

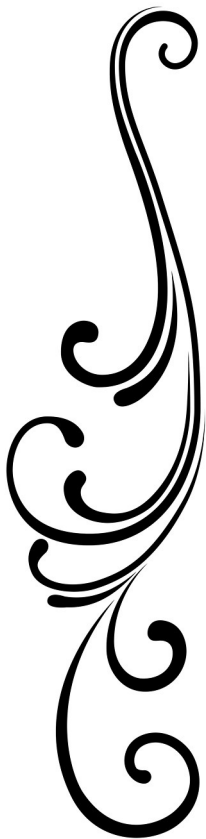
AIDS



ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014





Tour Tech East
True North DJ Services
Turbine Clothing
Venus Envy
VIA Rail
Vibe
ViiV Healthcare
Vitality Day Spa
Walt Disney World
Wayves.ca
Westjet
World Tea House
Yarmouth District Women's Institute

Report from the Chair

This term of the 2013-14 has been another exciting year for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS). I first want to express my appreciation to my fellow board members and the staff at ACNS for their support and encouragement. The entire team at ACNS is one of strength and dedication.

The Greater More Meaningful Involvement of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) continues to be a core value of the organization and encourages PHA engagement at all levels of the organization.

As a result to some of the changes in our bylaws from 2012 committees that presently function as part of the Board of ACNS are the Executive, Finance, Board Development & Membership Committee and the Strategic Planning & Policy Committee. While we were a little late getting started this year the committee members have made up for lost time and worked diligently on the priorities of the organization for this fiscal year. We also offered skills development sessions in relation to the fiduciary responsibilities of the board, policy board verses operations, interpreting financial statements as well as insurance concerns for our board.

ACNS continues to work closely with the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) where both I and the Executive Director of ACNS hold positions on the national board which is a great opportunity to engage in higher level discussions with respect to the changing face of the movement.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Board members, Maria MacIntosh the Executive Director and the staff team for a dynamic and productive year. I would also like to thank those Board members who have fulfilled their term with us and will not be returning next year, namely, Scott Estabrooks who joined us 2 years ago and has participated as our society Treasurer over the past year.

Respectfully,
Albert McNutt

Our Board	
Chairperson	Al McNutt
Vice Chairperson	Suzanne Kennedy
Secretary	Ed Savage
Executive Member-at-Large	Augie Westhaver
Board Member	Deana Sharpe
Board Member	Margaret Lapointe
Board Member	Rene Corbett

Report from the Executive Director

The words that come to mind when I reflect upon this past year are perseverance and dedication. Even after 12 years with ACNS I am still amazed by the level of commitment this organization receives and demonstrates from our event volunteers, members to the staff team and the board of directors.

Our year began with by launching our first 'Queen for a Night' fundraiser in May which was a success for the first year. We held our Annual NS Knowledge Exchange & Health Promotion Forum in June where we began our journey as an organization and a community towards defining and building resiliency in our work. I am excited that we will be continuing to explore resiliency and the response has been overwhelming from those who access our services to those involved from other organizations. Acknowledging our resilience as a path to lead us to success and in doing so creating a map that shares our assets and opportunities based framework for moving forward.

Over the course of the year ACNS showed leadership in a number of areas of program development with our 'Check Me Out' campaign exploring the needs around sexual health for gay men, our youth social media HIV prevention campaign entitled 'The Bottom Line' and our Positive Living Program which offered a 5 part skills development series for people living with HIV to name only a few.

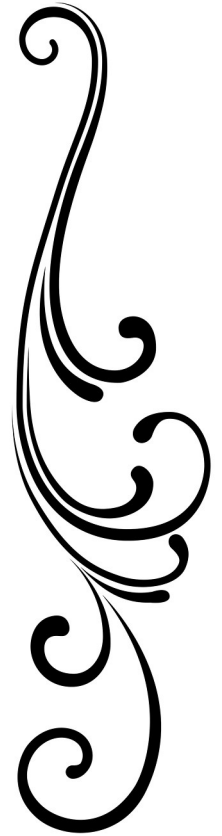
I would like to thank the staff team at ACNS, I feel strongly that without the level of skill and commitment each of them bring to the organization and their work we would not be successful. Thank you to the more than 100 volunteers that help us make a difference in the lives of others.

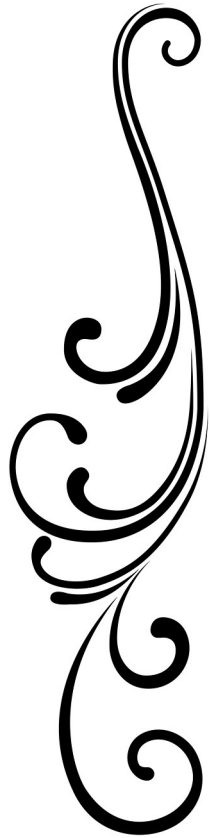
Lastly, I would also like to thank Al McNutt for the leadership he has provided as the Chairperson and the rest of the board team for their efforts in moving the society forward over the past year.

Our Staff

Executive Director	Maria Mac Intosh
Program Coordinator	Michelle Johnson
Support Services Coordinator	Laura Toole
Fund Development Coordinator	Kenda Riles
Gay Men's Health Coordinator	Chris Aucoin
Program Support Assistant	Ned MacInnis

Noggins Corner
Northern AIDS Connection Society
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness
Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project
One Stop Bridal
Ontario HIV Treatment Network
OUT! Alive
Petes Frootique
Porter Airlines
Presbyterian Church of Saint David
prideHealth
Prostate Cancer Canada - Atlantic
Public Health Agency of Canada
Redken
Reflections Cabaret
Rockingham United Church
Rocky Mountain Chocolate
Saint Benedict Parish
Salon Resource Group
Scotiabank
Seadog's Sauna & Spa
SNAP Newspaper Group
Sobeys
Soldiers Memorial Hospital
South House
Stepping Stone
Sweet Pea
Tara Lapointe, ND
The Coast
The Head Shoppe
The Youth Project
Toronto People With AIDS Foundation





GAP
Gilead
GMFA (London, England)
Grafton Street Dinner Theatre
Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
Halifax Regional Police
Halifax Sexual Health Centre
Halifax Shopping Centre
Healing Our Nations
HepNS
Hyper Promotions
ID Clinic, QEII HSC
ISCANS
Janssen
Jonathan Neil Salon Spa
Justice Canada (Peter Leslie)
Laugh it Up Photo Booth
Layers Cakes
LifeQuest Financial
Lite 92.9 JACK FM
M•A•C
Mainline Needle Exchange
Manna for Health Food Bank
Mental Health and Addictions Community Grant Program
Menz & Mollyz
Merck Worldwide
Metro Transit
Moore's Clothing
Museum of Natural History
My Mothers Bloomers
Navigator Street Outreach
Neptune Theatre

Programming and Fund Development

Positive Living Program

We ran the initial workshops of the Positive Living Program Series from February 25th to March 6th, 2014. Our first series contained the following modules: Story Telling - Sharing Your Story, Healthcare - Becoming Your Own Advocate, Disclosure - Let's Talk, and Spirituality - Exploring what Spirituality Means to You. The goal of the project was to increase skills in daily life management as well as knowledge of and access to relevant services for PHAs.

Knowledge Exchange and Health Promotion Forum

The 2013 Knowledge Exchange and Health Promotion Forum, Recognizing Strengths and Enhancing Resilience Forum held last year was a great success among conference participants. Using a 'strengths based' and resilience focused format resulted in an incredibly positive and hopeful atmosphere.

96% of respondents reported that they will use/apply the knowledge gained at this education conference in their paid or volunteer work.

85% of respondents reported that the conference sessions and/or plenary increased their knowledge and understanding of the issues around HIV stigma, mental health and addictions.

96% of respondents felt they had learned new strategies that will help to build resiliency in their life, work and community around HIV/AIDS.

Know the Bottom Line

This past year, ACNS in partnership with several community groups across NS, developed a youth HIV/STBBI prevention campaign, titled 'Know the Bottom Line.' The goal of the campaign was for



YOU KNOW WHERE...
...TO FIND THE BEST COFFEE
...TO GET AN AWESOME PIZZA

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GET TESTED
FOR HIV OR OTHER STIS?

YOU CAN BE TESTED CONFIDENTIALLY AND
FOR FREE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

KNOW THE BOTTOM LINE!
WWW.ACNS.NS.CA/BOTTOMLINE

youth to share and distribute key prevention messages among their peer groups. The campaign was launched mainly on ACNS's Face Book page along with placement on partner organizations social media tools as well. We reached 2, 074 people through our Face Book page, the campaign was shared 93 times and another 400 youth with handout cards which were distributed to key organizations across the province.

Check Me Out

The **Check Me Out** campaign is an HIV-prevention initiative that promotes the use of a comprehensive *sexual health checklist* that includes the tests, vaccinations and exams recommended for gay / bi / MSM to follow up with their doctors. The checklists and supplementary web content was developed with five community partners, and with guidance from two family physicians. The campaign was launched at Halifax Pride 2013 with eight posters, the first print and online ads, and teams of volunteers passing out printed copies of the men's checklist at the post-parade Community Fair. In the fall



new posters, bus ads and other print and online ads were released, along with additional event-based promotions. An expanded checklist for family physicians was also promoted through the provincial physician's newsletter and similar vehicles. Both checklists were backed up with a wealth of additional information on the campaign web site.

More than 1700 sexual health **Check Me Out** checklists for gay / bi / MSM have been distributed (hard copy, or web downloads). An additional 109 expanded checklists for physicians have also been distributed (web downloads). More than 300 men completed feedback surveys about the campaign and the results are generally very strong. The campaign was noticed, liked, appreciated, and had many of the desired impacts (HIV/STI testing, and/or conversations with their family doctor re sexual health issues, and/or increased sexual health knowledge) on a significant proportion of those who saw it. We will be continuing this campaign and adapting it to other target populations.

Support Services

We have been busy over the past year with 1863 contacts and 966 Support Sessions held. We have 26 new members walk through our door for support this year and the main reason for the increase is related to those living outside of NS relocating, newly diagnosed and a number of new members from the Cape Breton area. The main challenges that we face in providing support and services remains to be mental health, addictions, aging and access to stable housing.

Support Groups/Retreats/Drop-in

Our Poz Guys Group has met monthly all year and our Positive Women's Group held a few events over the year including that involved social gatherings, participation in art activities and wellness programming. We offer snacks and support to anyone who drops in to our office on a daily basis.

Fund Development

Queen for a Night

We launched the 1st Queen for a Night on May 8th, 2013 at the Comfort Hotel in Bayers Lake. The night was filled with fashions provided by Lisa Drader Murphy owner of TURBINE fashions. The evening was fun filled with performances by our local drag queens, skits and fashion shows.

HairCARES

The Salon Resource Group which includes 'The Head Shoppe, Vibe, Hair Design Center' in partnership with ACNS launched our second HairCARES event where each salon sold 'red babe' hair extensions in support of programs and services.

With Gratitude

Many people, organizations and businesses play an intrinsic role in our success in providing our services and programs. Donations of time and money continue to help people living with HIV and those affected discover our exceptional resources. Donations go towards the creation and management of health promotion and education programming that welcomes, challenges, informs and inspires. We thank you all!

101.3 The BOUNCE

AbbVie

AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Program of Ontario

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton

AIRN

Alderney Landing

Alexandra Lynch

Banana Republic

Banook Canoe Club

Bay Rentals

Bayer Pharmaceuticals

Birks

BMO Financial Group

Brad Johns, Councillor, Halifax

Budget Rentals

C100 FM

Canadian AIDS Society

Canadian Legal HIV/AIDS Network

Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)

Cape Breton Centre for Sexual Health

CATIE

Chester and Company

Colonial Honda

Comfort Hotel Bayers Lake

Cornwallis Street Baptist Church

CTV Morning Live

Direction 108

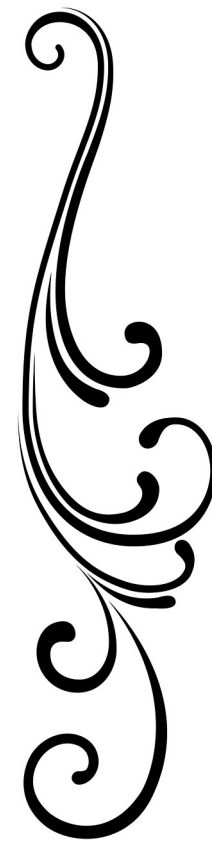
Discovery Centre

Doctors NS

Edgewood-Oxford United Church

Emergency Health Services (EHS)

Fruit of the Orchard Photography (Dana Fraser)



Celebrating the Involvement of Volunteers

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. – Albert Schweitzer

Volunteerism and community participation play an important part in building the spirit of our community. ACNS has a long history of volunteer involvement. It's through the contribution of volunteers that allows us to make our community stronger and healthier.

Volunteering is the basic act of generosity. By offering your time, energy and skills you impact the health, education, social services of communities across Nova Scotia. Volunteers are the basis of this organization. You and others like you help to sustain the very important work of supporting those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS here in Nova Scotia.

We are proud of your hard work . We are proud to say you volunteer with us. Thank you for the time and energy you devote to our organization and in assisting us in making us grow and prosper.

Volunteer Contributions

2013-2014

	Hours	Contribution
Operations and Administration		
Operational	450	\$6,215
Fund Development		
Amazing Challenge for AIDS	256	\$3,535
Bid for Life	81	\$1,119
Queen for a Night	45	\$621
TTE PXP	340	\$4,695
Walk for Life Halifax	175	\$2,417
Prevention Programming		
Gay Men's Health	60	\$813
Knowledge Exchange and Information Forum	49	\$904
Health Promotion for People Living with HIV/AIDS		
AIDS Vigil	40	\$590
CATS Program	58	\$4,640
Strengthening Community Based AIDS Organizations		
Board (ACNS)	390	\$13,287
Totals	1,944	\$38,837

Notes

Contribution amounts are calculated by using Imagine Canada's Volunteer Value Calculator (EVVA):

<http://volunteercalculator.imaginecanada.ca/eng/default.asp?tab=1>

Board Development and Membership Committee

Purpose of Committee

The Board Development and Membership Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to assume the primary responsibility for matters pertaining to Board recruitment, nominations, orientation, training and evaluation in accordance with the By-Laws of the organization and established policies and practices approved by the Board of Directors. This committee will also hold the responsibility for the development and management of the membership.

Committee members:

- Deana Sharpe (Chair)
- Maria MacIntosh
- Al McNutt
- Margaret Lapointe
- Rene Corbett (Leave)

Frequency of Committee meetings:

- Met once per month
- Held additional meetings as required to complete action items and meet committee objectives

Goals of Committee (current year)

- A high priority goal was to recruit 4 or more new board members for the upcoming AGM
- Establish a Board recruitment plan – Including timelines
- Conduct a board skills inventory to identify key areas for focusing recruitment
- Develop a streamlined process for possible board candidates
- Look at options for increased PHA recruitment for board membership
- Develop a short 'how to' become an ACNS board member sheet to make it simple for possible candidates to understand the process of how it can happen (request from our membership)
- Board development
 - ◊ Develop a board orientation kit/development kit – 'Lunch n Learn' style
 - ◊ Identify Board development training needs

Activities of Committee (current year)

- Board recruitment
 - ◊ Established Board Recruitment plan
 - ⇒ ACNS Selection model/Timeline possible board candidates
 - ◆ Recruit Board Members
 - ◆ 1.5 hr Orientation Session
 - ◆ Board participation in recruitment
 - ◆ Interview applicants
 - ◆ Nomination Piece – MAY 17th Board Meeting

Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

Purpose of Committee

- To provide the Board with resources for the development and implementation of a strategic planning process
- To ensure that policies, procedures, By-laws and position statements are in keeping with the mandate of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

Committee members:

- Suzanne Kennedy (Chair)
- Deana Sharpe
- Rene Corbett
- Ed Savage
- Christina Elgee
- Maria Mac Intosh, ED

Frequency of Committee meetings:

- Met three times in 2014

Goals of Committee (current year)

- ACNS by-laws as required by Registry of Joint Stocks and bring to the membership for consideration at the 2014 AGM
- Finalize staff policy manual
- Revise staff compensation and performance appraisal policies
- Commence drafting Executive Limitations Policy

Activities of Committee (current year)

- Two by-laws drafted and sent to membership for the 2014 AGM
- Board members are actively reviewing a draft staff policy manual
- Draft staff compensation and performance appraisal policies have been sent to the Board for review before sharing with staff team

Committee's goals / plans (next year)

- Finalize staff policy manual
- Finalize compensation and performance appraisal policies
- Commence drafting Executive Limitations Policy
- Commence discussion regarding goals related to strategic planning

- Streamlined and simplified the existing application model
 - ◇ New/user-friendly recruitment letter and application form
 - ◇ Get applicants involved in committees for familiarization

• ACNS Reach-out Initiative

- ◇ Established a comprehensive list of e-mail contact info to recruit new Board members

• Board development

- Determine areas for board development
- Developed a 'Board Orientation' PowerPoint session 'So you want to be a board member for ACNS?' – Delivered May 17th as a 'Lunch n Learn' session following board meeting

Committee's goals / plans (next year)

- Implementation of New Framework– New Application Process – Get applicants involved in committees as early as possible
- Evaluate New Process – Get board feedback on approach
- Timeliness of Membership 'Reach-out' Initiative
 - Now that new Application package is completed and board orientation package/board development for new members had been completed, the committee can focus on increasing the number of interested applicants
- Continued and Enhanced Recruitment Initiatives for PHAs