



+ POSITIVE DISPATCH

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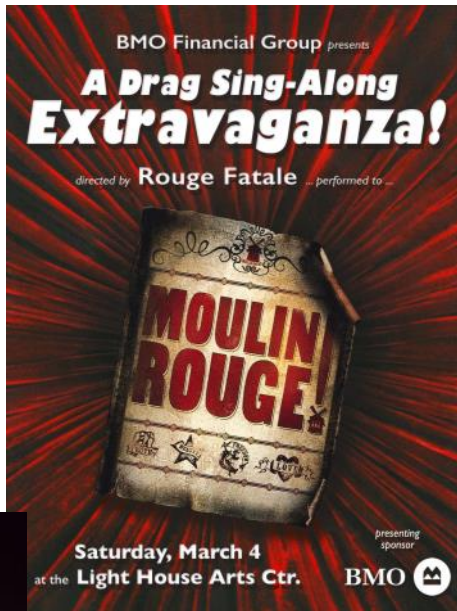
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Moulin Rouge Hits Spectacular Note

The Moulin Rouge: Drag Sing-Along Extravaganza was a huge fundraising success for ACNS.

The event raised over \$11,000 for the organization, and featured 10 incredible performers, as well as incredible direction from Rouge Fatale. With a Rocky Horror-style immersive atmosphere, audience sing-alongs, and astounding drag and pantomime, it was a sight to behold.

We packed the Light House Arts Centre, with over 400 attendees clapping, singing and dancing along. It was a spectacular, spectacular affair, and we're already at work



planning the next iteration.

ACNS wants to thank our sponsor BMO, our HRM Council supporters, MLA Lisa Lachance, and all the other fabulous in-kind sponsors for all they did. This event truly

could not have been the success it was without them.

Thank you to our volunteers, staff, director and cast. If you have ideas for the future, constructive criticism, or just want to connect with us, email Fundraising & Event Coordinator Jordan Parker at fund@acns.ns.ca. He is always looking for new ways to serve the HIV and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and allies.

COVID-19 Survey = \$100

ACNS recognizes that many of our PLHA clients have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increases in the cost of living.

We have obtained funding to create a COVID-19 Awareness / Vaccine Survey for People Living with HIV/AIDS in NS. Participants will receive a \$100 gift card towards food after completing this short, primarily multiple-choice survey about your COVID-19 vaccinations and where you got your information about COVID-19. We have a limited number of gift cards and they are first-come, first-serve.

This survey can be completed online at www.tinyurl.com/ACNS-COVID or by completing a paper copy and dropping it off to, or mailing it to, ACNS. The survey does include a request for contact info so that staff can get the gift card to you. If you know of someone who is living with HIV in Nova Scotia, feel free to let them know about the survey!

Not all people who are living with HIV in Nova Scotia have been connected to ACNS. We may need

to reach out to you to confirm your HIV status. We'll reach out to you once you've submitted the finished survey.

Unfortunately, we are not able to guarantee that we can replace the gift cards if they are lost. However, please do contact Dylan at 902-403-7841 or pc@acns.ns.ca and we'll see what we can do!

\$1000 Heating Cost Rebate!

One-time Heating Rebate Change – This year you can receive \$1,000 for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program. To qualify, you need to pay for your own home (residential) heat and have a household income of \$85,000 or less, and apply by March 31.

Contact the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services to find out if you qualify. For more info, call 902-424-5200 or 1-800-670-4357. <https://tinyurl.com/NSHeatRebate>.

NS HIV Cluster Update

In October the Province announced an increase in HIV cases. Later they clarified that COVID shutdowns creating a simple backlog of testing explained part of the increase. However, there was also a “cluster” of cases contributing as well. By “cluster”, Public Health means a group of cases that are all linked to each other: newly diagnosed Person A was also the virus source for Person B and Person C. Person B was the source for Person D, etc.

NS Public Health have indicated that the cluster seems to have been contained. Through contact tracing and using HIV testing protocols that can identify a new HIV infection sooner, they believe they have interrupted the pattern of new infections creating the cluster, and diagnoses are back at usual patterns.



Poz Guys Returning April 19

Plans in the works to bring back the Poz Guys in-person group. We've recently had a number of Poz Guys members reach out to say they'd think it's time to start meeting in person again. Staff are excited to get back to in-person client programming—where clients can share stories, ideas and advice...

But we want your input!

So, we're seeking community input about what the community wants Poz Guys to look like. Get in touch with Dylan, or come to the meeting April 19, 5-7 p.m. We hope to see you soon!



Undetectable HIV = Untransmittable HIV ...

those words are long ... so the shorthand is **U=U**

“ It’s very, very clear that the risk is zero. ”

- Dr. Alison Rodger, lead author of the PARTNER study

**U=U means there is zero risk of passing on HIV
via sex if you are on effective treatment**

**Know
Your Status!**

Get **Tested** . Get **Treated** . End **HIV**

for more info:

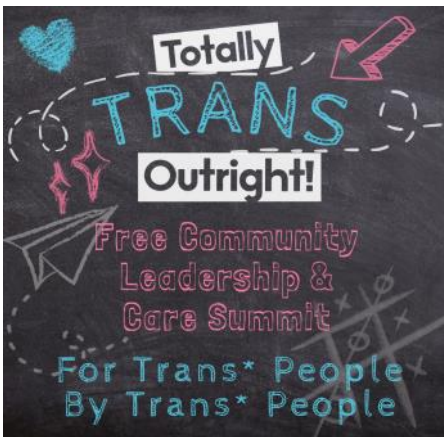
www.acns.ns.ca/info-resources/U-U

AIDS
Coalition
of Nova Scotia

supported
by a grant from

ViiV
Healthcare

Totally Trans Outright Coming



Announcing Totally Trans Outright!
TTOR is a free community leadership and care summit for Trans* people by Trans* people.

Our goal is to bring together Trans* folks who are community leaders or want to become one and needs support to learn how to

help their community and themselves.

This event will take place over the span of 5 days in Halifax from May 6th to May 10th. All food will be covered, and for those who need it, accommodations and travel can be secured. The form is here: www.tinyurl.com/TTOR-NS
You can fill it out, or you can upload a video or audio file if that is more accessible.

Please DM us, send an email to torpeer@gmail.com or contact our trans* health and wellness coordinator, Hanley at to.recruiter1@acns.ns.ca if you have any questions.

ACNS Wants New CATS Volunteers

Our clients living with HIV sometimes face barriers when it comes to accessing services like acupuncture, massage therapy and osteopathy due to finances.

Our Complimentary and Alternative Therapies (CATS) program helps to facilitate access to these kinds of therapies.

It's a service ACNS is proud to offer to our clients, but we can't offer it without the help of volunteers.

As of writing, we have one volunteer who is generously offering massage therapy appointments every week and an osteopath who offers monthly appointments.

While we were able to offer acupuncture recently thanks to some volunteers and students, those services are not currently available.

If you or someone you know can volunteer a few hours a month, we'd love to have you.

If you wish to schedule an appointment or are interested in volunteering, please contact Dylan at pc@acns.ns.ca.



Spring PLHA Consultation

ACNS wants to hear your thoughts and input on ACNS's proposal to expand our mandate, and we're hoping to have in-depth discussions about how we can best serve our communities moving forward. **The next community consultation is by Zoom on May 3 and will be exclusively for our PLHA clients.**

For those PLHA clients for whom Zoom is not the best method, we'll also be setting up one-on-one or small-group consults either by phone or in-person.

If you would like to be part of this consultation process, please email Chris at ED@acns.ns.ca and put "Community Consultation" in the subject line. Or, you may phone 902-425-4882, ext 227 and leave your number and a detailed message.

HIV+ Client Community Consultations



ACNS is seeking input from our HIV+ clients to explore the possibility of expanding our mandate to include sexual health, mental health, and substance use issues for 2SLGBTQIA+ Nova Scotians ... while we continue to address HIV issues for ALL in Nova Scotia.

We are holding a virtual meeting by Zoom on Wednesday May 3 at 6:30 PM. We'll also speak to people on-on-one by phone or in-person as an option.

If you are interested in being part of this process, please contact Chris at ED@acns.ns.ca and put "Community Consultations" in the subject line.

You can also head to <https://tinyurl.com/ACNS-Consults>



Help With Filing Taxes!

Do you need assistance with filing your taxes?

If your tax situation is fairly simple, we can help! We can help you to file your income taxes so that you can get your HST and other tax credits. We can file as many years as you need to file. We will file returns electronically meaning a quick turn-around in getting your Notice of Assessment.

Ned MacInnis is able to start filing your taxes now. We will need:

- Notice of Assessment from the last year you filed
- Your income slips (T4, T5, T5A, etc)
- Receipts for medical
- Receipts for educational expenses
- Receipts for RRSP contributions
- Any other forms required to file your income taxes.

If we have not filed your return in the past, we will need your date of birth. We will also need a phone number which we can reach you during daytime hours.

Ned is currently working from home for the next few months so we will not be offering in-person sessions. Instead, once you have gathered your information from the list above, please bring it to the office and see Dylan Samson.

He will scan your documents and upload them to a secure folder which only we can access. Ned will prepare your return and file it electronically. He will print a paper copy of the return along with the conformation of its filing and an estimate of your upcoming GST rebates. This will be sent to you by mail.

If you have any questions or if there are any additional considerations that Ned needs to be aware of, please have Dylan make a note of those things and Ned will call

you to discuss them before he begins preparing your return. You can reach Dylan at 902-403-7841 or pc@acns.ns.ca.

**Want To Sponsor ...
The Next ACNS Fundraiser?
Email Jordan Parker at:
fund@acns.ns.ca**

Peer N Peer Program Wraps Up

The Peer N Peer program at ACNS is reaching the end of its one-year pilot project funding.

As we near the end we'd like to highlight some of the accomplishments of the program. Peer N Peer program has produced 11 pamphlets outlining prominent drugs within the community, and info on hormone replacement therapy. Five documents about chemsex, douching, sex addiction and PrEP access in Nova Scotia have been made available as well.

We have given out nearly 15,000 harm reduction kits, and had nearly 2000 meaningful engagements with people in the community who use substances. We have

provided education on harm reduction, chemsex, sexual health and queer literacy, in the form of workshops and presentations, to organizations across the province.

Our team provided supplies and conducted outreach during events at bars, universities, and the bathhouse. Our presence on Grindr, Squirt and MyBuzz was able to connect many people to information, supplies and services within the community. We took part in CBRC's National Summit for 2022 speaking about Peer N Peer and have been consulted on queer harm reduction related issues by various governing bodies and health officials.

Finally, we created the PNP Hangout Group, that meets once a month to talk about our experiences with chemsex, providing a safer space to talk and build connection within our queer community.

Peer N Peer has been an incredible success however funders are not extending the opportunity at this time. It is unfortunate but there will have to be a break in Peer N Peer services with the last day to access supplies being March 24th,

2023. However, please stay tuned as we are confident that harm reduction and substance use supports for queer people will once again appear in the near future.

The success of the program and data we've provided indicating a clear need for queer specific services in Halifax will hopefully sway funders to implement more long term supports in the coming months.

Thank you to funders, partners, ACNS staff and clients for your part in supporting our wonderful local queer community.



Community Link: Free HIV Self-Tests Still Available!



By: Emily Durant

Has it been a minute since you last checked your HIV status? The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is here to help.

The Community Link project – run through ACNS – is giving the public unprecedented access to free HIV self-testing kits. During the pandemic, lockdowns and a generalized anxiety around

anything medical kept many people from staying on top of their sexual, mental or physical health. Even now, with the shortage of primary care providers and sexual health clinic availability, getting in for routine maintenance can be weeks, if not months of waiting.

Through this project, the kits can currently be mailed inconspicuously to your door or are available for pick up from their distribution site. Packages are sent out with no branding, labeling or logos -- Only a return address with no name to ensure confidentiality and avoid the stigma that can still come with the subject of HIV.

While not confirmatory, these rapid, easy-to-use kits give people an idea of their status in less than a minute, in the privacy of their own homes and can provide some peace of mind at a time where that can be in short supply.

Shane Pope, the outgoing Health and Wellness Coordinator for 2SGBQ+ Men from ACNS manages distribution for this project. He works with one outreach staff, one staff dedicated to social media, and another staff member trained in distributing kits.

"The Public Health Agency of Canada looked to community-based organizations to do this work because we meet on a daily basis with people in our community and hear about the issues, struggles and challenges they face in their everyday lives. A big issue was access to HIV testing and the lack of it in the HRM as well as across Nova Scotia," he said.

He notes that the HIV self-test isn't the 'only' solution, but can be an important one.

"It's meant to be a self-test so folks can do this on their own, on their own terms when they're ready," said Pope.

In addition to the test kits, ACNS created a four page, two-sided document that provides the most urgent 'need to know' information that people might want in case of a positive result, or when folks just want to know more. There are website links to ACNS and other helpful resources, QR codes, information on the various confirmatory testing sites across NS and how-to pamphlets on self-testing.

While modern medicine still hasn't found a cure for HIV, it has become a chronic condition that people can manage with antiretroviral therapy (ART) while living their best lives. Driven by

the goal of greater access to HIV testing, this initiative is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) provides resources. They want to see more people testing more frequently. The sooner you know your status, the sooner you can do something about it.

Kits have been available since December and mails outs have reached all across the province. While the majority of tests are being requested from Halifax and Dartmouth, ACNS is also receiving requests from small communities and towns they hadn't heard of before as well.

People can order as many kits as they want, but currently ACNS is providing two kits per mail-out and five kits per pick up, which can be repeated each day, based on demand. There's no limit and ACNS wants this to be as low barrier as possible. "We've heard that people are sharing these kits with friends and networks, some even using them as stocking stuffers over Christmas. This is part of community building and people taking care of people," said Pope.

"It's a really good example of [promoting] self-determination and when people have the resources and tools to take care of their health they will share that information, which is powerful." ACNS encourages everyone to come back for more and to share them with friends to help spread the word and normalize the phenomenon.

For more information, visit <https://acns.ns.ca/progs-services/community-link.html>.

ACNS Cell Phones For Our Clients

A promotional graphic for ACNS Cell Phones & Minutes. It features the text "we have ... Cell Phones & Minutes" in large red font, followed by "ACNS still has cell phones and prepaid minutes for our HIV+ clients who need them". Below this is the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia logo and the text "If you are, or know of, an ACNS client who needs a phone or minutes text/phone 902-403-7841". At the bottom, it lists funding sources and the Canada logo.

We are 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.

We have been successful in extending the funding for this program through 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.

Food NOW Survey

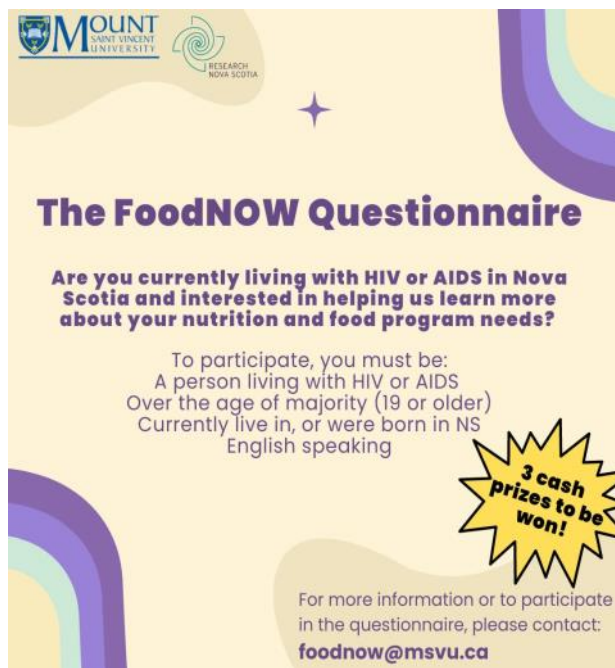
Mount Saint Vincent University and Research Nova Scotia are inviting folks to participate in a survey about their experience with food programs and food access.

Potential participants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. A person living with HIV or AIDS
2. Over the age of majority (19 or older)
3. Currently live in, or were born in NS
4. English speaking

The questionnaire will be live until March 21, 2023, after which analysis will promptly begin. It can be found here: <https://surveys.msvu.ca/Index.php?r=survey/index&sid=781824&lang=en>

Once the questionnaire has been completed, participants will be given the opportunity to enter to win one of three cash prizes in a raffle draw. If you have any questions, please reach out to foodnow@msvu.ca.



The poster features the logos of Mount Saint Vincent University and Research Nova Scotia at the top. The main title is "The FoodNOW Questionnaire". Below it, the text asks: "Are you currently living with HIV or AIDS in Nova Scotia and interested in helping us learn more about your nutrition and food program needs?". It lists the criteria for participation: "To participate, you must be: A person living with HIV or AIDS Over the age of majority (19 or older) Currently live in, or were born in NS English speaking". A starburst graphic says "3 cash prizes to be won!". At the bottom, it says "For more information or to participate in the questionnaire, please contact: foodnow@msvu.ca".

Trauma-Informed Care Intro

This June, ACNS is once again offering our FREE online "Trauma-Informed Care & Approaches: The Basics" training for frontline and community-based service providers and staff in Nova Scotia.

This training is designed to teach the fundamentals of trauma-informed care and approaches, and give you a foundational understanding of each. The goal is to strengthen your capacity to provide culturally safe and stigma-free care services to vulnerable populations.

There will be 25 spots available for this training. Instruction, provided by Shannon Hardy (MSW, RSW), Content Specialist in Trauma-Informed Practices, will be in two 2-hour Zoom-based sessions on June 15th and 22nd, for a total of 4 hours.

If you are interested in reserving a spot, please email your name and contact info to ED@acns.ns.ca and put "TIC-June-2023" in the subject line.

Spring Hamper Program Underway



ACNS is gearing up to continue its annual Hamper Program. This hamper program helps PLHA parents with dependent, school-aged children who need assistance during the holiday season. We are currently reaching out to offer this program to families in Nova Scotia who fit these criteria.

The next hamper being offered has historically known as our Easter Hamper, but we will not be able to have the hampers ready in time for Easter this year. So we will be rebranding it as a Spring Hamper and will have the hampers delivered a little later in April!

If you need such assistance – or know of an ACNS client who does – please contact Dylan.



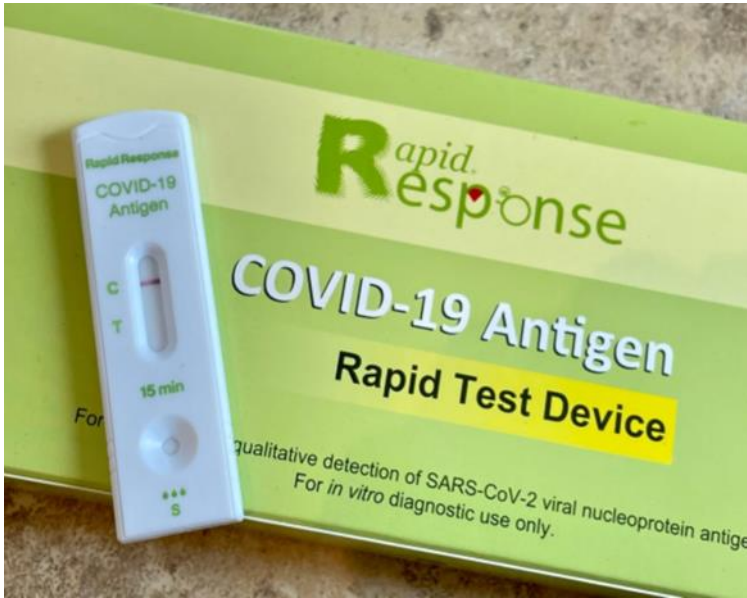
A colorful graphic with a pink and orange background. It features several speech bubbles and icons. The main text in a large speech bubble says "FREE HIV SELF-TESTS". Other speech bubbles say "SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO" (with a QR code), "RECEIVE YOUR SELF-TESTS IN THE MAIL OR PICK THEM UP AT OUR OFFICE", and "MAKE KNOWING YOUR HIV STATUS A PRIORITY IN 2023!". A bottom speech bubble says "WWW.TINYURL.COM/COMLINKNS". Icons include a self-test kit, a bandage, and a syringe.

Free COVID Tests & Masks

COVID-19 rapid tests and Masks are currently available for our clients and members of the public, and can be picked up at the ACNS office.

If you cannot come into the office, we can make alternate arrangements.

We would like to thank The Canadian Red Cross for sending out these supplies. For more info contact Dylan.



Pharmacy-Based Testing Resumes

The APPROACH 2.0 research study has resumed. The study was paused in December due to an administrative issue, which has now been resolved.

Point-of-care testing for HIV and hepatitis C and dry blood spot testing for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis is again available at ten Nova Scotia pharmacies. These pharmacies are located in the Central, Western, and Northern regions.

Contact

information and testing hours are listed on the study website, <https://www.approachstudy.ca/>

I'm Ready Still Going!

ACNS is a partner in the national I'm Ready HIV self-testing research program!

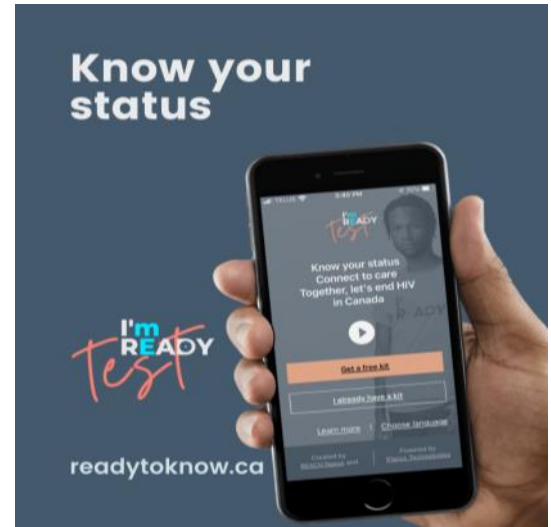
To participate in the program, participants will need an iOS or Android smart phone to download the I'm Ready mobile app, which users can access anonymously.

Through the app, participants will be asked to create a profile and answer a

pretest 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.

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, participants can also book a free, confidential appointment with a peer navigator through the "I'm Ready, Talk" secure telehealth service.

More information is available at [https:// www.readytoknow.ca/](https://www.readytoknow.ca/).



Massage Clinic Taking Appointments

The Invisible Illness Clinic (formerly the Carnation Massage Clinic) at the Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy continues to offer massage therapy



services for people living with chronic conditions, including HIV. CCMH students are introduced to many health conditions, including those that are less visible to many of us. These 'invisible illnesses' can benefit greatly from the physiological and psychological effects of therapeutic touch.

Call 902.832.3268 or email to book an appointment at cliniccoordinator@collegeofmassage.com. Appointments are \$20. The College is located in Suite 180, 6960 Mumford Road Halifax.



Something to Last

I want something to last
And I want something to stay
I wanna overcome any challenges coming my way

I wanna raise my head high
I wanna wave the past goodbye
I wanna built myself a better life and end up with the truest
type of love

I wanna believe that I can
No more voices in my head saying I can't
Nothing keeping me down
No longer the guy with the permanent frown

I wanna break all these chains
Generational cycles that don't move forward
No that won't be me
I won't stay caught in the in between

I wanna break away these blues
I wanna heal this broken heart
I wanna stay sober for me
I want things renewed a fresh new start

From the ground I will get up
Start a structure I'll built up
I won't stop I won't give up
My souls aligning with my head and heart
Crawled through the darkness thought I was there to stay
I hoped & prayed for a better day
After all this time it's clear to me only light will find a way

I want something to last
I want something to stay
I wanna overcome any challenges coming my way

I wanna raise my head high
I wanna wave the past goodbye
Built myself a better life
And end up with the truest type of love

I want something to last
I want something to stay
I wanna overcome any challenges coming my way



From Untoxicated Queers...

Statistics show people in the 2SLGBTQ+ communities are twice as likely to have experience with substance use and addiction. Discrimination, lack of support and internalized homo/transphobia compound the intersections of shame and stigma of queerness and substance use. There are harmful gaps within cis/heteronormative harm reduction and recovery spaces where our queer communities fall through the cracks.

Untoxicated Queers was created to provide safer spaces and support networks for people with lived and living experiences with substance use and addiction within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

In an attempt at queering the mental health and addiction systems, we approach substance use and addiction with a nonbinary viewpoint of a spectrum of care from harm reduction wellness to recovery. We have weekly peer-led support groups: a healing space; and monthly social events: a sober-positive connection and a celebratory space.

We value our partnership with the ACNS and are beyond grateful to be able to engage with the space, the programs and the community.

Partnering with the ACNS this year has been instrumental in establishing continuity and sustainability within our projects and future goals.

For more info about Untoxicated Queers look for them on social media or go to: untoxicatedqueers@gmail.com.

(NOTE: Last Fall ACNS began playing host to the monthly gathering of Untoxicated Queers - which seemed a natural compliment to our pilot of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Peer N Peer program (see p4). Even with the PnP pilot ending, UQ will continue to meet at ACNS.)



Volunteer Profile: Anita Keeping

By Emily Durant, ACNS Volunteer Writer

Anita Keeping worked with Planned Parenthood as a Registered Nurse. Little did she know this would spark friendships and connections lasting more than two decades and offer her opportunities to connect with the larger community in meaningful, joyful ways.

One facet of her role within the sexual health clinic was HIV testing. These tests required the presence of an ACNS staff member to offer counselling and information and shortly a personal connection between them was made. Having come to like the people and respect the work they did, she attended her first event as a volunteer with the AIDS walk 23 years ago and continued from there. “I liked the work they were doing so much, I just kept volunteering with them,” she said.

At these events, Anita used her knowledge as a nurse and what she had learned from ACNS to connect with other members of the larger community. Often, they didn't know about the AIDS Coalition, or

what the organization did, so she would help spread the word. Sometimes it would even be providing basic information about HIV itself to combat longstanding taboos and misinformation, an effort she has always enjoyed being able to support. Helping people feel a little less alone, and being able to minimize stigma a little bit more were some of the driving forces that kept Anita returning year after year. “For me, I've always known the people, that was my connection,” said Keeping.

Despite the difficult history, negativity and stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS, she found that events such as the Spring for Life or AIDS Walk would build community and connection. People from all walks of life: little children, students, adults to older people would meet, commune and learn in the streets. Afterwards, they would come back for hot dogs and drinks and spent time together in support of this worthy cause.

Anita left her position with Planned Parenthood to explore new roles as a RN and to learn new skills. Now with Eastern College in an educator position teaching curriculum related to continuing care, she still makes time to spread awareness and knowledge about ACNS and the work it does. With their website and newsletters, she shows students what nonprofit, help-related agencies are out there, what services they offer and



maybe has a story or two to tell about the good outcomes they help provide.

“Outreach from ACNS makes people more aware of what is out there and maybe more likely to access services too,” she said. When asked what makes the ACNS unique, she immediately notes its size. “If you're looking to volunteer or donate money, all the little things make a big difference,” she said.

While its always possible to volunteer or be part of larger organizations, sometimes it can feel like you get lost in the shuffle. With ACNS, the intimacy of the staff, including the long term volunteers creates a camaraderie and shared vision that can be lost in larger groups. Also, they're dog friendly.

“I always bring my dog with me when I go visit them at the office, and I would bring my dog with me on the AIDS walk as well,” she said.

“It seems more like a personal connection working with ACNS.”

WestJet Raffle Winner Announced!

ACNS's WestJet 'I ♥ Travel' fundraiser managed to bring in \$4,830 for our organization, and are so happy for what we achieved.

We did our big draw on Facebook Live on February 14, 2023. With a big red vase chalk full of entrants, we picked one lucky name out.

Our big winner was Jean-Marc Landry — a resident of Petit de Grat, C.B. — had the winning ticket, and is readying to use his gift of flight now.

We would like to thank everyone who got involved, bought and spread the word. A big thank you to WestJet also for this generous donation.

Does your company want to sponsor ACNS for a raffle? Reach Jordan Parker at fund@acns.ns.ca.



Staff Goodbyes

As the Peer N Peer program ends, ACNS must bid adieu to a few staff. We would like to take this time to show our appreciation for Peer N Peer Coordinator Andrew Thomas and Outreach Workers Marisa DiCosta and Patrick Maubert.

Their sterling work and devotion to the project saw them deliver incredible work and make an indelible impact in this community. Their admirable strength, knack for uplifting the organization and can-do attitudes reverberated through ACNS.

At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the departure of 2SGBTQ+ Men's Health & Wellness Coordinator Shane Pope. In his time here,



Shane led the charge on MonkeyPox vaccine efforts and rallying the government to protect our vulnerable. HIS work on the Community Link project — which provides HIV self-tests to the community — saw an immediate impact. (We hope to have Shane's replacement in place very soon— watch for updates regarding that!)

We are so thankful to have had all these employees as part of our team, and we cannot wait to see what they do next. They are assets to any organization, and we wish them the absolute best.

Bonne chance! Thank you for making ACNS a better place!

What's Going On?

March

- Deadline—Fri Mar 31, all of Nova Scotia
\$1000 Home Heating Assistance Rebate Deadline
See page 1 or contact Dylan

April

- Fri Apr 7 (Good Friday) - **ACNS CLOSED**
- Mon Apr 10 (Easter Monday) - **ACNS CLOSED**
- Wed Apr 19, Halifax
Poz Guys Group
For info see page 2, or contact Dylan
- Late April (date TBD), Halifax
NEW PLHA Social Group
For info contact Dylan

May

- Wed May 3, all of Nova Scotia
PLHA Consultation re Mission Expansion
For info see page 3, or contact Chris
- May 6-10, Halifax
Totally Trans Outright Program
See **page 4**, or contact **Hanley**

- Mon May 22 (Victoria Day) - **ACNS CLOSED**

June

- Jun 15th and 22nd online, all of Nova Scotia
Trauma-Informed Training - for Service Providers
See page 6 or contact Chris

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**.

Staff Directory

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

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www.ACNS.ns.ca

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** We are also in the midst of the hiring process for a new 2SGBTQ+ Men's Health & Wellness Coordinator, and expect a selection to be made in the near future.*

*Please Note:
Our Peer N Peer program is no longer operational. Please contact ACNS for any questions or concerns.
Do not hesitate to contact our other staff in the meantime.*

Our Funders

Funding Partners

- Public Health Agency of Canada (CAF)
- Health Canada (SUAP) through a partnership with CBRC
- NS Department of Health & Wellness
- NS Department of Advanced Education and Labour
- ViiV Healthcare Canada (Positive Action Grant)
- The J&W Murphy Foundation
- Nova Scotia General Employee's Union (NSGEU)
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Main Corporate & Business Supporters

- BMO Financial Group
- ViiV Healthcare Canada
- Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc.
- Westjet - Docaita Design
- MAC Cosmetics / MAC AIDS Fund - The Atlantica Halifax