

PROTOCOLS



ETHICS APPROVAL

Date: Friday, June 26th 2026
To: Sean Ferkul
Protocol Number: 473
Title: The Politics of Memorialization: Harm Reduction Workers' Experiences with Grieving a Drug-Related Death
Application Type: Initial
Level of Review: Full Board
Approval Period: Friday, June 26th 2026 to Saturday, June 26th 2027
Approval Comments: N/A

Dear Sean Ferkul,

York University's Research Ethics Board, Human Participants Review Committee (HPRC), has conducted a Full Board review of your application and has granted ethics approval for the period noted above. This approval confirms that the human research activities described in the protocol are in accordance with the University's ethical standards and the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCSP2).

Please ensure that all other required institutional and/or external approvals are obtained prior to commencing research activities.

Conditional approvals are granted for six-month period. Full Approval(s) are granted for a one-year period. In cases of conditional approval, full approval can only be granted once all approval conditions have been met.

For related correspondence outside of the online system, please ensure you refer to **Protocol Number 473** when communicating with our office.

Documents approved with this submission:

Attachments

recruitment poster	Recruitment Material
informed consent/ethics protocol	Consent Material
subject release form	Other
co-authorship consent	Consent Material
photo release form	Consent Material
demographic questions	Other
reflection questions	Other

questions for stage 1	Consent Material
Feedback form	Other
compl. readings for workshop	Other
compl. readings for workshop	Other
compl. reading for session 3 of workshop	Other
session 4 complementary reading for workshop	Other
session 5 complementary reading for workshop	Other
bereavement support resource guide	Other

For details on researcher responsibilities related to this approved research ethics protocol, please review the section below titled "RESEARCH ETHICS: PROCEDURES to ENSURE ONGOING COMPLIANCE."

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Research Ethics at: ore@yorku.ca.

Sincerely,

Office of Research Ethics, on behalf of York University's Research Ethics Board(s)

RESEARCH ETHICS: PROCEDURES to ENSURE ONGOING COMPLIANCE

Researchers are responsible for implementing the following measures to maintain ongoing compliance with Senate policies and TCPS ethics guidelines:

• Renewals:

- Ethics approval is valid for one year and must be renewed annually for research anticipated to extend beyond the one-year period. **Note:** protocols can be renewed for a maximum period of six years. For studies requiring continuation beyond the six year limit, a new protocol must be submitted for review and approval. This protocol cannot be renewed beyond **Saturday, June 26th 2032**.
- Failure to renew or to notify the ORE that no further research involving human participants will be undertaken will result in the closure of the protocol. No further research activities may be undertaken until such time as a new protocol has been reviewed and approved. Further, it may result in suspension of research cost fund(s) and access to research funds may be suspended/withheld.
- You will receive a renewal reminder near the anniversary of your approval date.
- To renew, log into the system, locate the relevant protocol and click to open. On the right-hand side of the page, select **Renew**, and submit the required materials before the expiry date.
- Visit the [Research Ethics Portal website](#) for information on how to submit a renewal application.

• Amendments:

- All changes to an approved protocol must be reviewed and approved **before implementation**.
- To submit an amendment for review, log into the system, locate the relevant protocol and click to open. On the right-hand side of the page, select **Amend**, and provide details of the changes and include any revised/updated protocol documents.
- Visit the [Research Ethics Portal website](#) for information on how to submit an amendment application.

• End of Project

- a. When all research activities with human participants are complete (including analysis of participant data) are complete, submit a request to close the project by logging into the system, locating the relevant protocol, and selecting **Request to Close**.

- **Adverse/Unanticipated Events**

- a. Adverse/unanticipated events must be reported to the ORE as soon as possible. To submit a reportable event using the system, locate the relevant protocol and click to open. At the top of the page, click **Reportable Events**, select **Report an Event**, complete the form, and submit for review.

- **Audits:**

- a. More than minimal risk research may be subject to an audit as per TCPS guidelines. In addition, a spot sample of minimal risk research may be subject to an audit as per TCPS guidelines.