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## ANKORS Weekly Drug Checking Report

Week of October 25<sup>th</sup>

Hello to all,

I hope you are all doing well and taking care.

This week at ANKORS I identified a few notable substances and findings. First, I tested an MDMA sample that was actually **MDA**. This trend of MDA being sold and bought as MDMA is concerning, but not entirely uncommon. This situation has the potential to cause **additional harm**, especially when the individual using the substance is not aware of the differences between MDA and MDMA. Overall, the effects of MDA are more **psychedelic**, whereas MDMA is more **empathogenic**. MDA can be more **potent** and **intense**. As well, the common dosage for MDA is **less** than that of MDMA and the onset and duration of MDA is **longer**. Please encourage people who are using MDMA or MDA to carefully measure their doses, start slow, and space out their sessions.

Second, I tested a sample expected to be **etizolam**, which was actually **flubromazepam**. Flubromazepam is a **benzodiazepine** with an extreme duration; effects for larger doses can reach up to three days. The individual that tested this substance told me that they lost an equivalent sample somewhere in Nelson, which prompted the release of a community alert because of the potency of this substance. This sample has since been found and no longer poses a risk to the community. Any alerts can now be removed. I appreciate your quick response and cooperation with regards to this matter.

While drug checking can help reduce the risk of using drugs by allowing users to make better informed decisions, please recognize that the use of FTIR spectrometry and test strips has limitations. Notably, the FTIR cannot detect substances that are present in amounts below its detection limit (~5%) or substances that are absent from the reference databases. No drug use is completely safe, and checking your drugs does not eliminate all risk.

Next week, ANKORS will be open for testing in Nelson from Monday through Thursday. As always, safe and discrete 24/7 drop-off testing is available through our mailing slot by providing an envelope with your substance and some contact info.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

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