



# THE ORACLE

Illuminating the looming

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## **Harm reduction communities mourn, preparing for mass casualties amid toxic drug supply.**

Death notices accumulate , anticipating overloaded system  
community fear their lives will go unremembered.

In response to **Bill 223** Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, and the impending closure of Safe Consumption Sites (SCS) that provide safer supply, drug checking services and other supports, community members preemptively write obituaries for themselves and loved ones.

These are stories of families, friends, co-workers, community leaders... They are tributes to animal lovers, artists, music enthusiasts, students, parents... they represent just a fraction of the human lives that will be lost as a consequence of this decision.

Let this be a stark reminder: those who die have names, stories, relationships, communities. They have made an imprint on this world, and will be mourned by many.

**They do not have to die.**

### **Curb the death toll by:**

- VOTING against policies and politicians that oppose harm reduction and SCS services
- VOICING support for harm reduction on social media via #SaveOurSites
- DONATING to communities who continue this fight, like Harm Reduction Advocacy Collective and Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction

Visit [hractoronto.net](http://hractoronto.net) to learn more about the benefits of harm reduction services.



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\*Obituaries\* In Memoriam \* Bill 223 Related Deaths\*



### **Joseph Ascenzero, 1985-2025, A loss mourned by many.**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Joseph Ascenzero, aged 39, of Toronto who died suddenly on February 17, 2025, as a result of a drug overdose. Joseph's death serves as a painful reminder of the ongoing struggles with substance use, but is it a testament to his courage, resilience, and the moments of joy he brought to those around him.

Born on May 20th, 1985, in Toronto, Joseph was a passionate, creative and caring person. He had a love for music, a talent for art and a heart that was always open to his friends and family. Joseph's life was complex, shaped by his journey with addiction. His struggles were not defined by his substance use, but by his humanity- his ability to love, to laugh and to care for others.

Joseph was an advocate for harm reduction practices and believed in the importance of meeting people where they are. He worked hard to promote compassion, reduce stigma and support those who, like him, navigated the difficult road of addiction. Joseph had been in and out of recovery programs, always seeking ways to improve life and make a difference for others. Despite the challenges he faced, Joseph's spirit remained strong, and his willingness to help others never wavered.

Joseph is survived by this parents, June and Camillio Ascenzo, his sister Andrea Ascenzo and his beloved nieces and nephews. He is also mourned by a wide circle of friends, peers and mentors who were touched by his vulnerability, strength and the light the brought into their lives.

Joseph's family and friends find comfort in knowing that he died surrounded by love and support, and his struggles do not define this worth. They honour his efforts to seek help and his belief in harm reduction as a compassionate and human approach to addiction. They ask that in his memory, people continue to advocate for policy change, increase access to recovery resources, and approach those affected by substance use with understanding and empathy.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday February 19th, 2025 at 2:00pm at Mount Pleasant Cemetery with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to organizations that support harm reduction and addiction recovery.

Joseph's journey may have been filled with hardship, but it was also one of love, compassion, and desire to do better. He will be missed beyond words, but his legacy will live on through the work of those who continue to fight for a more supportive and understanding world.

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**Morgan Elizabeth 1987-2025**

On April 1st 2024, taken from this world by their own hand, Morgan Elizabeth, age 37 will die. A grief and loss worker who dedicated much of their life to drug user liberation and anti-homelessness activism. One of their legacies will be the grief and loss program they created, Radical Intersectional Grief Support (RIGS).

They are an avid reader, nature nerd and cat lover who enjoys an empty dance floor and a ripe pint of blueberries. Their death will be a devastating loss to all whose lives were touched. They will be survived by their family Kelly (mom), Robin (step-father), Liam ((brother), Sousa, (brother-in-law) and Lily (sister). Their harm reduction and queer communities will miss their passion and brightness.

In the last words that they will leave on this earth they will scribe that their death was purely preventable and a direct outcome of Bill 223, the “Safer Streets and Communities Act” which they said had bestowed an overwhelming amount of grief and pain onto them to which they could not see an end.

In lieu of flowers, it is asked that flaming bags of shit be left on the steps of Queens Park to remind those at fault of the implications of their malicious actions.



**T.S, A tragic preventable death**

T.S. passed away on his birthday on April 10th, 2025. He was a registered nurse, dedicated partner, and good friend to many. His life ended when he accidentally overdosed at a party in honor of his birthday.

T.S. had been an occasional recreational user of MDMA and ketamine, but only when the drugs had been tested at a government-funded drug testing lab. As the funding for these sites was removed by the recent passing of Bill 223, T.S. had no way to know that this batch of drugs was unsafe.

This loss of life is all the more tragic for the fact that it was preventable. Drug testing and supervised consumption sites could have saved his life, and the lives of many others.

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Emma  
(1991-2025)

Emma (33) died on April 1, 2025 after a four minute battle with a tainted and toxic drug supply. She died alone in a bathroom, while the party – full of friends, lovers and strangers – pulsed outside the locked door.

Her death comes as a shock to family and friends. She was so full of life, until she wasn't.

Emma was born to two parents who lived near the ocean. As a child, she enjoyed collecting sea glass and picking up small crabs. She was intensely curious and valued learning – which she did through school, work, books, podcasts, travels to far away places and conversations with strangers in coffee shops. She would sing often and badly. With an encyclopedic knowledge of lyrics, she had a song for every occasion.

Emma pursued fun with intention. She loved her friends and loud music and dancing into oblivion. She found comfort in running long distances and was an active member of several queer run groups that were an important source of community in a large and alienating city. She always said hi to her neighbours.

Her death was unexpected as much as it was preventable. It was caused by a toxic drug supply and by a historically corrupt and unjust war on drugs and drug users. It was caused by politicians who supported Ontario's Bill 223, the Community Care and Recovery Act, and those who cut access to vital drug checking services – services that would have prevented Emma's death.

Emma is survived by parents, a partner, a dog, several house plants, and a community. She is missed.

A service will be held at that bar she loved on Friday April 25th 2025. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to *Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction*.

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**In Loving Memory of Christopher Tompkins**

**July 29, 1988 – March 1, 2025**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Christopher Tompkins, who tragically died by suicide on March 1, 2025. Born on July 29, 1988, Chris was a loving and compassionate brother, son, and youth counselor who dedicated his life to supporting others. Through his experiences and unwavering kindness, he profoundly impacted the lives of those around him, especially the youth he had the honor of guiding and supporting.

Chris had a deep love for nature and animals, finding solace and inspiration in the natural world. He was a person who never hesitated to offer a helping hand, always striving to be a source of strength and encouragement for anyone in need.

Chris is survived by his mother, Cathy, and his sister, Tammy, who will forever cherish his memory. His passing is not only a loss to his family and friends but also to the countless lives he touched through his work and his generous spirit.

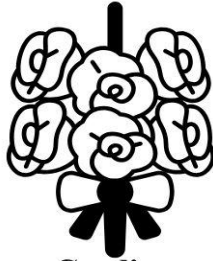
The recent passing of Bill 223, which resulted in the closure of safe consumption sites, weighed heavily on Chris's heart. The loss of friends and the devastation caused by the toxic drug crisis left a significant mark on him. In lieu of flowers, Chris requested that his body be placed at Queen's Park to stand as a powerful reminder of the impact of Bill 223 and the responsibility the government had but chose to neglect by closing these very important sites.

Chris's absence leaves an irreplaceable void, but his love, dedication, and commitment to making the world a better place will forever be remembered.



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Candice

**1986-2025**

It is with deepest heartache that we announce the death of Candice, who passed on March 28, 2025 due to accidental overdose. Like many others, Candice used drugs on a recreational basis and tragically succumbed to drug poisoning brought on by an untested batch.

Candice was born in Toronto, in 1986, and her sudden death in her home city only 38 years later comes as a great surprise to those who knew how much she treasured life. Candice was a potter, musician, film enthusiast and nature lover who adored taking long walks alone as much as she loved spending hours laughing and chatting surrounded by friends. She was a front line social worker who was deeply committed to harm reduction activism and advocacy alongside her comrades in the community. Candice will be remembered as a sensitive yet fiery soul driven by compassion, justice, curiosity and love.

Candice is survived by her partner, her parents, and her three younger brothers. Her passing will be grieved not only by her family, but also by the friends and communities she has left behind.

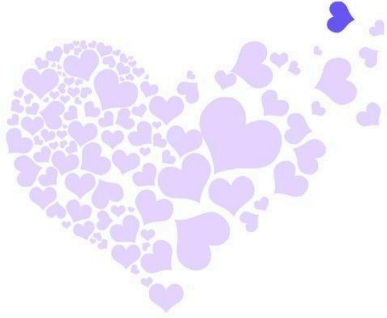
Candice's loved ones extend their sincerest thanks to the friends who stayed by her side at the house party at the time of her passing. The EMS call they made in the hopes of saving her was triaged due to reduced service capacity - a direct result of Ford's Bill 223 "Safer Streets and Communities Act," which almost immediately increased instances of overdose and medical emergencies within the community and has exponentially lengthened EMS response times. Candice's death was preventable, and leaves those who loved her wondering who exactly Ford and his cronies are referring to when they declare the province "safer" as a result of their irresponsible policy-making.

Candice's family has requested that her body be placed at the steps of Queen's Park, where she and other comrades were issued lifetime bans after having spoken out in opposition to SCS closures during multiple legislative assemblies. In lieu of flowers, her family requests that donations be made to the Harm Reduction Advocacy Collective, which she remained a committed member of until her passing.



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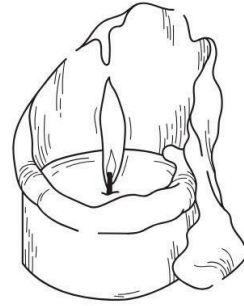


**In loving memory of Martine Braun**

Upon the beginning of the fiscal year, April 3, 2025, Martine Braun, died because the people and the government of Ontario failed to see someone who held a past that withdrew them from participating in the present; as deserving of community, of safety, of care.

Their role in this life as lover girl, offering a gleeful smile and an “apt” hug for those who needed it. She was a girl who lovingly tried to make it to the next day. She loved her red cowboy boots, her cat Pyramid, and making incense holders. She is survived by Glenn, Romy, ‘Manda, Lainy, George and Pyramid.

Bill 223 took Martine’s smile and love from all of us. And for that alone, this administration is a disgrace. Martine wanted all of you to bring “gladys” to her grave.



**Alexandria**

**A promising future snuffed out by malicious Bill 223**

On April 1st, 2025 Alexandria took her life by suicide– a direct consequence of the legislation of Bill 223.

Alexandria was a funny, loving, and passionate person, with aspirations to finish her studies and become a social service worker, with a focus on harm reduction and community support.

Alexandria had a passion for animals and volunteered with an organization to feed stray cats, and help find homes for cats in need. These passions were cut short, due to the trauma experienced engaging in harm-reduction support as a student without the resources stripped by Bill 223.

Alexandria is survived by her cat and soulmate Lola, her mother Barbara, and her father John. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to cats in need.

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**Kelly, A wondrous spirit**

On Dec 3rd 2025, we will lose a Matriarch, and a teacher. Taken too quickly from us, due to pain management from a work-related issue. Gifted addictive opioids from a medical practitioner, she sought to continue with the treatment. After being denied, she sought treatment from others; therefore, taking her own life into her hands.

With no safe sites, nor addiction centres to help, she shockingly passes in a very public space due to incorrect dosage. None suspects that she can pass in this manner.

Mourned by Aaron(son), Akasia(daughter), Morgan(nibling), Natalie(daughter-in-law), Destiny's Children(D&D group), The O.T.O, and Chaos Magickians(students kept under confidentiality).

Kelly is a lover of the strange; and finds happiness in the small moments of life. She loves a random dance session, singing as off key as humanly possible, and telling random people how nice they look today, and food so spicy it makes your upper lip sweat.

A worker with the public, and lifelong learner/teacher of the occult; Kelly will be missed for her no nonsense attitude towards radical self love, new and improved song lyrics, and shutting down cranky people that want to stifle another's joy.

All books, teaching material, personal notes, and material of a delicate/oath-bound nature will be held by Akasia. Students may appeal to her for information. Kelly's shovels, bones and hooves, knife collection, and herbalism accoutrements will be donated to the All Inclusive Matriarch Shelter(AIMS) that does not yet exist.

Kelly wishes to be cremated. There will be no funeral, as that is for the living. 6 months hence, there will be an outdoor gathering of singing, dancing, and horrible tales told after the mourning period. BYOB and music to share. Tents encouraged, as Kelly was staunchly against impaired driving.

Donations encouraged towards your local harm reduction programs that have been forced to go underground due to Bill 223 as well as basic human kindness towards your fellow human beings.





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**Tulsi Sarder, A relentless activist**

On May 4th, 2025, Tulsi Sarder left this world, by self-immolation .

Tulsi defended her community through her legal practice as a human rights lawyer, a forward-thinking educator, and an anti-war advocate who remained unrelenting in her devotion to community care and justice.

At the age of 57 her death was sparked by the lack of safe drug supply in Canada, a wealthy country with no lack of preventative resources.

After Bill 223 passed in Ontario, Tulsi developed a rare lung disease that was caused by a toxic supply of Ketamine. Living multiple hours away from city centres, Tulsi was unable to access adequate testing for her drug supply and onset of their lung disease.

A fixer- upper of any household appliances, Tulsi was a talented crafter and caregiver to her communities. Without her skill our queer communities face a shortage of her experienced, Home Depot™ gays.

Until her dying breath, Tulsi remained committed to emanating an unrelenting sense of care and protection to her community. She is survived by 2 old cats, her loving brother Hamim and a home of five other activists that remain dedicated to shaping a world through courage and love.



*“Mourn the dead, fight like hell for the living”*

*-Mary ‘Mother’ Jones*