



+ POSITIVE DISPATCH

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Woody's 50/50 Draws



Congrats to Josephine Aucoin and Paul Losier—

our March and May 50/50 winners of \$290 and \$210 respectively!

The next draw will be in August so watch for details! Ticket prices are 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, 10 for \$50, and 25 for \$100. Visit www2.rafflebox.ca/raffle/acns to buy yours.

Client Phones & Minutes

ACNS is aware that reaching staff and accessing services is hard without a phone. There is still a limited supply of prepaid cell phones available for our HIV+ clients who need a phone. If you already have a phone that ACNS has provided to you, additional minutes can also be made available for you. We have been successful in extending the funding for this program through several grants, so if you need minutes for your ACNS provided phone get in touch ASAP.

If you need a phone or minutes – or know of an ACNS client who does – please contact Dylan.



Letter From The ED

Looking Back: 40 years of HIV/AIDS

Forty years ago this month the first diagnoses of what would soon be named Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID) took place. As more cases appeared - beyond the initial cluster of gay men - it would quickly be renamed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). By 1983 we would understand AIDS to be the end stage of an infection and had identified the cause: the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues – even amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic.

There are approximately 35 million documented lives lost to AIDS worldwide - and who knows how many undocumented ones. In Canada we have documented about 15,000 AIDS deaths. Our ACNS memorial book, while not a complete record, lists almost 350 names for Nova Scotia. Even now, living with HIV continues to exact a huge toll on those who have survived - because of health impacts, long-term medication treatment ... *(continued on p.2)*

In Memoriam 2021

Rene, Calvin

we have ...

Cell Phones & Minutes

ACNS still has cell phones and prepaid minutes for our HIV+ clients who need them

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

If you are, or know of, an ACNS client who needs a phone or minutes text/phone 902-403-7841

ViiV Healthcare | Funding provided by: the Gov. of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia by the joint effort of the Atlantic Compassion Fund, the Gov. of Canada's New Horizons Seniors Program, Nova Scotia Power, EfficiencyOne, the Province of Nova Scotia and many generous corporate and individual donors; and by a Positive Action grant from ViiV Healthcare.

Canada

Letter From The ED - continued

side-effects, massive social stigma, loss of family and community supports, career and economic impacts, and more.

As is always the case, vulnerable communities are far more impacted by a health crisis than 'mainstream' society. For HIV/AIDS in Canada this has mostly meant Gay/Bi and other 'Men who have Sex with Men' (Gay/Bi/MSM), Indigenous communities, people who inject drugs, and African/Caribbean/Black (ACB) communities (not that any of these categories are exclusive to each other). Gay/Bi/MSM still make up about 50% of HIV diagnoses nationally each year and account for 2/3 of the diagnoses in NS annually. While data are not yet being tracked in Canada, research elsewhere has been sufficiently clear that the Public Health Agency of Canada now recognizes Transgender/Non-Binary communities as an at-risk population for HIV as well.

In the past four decades much progress has been made. While the first medications for treatment were weak and highly toxic, we now have treatments that work very well with minimal side effects. In fact, the typical prognosis in Canada today is that, once diagnosed, you start treatment ASAP and within six months your HIV is fully controlled and is undetectable. "Undetectable" also means you are unable to transmit HIV to sexual partners. You can go on with your life with every reason to expect a regular life expectancy, and with a miniscule likelihood you will ever progress to AIDS.

Looking Forward ...

We still do not have a vaccine or cure for HIV. However, work in those areas has continued. Ironically, one impact of COVID-19 is that we may find ourselves suddenly much closer to an HIV vaccine because of the significant vaccine advancements made just in the past year. We also have more prevention tools at our disposal now: using condoms during sex and only using clean needles and related drug equipment have been the main prevention go-to's for well over three decades. However, in the past decade they have been joined by Treatment as Prevention (TasP) - better known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) - and oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a medication to prevent HIV infection.

However, even if we had a cure and/or a vaccine for HIV tomorrow, most of the underlying issues that inform why vulnerable populations for HIV **ARE** vulnerable are still in place. All of the high risk groups for HIV have both historical and ongoing issues with equitable and prejudice-free access to healthcare. That is, they do not have healthcare free of

homophobia/transphobia, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-substance use prejudice, etc., etc. So, even if we see an end to new HIV infections in the next decade (which is possible in Canada/ Nova Scotia if only our health and political leaders would support PrEP, and provide robust STI testing options and infrastructure!), we still have work to do to address barriers to healthcare access, barriers to full societal acceptance, etc.

The reluctance that high-risk populations have to getting tested for HIV is the single biggest hurdle to ending new infections. We know now (though it's likely long been the case for decades) that most new infections through sexual contact are the result of contact with a partner who is themselves fairly recently infected and DOES NOT KNOW IT YET... If we can expand access and ease of getting tested and catch new infections sooner (and connect people to treatment sooner) we can make great strides at preventing most future infections. The tools for this already exist, we need to make them available. (For more about new testing options see article on page 5 about how you can get your FREE HIV self-test as part of the two HIV self-test research projects that ACNS is a partner to.)

For at least a decade now the work ACNS has been doing has expanded to begin addressing some of the above larger issues in addition to direct HIV prevention education and support for people living with HIV. The work gets more complex when you

try to address how mental health, substance use, and online hook-up apps intersect with sexual decision making and HIV prevention for Gay/Bi/MSM. It's still a challenge to get healthcare providers to invest in cultural competency training to redress the systemic barriers 2SLGBTQ+ communities face in accessing healthcare. The training that we've been doing since 2018 with frontline service providers about Trauma-Informed Care approaches to working with

HIV at-risk populations (like Gay/Bi/MSM and Transgender folk, people who use drugs, ACB communities, and Indigenous communities) has barely scratched the surface. With or without vaccines and a cure those pieces of work will continue to be important moving forward.

If you have financially supported ACNS's work in the past please recommit to doing so. If you haven't supported us in the past please consider doing so now. We can't succeed without you. The communities we serve cannot thrive without you!

Be well - Chris Aucoin



Executive Director Chris Aucoin

In that summer 40 years ago...

I turned 17 and, for the first time, told someone I was gay. My entire life as a gay man has been framed by HIV/AIDS. I will forever be marked by watching friends get sick and die in the 1980s and 1990s and by the indifference shown by too many medical, religious and political leaders. I volunteered and protested and spoke out. In the early 1990s I fell in love with an HIV+ partner (and, since 2005, I have kept his ashes in an urn on my dresser). In 1998 I was diagnosed with HIV. I joined the staff of ACNS part-time in 2008, would become full time in 2016, and move into the Executive Director chair in December of 2019.

- Chris Aucoin

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of ACNS will be held virtually using ZOOM video conferencing on Thursday June 24 (see below about a potential in-person option). The meeting will begin at 6 pm, with online check-ins beginning at 5 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Special Business: In accordance with the bylaws, notice has been given that Suggested Bylaw Amendments will be considered as Special Business at the Annual General Meeting.

⇒ **Please register ASAP** by email with the subject "Zoom AGM" to get the login details sent to you directly.

⇒ **Sign Language interpretation** for the ZOOM AGM is available upon request. **Please RSVP by June 22.**

⇒ To accommodate those who are unable to attend virtually, **ACNS will also attempt to set up an in-person screening option** in Halifax – if government guidelines regarding COVID-19 allow for that*. If we are able to do so, space will likely be very limited due to COVID-19 protocols, **space will be very limited.** Masks and physical distancing will be required. **Please RSVP.** (**if we are unable to provide an in-person option that will not negate the validity of the June 24, 2021 AGM.*)

You must be an ACNS member to be able to vote at the AGM. You need to complete a Membership form to join ACNS, and a Proxy form to allow someone vote on your behalf. A copy of the proposed By Law amendments can be requested by mail, email or downloaded from the ACNS home page at www.acns.ns.ca. Fillable and/or printable Membership and Proxy PDF forms and a Google Docs online membership form may also be found on the ACNS home page. Contact Chris Aucoin (see details below) to have electronic or paper forms sent to you.

Completed **Membership and Proxy forms need to be received by ACNS before 6pm June 24, 2021** to be valid for the meeting.

Contact Chris Aucoin at ed@acns.ns.ca, 902-425-4882, ext 227 or 1-800-566-2437, ext 227:

- to register for the Zoom Meeting (put Zoom AGM in the subject line please);
- to reserve a spot for a seat at the in-person screening option (if that's possible re COVID restrictions);
- to request sign language interpretation (by June 22);
- to obtain membership or proxy forms;
- to get a copy of the proposed bylaw amendments;
- or if you have any other AGM questions.

The Annual General Meeting of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is called to:

- review the Audited Financial Statements for 2020-2021;
- to appoint the Auditor for 2021--2022;
- to elect a slate of members to the Board of Directors; and
- to vote on bylaw changes .

A Virtual AGM?

The ACNS AGM will be a **VIRTUAL MEETING** held in a video conference meeting room using software from Zoom Video Communications. There is no cost to you to download the software to attend. Please register ASAP by email to get the Zoom login details for the AGM sent to you directly. Email Chris at ed@acns.ns.ca, or phone for info at 902-425-4882, ext 227 or 1-800-566-2437, ext 227.

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video and/or audio. A Zoom Meeting refers to a video conferencing meeting that's hosted using Zoom software. You download the Zoom app on your computer or phone and join any meeting with a supplied link and meeting ID.

How do I use Zoom? Go to www.tinyurl.com/ACNS-Zoom for detailed instructions and to join a test meeting so you can familiarize yourself with Zoom.

Welcome Jennifer / Thanks Andrew

Jennifer Flynn (pronouns: She/Her) is the new Fund Development Co-op Student Intern for the summer. She is a



Jennifer Flynn

student at Mount Saint Vincent University finishing her Bachelor of Arts with a major in Public Policy Studies this summer and she will be starting her nursing degree at Dalhousie University in the fall. She's looking forward to applying her past work in social media and data analytics as well her volunteer experience at non-profits to work on fund raising activities, and to plan events that raise public awareness of the organization and help the community. In her free time Jennifer enjoys baking, learning about local geology, and going on walks with her dog Mason.



Andrew Thomas

Andrew Thomas (pronouns: He/Him) has just completed his two month NSCC Student Internship. He has been assisting our Support Coordinator with client supports and providing input on some prevention program revisions. Andrew has especially been involved with reworking our *Streets Smarts* program content on harm reduction. Andrew has a psychology degree from Mount Allison University and is currently in the Addictions Community Outreach program at the Nova Scotia Community College. He has been working as a youth worker for the past decade in Toronto and

Nova Scotia and is excited to incorporate real world experience with what he's learned in school. He is considering pursuing a masters in counselling – possibly in the areas of addictions and sexual health. Andrew enjoys being active, playing video games and spending time with his family.

COVID-19 is transmitted through small droplets from the mouth, throat and nose of a person with the virus when they breathe, talk, sing, laugh, cough, sneeze or kiss another person. During contact with someone who has the virus, these droplets containing the virus can enter the eyes, nose or mouth of another person. These droplets can also land on nearby objects and surfaces, thereby contaminating them with the virus.

While COVID-19 is not considered to be a sexually-transmitted infection, it can be transmitted during sex that involves in-person contact. No, we are not advising that sex be avoided, as consensual sex can contribute to people's overall health and well-being. That being said, there are choices that people can make depending on their risk assessment that either eliminate or reduce the risk of virus transmission.

Before having sex, individuals should talk to their partner(s) about COVID-19, including whether they have symptoms, their potential exposures to the virus and any precautions that are being taken to limit potential exposure to the virus during sexual

contact. If any partner is feeling unwell or has had a suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19, it is important that in-person sex is avoided, as they may have transmissible virus. However, someone can also have transmissible virus even if they do not have any symptoms.

When it comes to other STIs, prevention continues to be important when having sex during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), or condoms, or having an undetectable viral load will continue to help prevent HIV. Condoms will continue to prevent other STIs. Regular testing for STIs may also be important.

For more info and resources, including strategies for reducing the risk of COVID-19, HIV, and STIs, go to: <https://www.catie.ca/en/sex-and-covid-19>.



The Canadian AIDS Society has recently launched a catalyst Women's Working Group. The main goal of this project is to support women living with HIV in Canada by improving health and wellness supports and identifying gaps currently existing in the sector. The working group will meet monthly to discuss relevant topics, participate in training/networking opportunities, and collaborate to produce project materials. Members will be expected to attend and contribute to monthly team meetings, a position statement, and a lived experience module. They will be compensated at \$25/hour for 40 hours of work.

Only women living with HIV will be considered. There are limited seats on the working group and priority will be given to women from diverse geographical locations, races/ethnicities, and gender identities.

If you are interested in participating in this working group, please contact Colleen Price (coinfection@sympatico.ca) or Patrick Wright (patrick.wright@cdnaids.ca) by providing a short 1-page description of your experience and interest in the group. Past experience in HIV advocacy is not a prerequisite and all levels of experience will be considered.

HIV & COVID Vaccines

Highly effective vaccines have been developed that can reduce the risk of COVID-19. These vaccines are safe and effective for people with HIV or hepatitis C. However, people may have questions about these vaccines.

It is important to consider getting vaccinated if you have HIV. Many people with HIV have or are at an increased risk for developing the underlying conditions that increase their chances of developing COVID-19 or severe disease if they become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. These underlying

conditions include high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol levels, lung disease, obesity and so on.

Experts consider COVID vaccines to be safe and effective for people with HIV. Clinical trials with the Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines included a relatively small number of people with HIV, all of whom were taking ART and who were healthy and well. Further studies are needed to determine if the vaccine works as well for people with HIV as it does for the general population.

There is no information yet on how well the vaccine works in people living with HIV who have a compromised immune system. If

you are not on treatment and have a very low CD4 count, discuss vaccination with your healthcare provider. Some experts recommend starting HIV treatment first to prevent HIV-related complications and to potentially improve vaccine effectiveness.

HIV & VACCINES PANEL

In collaboration with Dr. Darrell Tan of Unity Health Toronto, CATIE recently hosted an online info session about COVID-19 vaccines for people with HIV. This event provided answers to questions commonly asked by Dr. Tan's patients, included the perspectives of people with lived experience, and allowed participants to ask questions of the panelists.

To see a recording of this panel go to <https://www.catie.ca/en/webinars/covid-19-vaccines-information-people-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-their-service-providers?> For additional info and updates on this topic see www.catie.ca/en/covid-19-faq.

“I’m Ready” HIV SelfTest

ACNS is a partner in the national *I’m Ready* HIV self-testing research program which has just launched! Participants will receive an HIV self-testing kit – which is proven to be fast and highly effective – and have access to a telehealth-style peer navigation service to link them to more info about prevention and care.

To participate in the program, participants will need an iOS or Android smart phone to download the *I’m Ready* mobile app, which users can access anonymously. Through the app, participants will be asked to create a profile and answer a pre-test survey. Participants can choose to have up to three self-test kits delivered to their home or another address, or opt to pick up kits at any one of 75 pickup locations across the country – ACNS being one of these distribution partners.

Up to three kits are provided so participants have access to test kits if they have additional exposures, should they test within a window period where the virus isn’t yet detectable, or



can distribute a kit to friends, family members and sexual partners.

Once a participant has their self-test kit, they will follow the steps in the app and use the test kit’s instructions

to take the self-test. After the test is completed, they will anonymously record their results in the app and receive access to more information about treating or preventing HIV.

At any time before, during or after the test, participants can also book a free, confidential appointment with a peer navigator through the program’s *I’m Ready*, Talk secure telehealth service. The peer navigator will

guide participants through the testing process and provide information and services for HIV care and prevention.

More information is available at <https://www.readytoknow.ca/>.

Sex Now Survey + HIV SelfTest

ACNS is also a part of Canada’s largest survey of GBT2Q and Non-Binary folk: the *Sex Now 2021* survey. The 2021 iteration of the CBRC’s survey - the national health survey for Gay, Bi, Trans,



Two-Spirit, and Queer men (GBT2Q) and Non-Binary people - has launched. Survey participants (18+) have the option to take part in the Test@Home program and receive free rapid

HIV self-test kits for yourself and/or your friends and partners.

Add your voice! CBRC wants to know about your life nowadays. Let them know about how you have sex, and if that’s changed much. Your answers will assist organizations across the country advocate for better programs and resources, and will be used to shape public policy when it comes to our health and wellbeing.

The survey can be accessed at: https://www.cbrc.net/sex_now_2021.

Cannabis & HIV Research

The University of Victoria is looking for research participants on the use of cannabis for HIV symptom management. Are you an adult living with HIV? Do you use cannabis to help reduce and manage your symptoms? Do you want to share your experience? It takes 20-30 minutes to complete the survey. Get a chance to win a cash prize of \$100, \$50, or \$25. Find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/MD3LYMP>.

The broad objective of this study is to understand the experience of people living with HIV who use cannabis to help reduce and management their symptoms. Specifically, this survey covers three broad categories of questions:

- The use of cannabis to reduce and manage symptoms
- The impact of legalization on cannabis use and access
- The impact of COVID-19 on cannabis use and access

For more info on this study or questions, please contact Research Coordinator Alayna Payne at csmscoord@uvic.ca.



Research of 2SLGBTQI Seniors

Egale is conducting national research to expand understandings of aging in 2SLGBTQI communities beyond health alone and to open conversations about how 2SLGBTQI older adults can be better supported to continue to live in the community. The goal is to increase understanding and recognition of the wide range of material considerations (such as housing, finances, etc.) and distinct experiences that characterize aging and living well for 2SLGBTQI older adults.

Participation in this study involves a 1-hour interview and research will be conducted until June 2021. Participants must self-identify as 2SLGBTQI, be 65 years of age or over and currently live in Canada. Eligible and selected study participants will receive a \$50 Amazon e-gift card.

Interested participants can go to: <https://egale.ca/egale-in-action/seniors-national-study/> for more information or to sign up for the study. They may also call the research team (Celeste Pang or Shirin Gerami) at agingstudy@egale.ca or leave a message including the phone number where they can be reached at 416-946-6759 or toll-free 1-888-204-7777 ext6759 .



LGBTQI2S Subjects Sought

Transformative Compassion: Understanding the Attitudes, Beliefs, Values, and Experiences of Compassion within LGBTQI2S Communities.

The purpose of the study is to understand how experiences of compassion shape the lives of LGBTQI2S peoples and how compassion may be a way for societal change and a solution to



Do you identify as LGBTQI2S+?

Live in Canada and speak English?

Would you like to share with us your stories of compassion?

For an interview contact: phillip.joy@msvu.ca



This research is supported by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



heteronormative and homophobic views that negatively influence us. You are invited to participate in an in-person or on-line interview that will be about 60-90 minutes and will be recorded for analysis.

Eligibility for the study requires that participants live in

Canada, self-identify as LGBTQI2S, be 19 years of age or older, and are able to speak and understand English. There will be an honorarium of a \$25 Amazon gift card for participation.

If you are interested in participating or want more information, please contact andrew.thomas12@msvu.ca or Dr. Phillip Joy at phillip.joy@msvu.ca.

Trans, Enby & Gender Diverse

The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia is seeking input to help create: "Supporting Trans, Non-Binary and Gender Diverse Communities: A Guide for Employers and Service Providers". This Nova Scotia-specific legal info/best practices guide will be

about creating safe, respectful spaces for trans, non-binary, two-spirit, and other gender diverse people, with particular emphasis on human rights law and obligations under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

The main goals are to provide legal education and best practice to employers and to make this province safer for trans, non-binary, two-spirit and gender diverse

people. A plain language written guide, a web-based app, and a series of short animated educational videos are being created and input is needed. What is it like to be a trans, non-binary, two-spirit, or gender diverse person in the workplace and what ideas or visions do you have for a safe and inclusive workplace.

If you are interested in participating in a consultation call, respond yes to Shila at shila@legalinfo.org. Participants will be given \$50 for their thoughts.

THANKS Admiral!

ACNS is the latest recipient of support from the Admiral Insurance COVID Support Fund. A donation of \$20,000 was announced on June 11.

One of the big impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on charities like ACNS is the forced cancellation of fundraising events and initiatives, and the lost revenue from those cancellations.

The Admiral CSF donation will help offset lost fundraising revenues at ACNS due to COVID-19 impacts.

ACNS would like to sincerely thank Admiral Insurance for their generous gift, and to Admiral employee Addison White for recommending us for consideration!

Check out the little video they made about ACNS and our work to accompany the announcement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2Qb6zPKqDQ>.



Training: HIV & HCV Testing

This October CATIE is partnering with ACNS & HepNS to deliver a training course for frontline service providers in NS on HIV-Hepatitis C Testing. CATIE's HIV and Hepatitis C Testing course aims to develop in-depth knowledge of testing technologies, approaches to testing, and how all service providers play an important role in reaching people with HIV and hepatitis C.

This course is geared towards front-line service providers who work with people who can benefit from HIV and/or hepatitis C testing. Participants should have a basic understanding of HIV and hepatitis C before beginning this course (for self-directed HIV and Hep C Basics courses see <http://educatie.ca/main-en.html>).

This course includes four online modules with a variety of learning activities such as eLearning units, readings, discussion board assignments, and videos. You can work through each weekly module at your own pace. Participants should expect to commit 1.5 hours per week to complete all assigned online activities. The online meeting is approximately 2 hours long.

The HIV and Hepatitis C Testing training course begins on October 4, 2021. Register now: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6341715/TST-NSC-1021> Please don't hesitate to reach out to the Health Education Coordinators, Jordan Coulombe at jcoulombe@catie.ca or Shelley Taylor at staylor@catie.ca, to learn more.

Drugstore with a Difference?

Boyd's Pharmasave has officially opened on Agricola St. in Halifax. Its pharmacist and owner, Greg Richard, emphasized that his goal is to create an inclusive and comfortable environment for patients to receive medication, therapy, advice, and teaching that is free of discrimination and stigma. In addition to providing expanded services to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, Boyd's Pharmasave will offer gender-affirming hormone administration and teaching, free injection kits for patients receiving injectable gender-affirming hormones, and assistance in navigating the health-care system and drug plans and coverage issues.

Richard also noted that the services at Boyd's Pharmasave will be all-encompassing, including medication dispensing, opioid-dependence treatment, counselling and prescribing, immunizations and injections, as well as point-of-care testing. In the future, he hopes Boyd's will be able to expand and offer even more services, including prescribing PrEP.

Boyd's Pharmasave can be found at 2525 Agricola St. Halifax and can be reached at 902-417-2088.

Income Assistance Upgrades!

As of July 1st, 2021, Nova Scotians will no longer need home address to get income assistance. People who don't have a home address, but also don't want to live in a shelter, will soon be able to apply for income assistance.

Nova Scotia's Department of Community Services is ending a long-standing policy that only people who can provide a home address can get assistance. People will still need to provide an address to the provincial government, but it could be a community group or organization like ACNS, and it won't have to be where a person lives. Even people who live at a shelter or in other temporary accommodation provided by a community organization are able to get income assistance by providing that group's business address as a home address. For more info contact Dylan.

'Bid..' Update

Plans announced in the Winter Positive Dispatch for a spring re-launch of our Bid event have been postponed to fall due to the COVID-19 3rd wave. Details TBD. For more info contact Chris.



People living with HIV on effective treatment **can't pass it on** to a partner.

Learn more at cantpassiton.ca

CAN'T PASS IT ON **CATIE** Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information

Decisions about treatment should always be made in consultation with a medical practitioner knowledgeable about HIV. Production of this campaign has been fully possible through financial contributions from the Public Health Agency of Canada and Global Sciences Canada, Inc. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the funder. For more information about new treatments and prevention, visit www.catie.ca.

2SLGBTQ+ Virtual Hospice

Proud, Prepared, and Protected is a new collection of online resources to assist people who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ to access and receive inclusive, respectful care. These resources were developed by people who identify as Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+, with more than 40 organizations and Canadian Virtual Hospice. This information is helpful for allies as well as people working in healthcare, education, and communities.

The website features articles, over 150 videos, webinars, and the 2SLGBTQ+ Canadian Healthcare Bill of Rights for Advanced Illness, Frailty, and End of Life! Created to help people understand and advocate for respectful, discrimination-free healthcare. The Proud, Prepared and Protected resources are available at www.virtualhospice.ca/2SLGBTQ.



Need Affordable Housing?

Welcome Housing and Support Services provides housing support and trustee services for individuals



in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Some of the services they offer include:

- assistance in finding and applying for housing;
- providing affordable housing for single men and women;
- acting as a trustee for those who struggle to keep to bill payment schedules; and
- filing income tax

For more information phone [902-423-5479](tel:902-423-5479) or check out www.welcomehousing.ca.

What's Going On?

June

- Thu Jun 24, 6 pm
ACNS **VIRTUAL Annual General Meeting**
See **page 3** for details or contact **Chris**

July

- Thu Jul 1 (Canada Day) - **ACNS CLOSED**

August

- Mon Aug 2 (Natal Day) - **ACNS CLOSED**
- Thu Aug 19, all of Nova Scotia
Draw for Woody's "Rainbow" Online 50/50

August

- **NEW DATES** — Aug 12-22, Halifax
Halifax Pride Festival
For Halifax Pride info <http://halifaxpride.com>

September

- Mon Sep 6 (Labour Day) - **ACNS CLOSED**
- Thu Sep 30 (Truth & Reconciliation Day) - **ACNS CLOSED**

October

- Mon Oct 11 (Thanksgiving) - **ACNS CLOSED**

Want to Contribute

We would love to hear from you! If you know of events coming up, or have any info you would like to share, contact Chris.

Our Funders

Funding Partners

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- NS Department of Health & Wellness
- NS Department of Advanced Education and Labour
- Gov. of Canada (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Fund)
- Viiv Healthcare Canada (Positive Action Grant)
- Gov. of Canada (Emergency Community Support Fund and the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia)
- The J&W Murphy Foundation
- Nova Scotia General Employee's Union (NSGEU)
- United Way (Atlantic Compassion Fund)
- The Halifax, Dartmouth, and Chebucto West Community Health Boards (NS Health Authority)
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Main Corporate & Business Supporters

- Admiral Insurance - BMO Financial Group
- Docaitta Design - Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc.
- RBC - MAC Cosmetics - MAC AIDS Fund
- The Atlantica Halifax - Westjet

Staff Directory

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

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Dylan Samson
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pc@acns.ns.ca