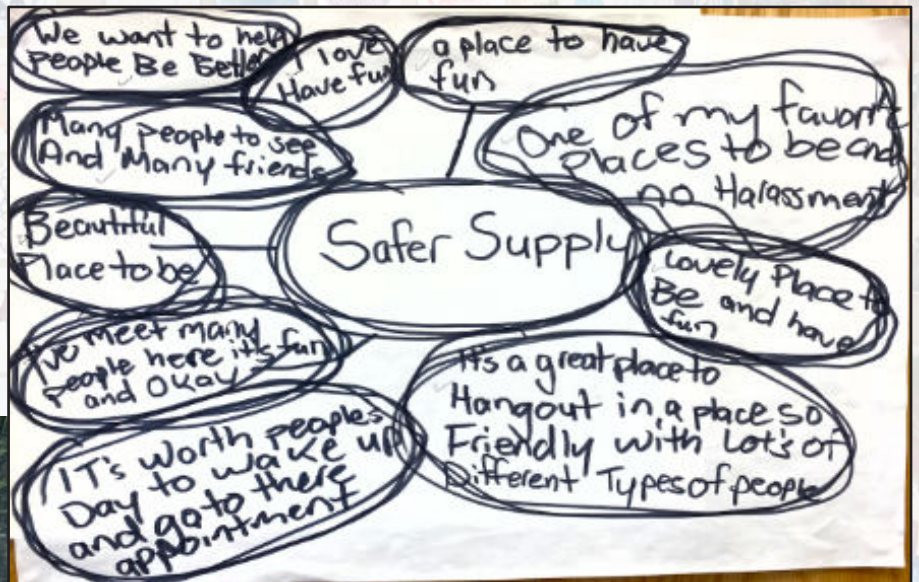
A Magic Space

"Oh, it's great here. Yeah. There's days where you know if it's not both of us, if one of us is just in a funk even, or having a bad day, yeah, we come in here and you can come in here for five minutes you know even by the time, in that five minutes, you leave and the mood's changed and everything. Yeah. Yeah. Even just coming in to say hello to people, like everyone's happy and welcoming here. It's nice. Yeah. Yeah. And you know what? Everyone's treated the same here. That's the thing too."



"We need some sense of, I don't know how to say it, a place to feel like we can be grounded. You know what I mean?"

"Yeah. I come just to check in, grab a snack bag, smoke, see who's about, talk to the workers. Most of the workers here, I consider more friends than workers."



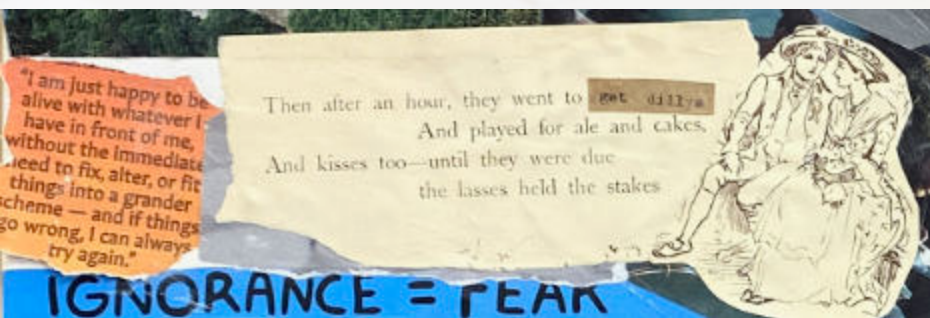
"Artistry and creativity have gone into building this space." (SSP Staff)

"Oh, it's nice. It's especially one place that you feel comfortable. It's actually one of the few places around that I do feel comfortable."

"It's like home, it's family. Everybody, everybody's relaxed. It's family. You come here, you just feel like home, yeah."

daughter
sister
mother
partner

Press your feet
firmly into the floor
for ten seconds.



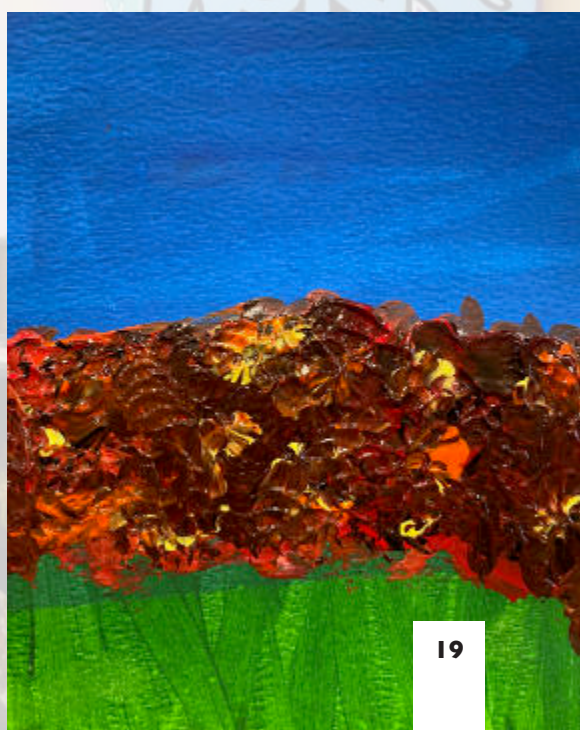
"Yeah, I like that funny shit. The music he [SSP staff member] listens to. Funny as hell sometimes. Just like comedy skits. What is it called? Like Bluegrass. Funny stuff."

"The karma and chaos of life"

"You don't have to be in fight or flight mode here you can take a deep breath, and you can be safe for two hours in this space while letting out some probably big emotions in a safe space." (SSP Staff)

THEY GOTTA SEE IT WORKS
FUCKEN POLITICIANS
ALOT LESS HECKTICK
MORE LAYED BACK
THEY GOTTA SEE IT WORKS
SOME SEEM HAPPIER
MORE CASH IN MY POCKET
MORE LAYED BACK

"Just the space that they created there, like the fact that there's the art on the wall, that it's like, it's very intentionally designed to not feel sterile and to feel like a community space where you're supposed to feel comfortable. I think that's a huge part of it, too... If you make a space where people want to congregate, then people will and then they will accept help when they need it." (Partner staff)



Making art

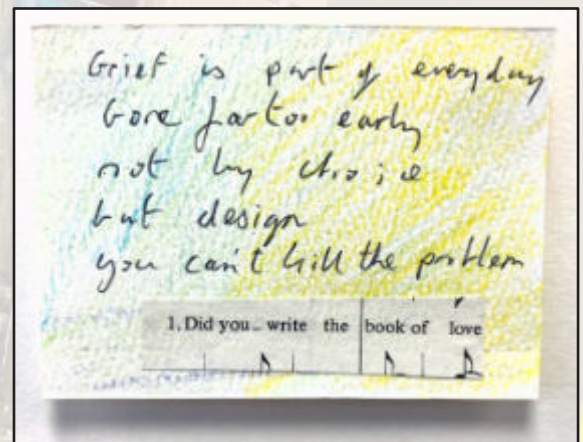
"I think the art thing is very, very helpful for people"

And doing things together

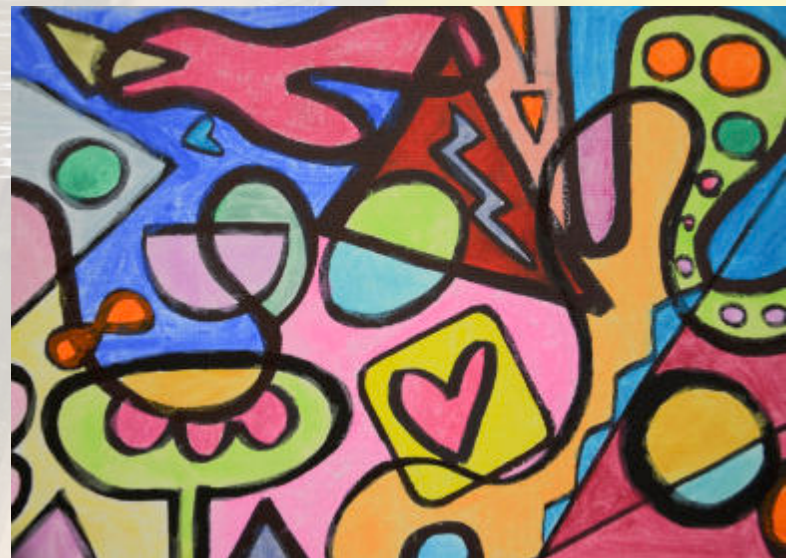
"I got to make a duck. In pottery. And a few other things in pottery. It was fun. There's lots of good memories in the SSP program. We got to go to the Petroglyphs. That was fun."



"My thing is the art. That is always mine. Everything that I've done here, I keep. Yeah. So I have little sections up on the wall. But all the stuff that I've done here is all up on the wall."



"But you know it was the art and coming in here that kind of lit a fire under me again. You know, I was a little depressed before, we'll say. But yeah."

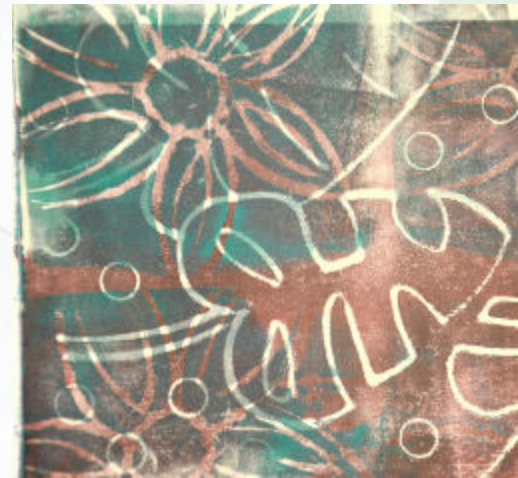


"I mean, I'd like for them to keep the art part of it. It would be kind of cool. I like doing the pottery myself."

"And to have the art projects and the things where there's a safe space to sit and have something to do to take your mind off of all the places your mind goes when it's idle. For people who have trauma, I think that's really phenomenal. So having more of that or a continuation of that is vital. And when we transition to primary care, unfortunately it is one of those things that's going to be lost."
(SSP staff)



"I don't know what the effect size of planting a garden is on someone's drug usage, but just being with other people and being seen in that humanistic way and having relationships based in love and trust is incredibly important."
(Partner staff)



"I think that programs like the 360 program do a lot to humanize people too. I mean, I think about the garden program that people walk past and see and, you know, understand that it brings a different perspective to a dynamic that's kind of developed around *us* and *them*, that I hear a lot in Peterborough."
(Partner staff)

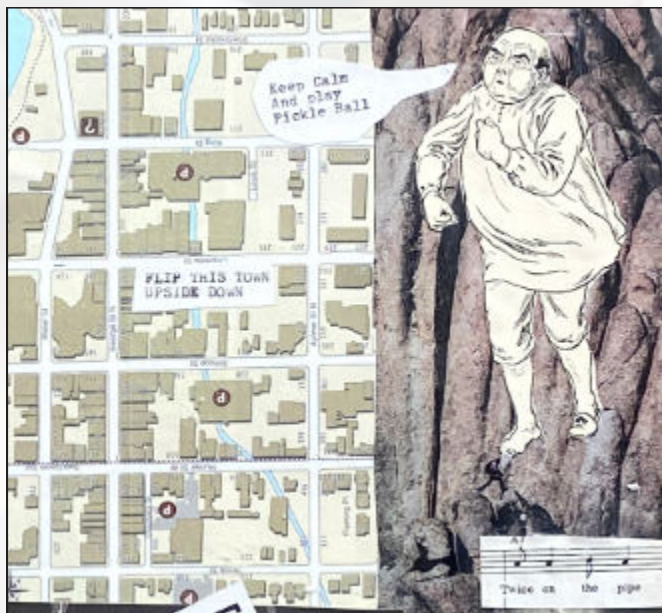
"It's been really nice to see the opting in for our art and culture programming. Sometimes it's really incredible to see how people will surprise you, people that you didn't realize had this incredible creative side to them. They've never shown that to you before. They've only ever shown you their medical needs, or, you know, you've only seen them in one dimension."
(SSP staff)



Reflections, memories & stories

Over the three years of the program, participants have had the chance to take part in interviews three times. In all these interviews participants have shared how the program has changed their lives and they have shared stories of the new things that they are doing. In the final round of interviews, participants were specifically asked if they had any special memories, happy or sad, that they wanted to share. Staff also shared memories and reflection of their time working in the program.

"I'm doing art, like spray paint. We got spray paint. I got silver sparkly spray paint to paint my Gary Fisher silver. It's already silver, it's just so it will sparkle a bit."



"The last little bit my life has turned around tremendously. No more sitting there spending my few dollars to feel better. My life's come together tremendously. Back to working, driving."

FUCK IVE MISSED MY SCRIPT
WATE NITE LAST NITE
SLEPT TILL FOUR
NOT AGAIN
GET YOUR OH IT TOGETHER KID

"Going to get my medication, even just getting out of bed and going to the clinic every day gives me that routine. You know what I mean? Like, "Hey, this is what you need to do today. Go get your stuff."

"I've been able to get up and go to work. I feel better about myself. I feel like I've accomplished more. Every day I wake up I have something to look forward to. Knowing I'm not sick from missing a drink of methadone, whereas with the Kadian and Dilaudids I can miss a few days, and it's not nearly as bad with withdrawals."

My lived experience gives me
The voice to speak
About Harmful Things
That Hurt
All the people that Overdose

"And I don't break the law no more. I don't steal. I don't break into cars. I don't rob stores, you know?"

"And I ride a bike every day. I'm in the best shape. I actually rode to my last appointment from _____ to here and back on my bicycle with my boyfriend."

"We actually have a day where we can go do normal things. You know, the whole day doesn't actually literally revolve around every nickel and dime that you get goes towards dope"



"Yeah I got my license back, bought a car. Because of how much money you save when you're not spending it all. Took me a while to pay for it. Yeah everything changed tremendously. My life switched right around. I'm more motivated. I feel less miserable about life. It's like there's a light at the end of the tunnel"

Safer Supply ? Dec. 11, 2024
By: Mino
Teaches so much for so many,
fights against stigmatized views,
It has become a safe place for lots,
It's a great way to gain skills &
opportunity,
It's helped people gain growth in personal
lives,
Saved many of my friends,
Helps set & achieve goals,
helps support me thru many life's problems



"Most of my lifelong friends have been addicts, for a long time too. And it's hard to just kick those people to the curb that I've known for 20, 25, 30 years and say, "I'm not hanging out with you anymore because you're using drugs." And even if one of my friends said, "Oh, let's go golfing." Well, when we're on our way to golfing, we think, "How are we going to get high before we go golfing?" You know what I mean? It's just what we do. So it's hard. But I would love to be able to have a couple of my friends, and I'd just be able to go and do a normal movie night or go for dinner and not worry about getting high, or you know going to the bathroom and smoking something in the bathroom when we're eating."

The funny side of urine drug screening!
"On your way there, about to piss your pants, and then you get there and it's like, "Oh my God, no, I can't piss even though I want to piss my pants." Fuck."

"Losing people that are close to you and feeling like you could have done more, feeling like the program could have had something more to offer, but that's also coming down using things as a fallback, and blaming myself and other stuff that's out of my reach."

"This is a book right here. Yeah, this whole place. It's a positive novel. Or a positive movie or a positive memory."

"I was 155 pounds. I couldn't believe it when I saw the scale. That was about four months ago. And I was always a big guy, I was always 225. And I put on 40 pounds in four months."

WHAT I WILL MISS MOST
THE FEELING OF CAMARADERIE
WHO I AM
WITHOUT WORK
IS YET TO BE REVEALED.

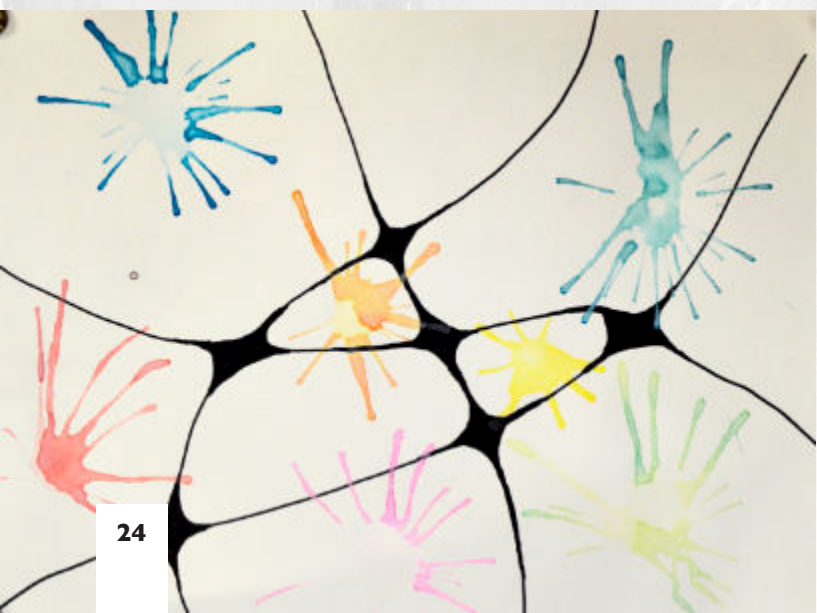


"So unfortunately, we had to just cut our ties with a couple of groups of people because yeah, when we were all together, that's all we would do. So it was inevitable that it was never going to change. And if we were going to, you know, keep trying to not do it, we couldn't be around them."

"I got a couple guys dentures. I got the clinic signed up in the material fee waiver program, so we're a registered organization that can get free birth certificates for people who are unhoused. I brought in a Tax Clinic a couple times. I've developed a working relationship with ODSP that wasn't really there before." (SSP staff)



"Like the grace, I don't know how to explain it because it's like... I don't know where I heard this, but it's impacted me the most in this position, in this place and spaces; like I hope if I ever lose my way and find myself somewhere that I don't come from, and people think I don't belong in, that somebody has the humanity and the grace to like, just gently pick me up and put me back in the direction of where I need to go. You know, I don't know if that makes sense." (SSP staff)



Worries

"We're not the best at keeping appointments."

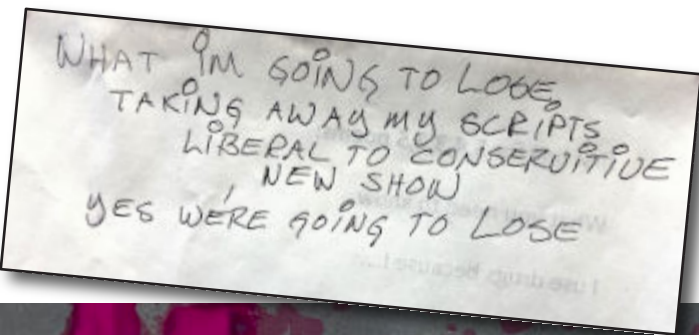
"...how we don't have people to vent to, we don't have people to talk to"

"My worries mainly comes from a prime minister coming in and just taking me off this program and just sending me back years"

"I think it's going to go back to the way it was. I think crime's going to go back up there. It's going to be a big ordeal."

"And the Conservative party gets in and cuts all the programs. That's my biggest fear."

"I think the big one is the fact that they don't like change and that they need extreme reassurance to know that that person, whoever it is that takes over, is genuinely concerned for them."



WHAT I'M GOING TO LOSE
TAKING AWAY MY SCRIPTS
LIBERAL TO CONSERVATIVE
NEW SHOW
YES WE'RE GOING TO LOSE

The future positive

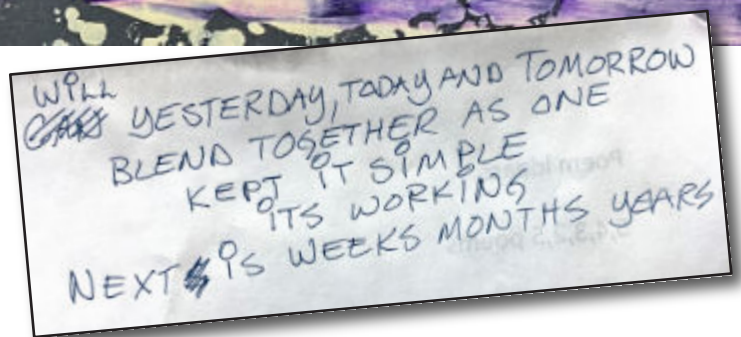
"...planning on a vacation with my kids who've never left the country. So that's been my goal now. We're saving up for that."

"And I'd like to own my own home again like yeah, I like privacy. I like the country. Yeah, big time. Yeah. I love it."

"Go set up something near the water, live by the ocean again. Miss the smell of the salt water."

"I would love to have a vehicle, and be back enrolled in school."

"I'd like to be, you know, doing something with my, with my art stuff, you know, wood carving, woodworking."



WILL ~~BE~~ YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
BLEND TOGETHER AS ONE
KEPT IT SIMPLE
IT'S WORKING
NEXT \$ IS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS

"Teaching others how to make a permaculture garden, and trying to get into helping the climate change problem we're facing right now."

"Getting my license back... And my motorbike license renewed. I used to ride my motorcycle a lot."



Repeat to yourself
"I am safe now"
"This too shall pass"
"Feelings are not facts"

"I eventually want to move out of Peterborough. Find a boyfriend. Get married maybe. I don't know. It depends. It depends on how my health goes after this."

Messages for the team

In the final round of interviews, participants were asked if they had any messages for the safer supply team.

"Just you getting me to do arts. That's one of them. I laugh every time you pull me into doing something that I wouldn't normally do."

"The staff members. I feel almost like some of them are almost like family members who were better than family members because they've been here more than my family has been."

"I loved every time we connected with each other, all the time we enjoyed with each other. And I hope the best for us all. How does that sound?"

"Oh, they've changed my life, and they've been so great, and I'm just so thankful for all of them. You know, how good they are at what they do. You know, they really are exceptional."



"It's a hug. It is. It's a warm hug. When you walk in here, you get a warm hug. Yeah And that's what it is. It's like showing up at your family reunion at Christmas time. Or you haven't seen all your family and you know boom, they're there."



"It's my second home. These guys are all family. 100% you are. _____'s treated like family. Yeah. That's very important. This where I come when I'm fucked up, when I'm confused. This is where I come."

"Three awesome years. Yeah! They were life changing."

"You got a good team here, man."

"Thank you for everything you guys have done for me, and I love yous. And I hope to see you guys around here as much as we can."

"if you want to actually better yourself, they allow you, instead of feeling like you're trapped."

"What they've done is phenomenal and it sucks that you guys are leaving."



"I can't even explain how grateful I am for all of them."

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to this program. It's saved and helped me in more ways than I could express from the girls at the front desk to the nurse practitioner. Each and every one of you have. You can condense this, but each and every one of you have, you know, made a huge difference in my life. They've just gone above and beyond to help their clients out, and I appreciate everything."



"I've taken a piece of each one I use and put it inside me. You know I got a piece of yous in me. It is a positive part that I put it in there and it takes me daily, everywhere I go, everywhere."

"Everybody here knows knows you know, knows the lifestyle or knows somebody that's had the lifestyle so it's not like it's something that you gotta be embarrassed about."

"There's so many lives that you guys are connected to, but you don't even know you're connected to because of one person. You know it affects so many people. Yeah so yeah it's important."

"And this program was the backbone of what I achieved. You know if it wasn't for this program, no matter how much my kids and my mom support me, it wouldn't have been possible; being honest with you."

I SUPPORT



"Absolutely everybody needs to be cheered about the work that they've done over these last three years and reminded that, though it's sort of come coming to a sad end, you know, look at the pathfinding that has happened, and look at the groundbreaking things that have happened here. And you know, let's hold our heads up high and feel proud about the work that we've done." (360 clinic staff)

3 YEARS OF LOVE



"We mourn the lives and honour the memories of those we have lost to preventable drug poisonings and other drug-related deaths. They mattered."



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