

Annual Report
2014-2015

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Jennifer Dodd
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Peggy Hodge – Director of Programs and Services
Laura Keegan – Director of Resource Development and Public Engagement
Nirmala Godinho – Director of Finance and Administration
Brook Biggin
Leah Cavanagh
Melissa Cordeiro
Tsion Demeke Abate
Daltyn Evans
Sandra Johnson
Chris McBain
Dylan Richards
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Students

Chioma Aribéana
(University of Alberta, Nursing)
Megan Foley
Nicole Johnston
Jessica Olynyk
Svetlana Sagatova
(MacEwan University, Nursing)
Eric Kother
(University of Alberta, Board CSL Student)
Elizabeth Lenaghan
(MacEwan University, Social Work)
Megan Lukasewich
(University of Alberta, Public Health)
Kirsten Puznak
(SIHA Summer Student)
Danielle Tabler
(University of Victoria, Social Work)

From the Chair

This past year was a good one for HIV Edmonton, full of change and progress. We welcomed new staff and Board members, refreshed our strategic plan and took the first steps to develop a capital project, the Red Ribbon Building Capital Campaign.

The main focus of the Board this past year has been to begin looking at options to develop a long-term sustainable approach for housing HIV Edmonton. We have been forced to move multiple times over the past several years, with the resulting loss of momentum and drain on our resources.



Our current location, The Red Ribbon Building, has grown into one of our greatest assets. It provides an ideal location and space for our programs, has allowed us the stability and control to manage our spacing needs and has also allowed us the ability to offer meeting and gathering space to the broader community.

The Red Ribbon Building Capital Campaign will be a multi-year project to acquire the building. A Building Committee has been struck to provide expertise and guidance to the Board as we embark on this major initiative. We believe this is a necessary step to secure the long-term success and health of the organization.

We are fortunate to have such amazing staff, lead by our Executive Director Shelley Williams, who continue to develop and deliver programs and services that are both highly sought and highly regarded. We have made amazing strides in connecting with the various communities we serve, creating opportunities for education and partnership that support stretching our reach.

Our success is the community's success. With the ongoing support of our donors, funders, partners, Board, staff and volunteers, HIV Edmonton is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead.

Ken MacDonald
Chair

From the Executive Director

HIV Edmonton staff do amazing work. They hold our values close to their hearts and implement the principles with care and reflection. This year we have had many discussions on the vision, mission, values and the Board's strategic plan. As a result, we have changed a number of our approaches and are really working to ensure our expertise and creativity take the realities of our capacity into account. We cannot be everything to everybody, but we can help others increase their capacity to address HIV prevention and treatment.



For example, we changed our two-day HIV Dynamics workshop to emphasize how to work with people who are positive or at risk of transmission. Not only were the workshops well attended and received, but participants committed to assess and change the ways in which we work together.

This year I spent quite a bit of time meeting with community stakeholders and developing our case for support for the Red Ribbon Building Capital Campaign. The Board of Directors and I will be working to engage people who already support HIV Edmonton and those who are not yet familiar with us.

I wish it was simple to get to Zero but it isn't. Due to the social determinants of health, and specifically stigma and discrimination, addressing HIV is an uphill battle. HIV Edmonton must continue on its path of reaching into our community, working together, being innovative in our services and working to change systems so that we will get to Zero.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors and all the people who have been part of our agency. You continue to teach me the importance of community.

Shelley Williams
Executive Director



Our **Vision** is  **Zero**  new infections
stigma and discrimination
AIDS-related deaths

Mission

HIV Edmonton is dedicated to making life better for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

We do this by focusing on the elimination of HIV transmission and AIDS-related deaths and working to erase the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

HIV Edmonton supports people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS by:

- developing educational resources for community organizations, healthcare professionals and the general public
- developing and delivering prevention, health promotion and support programs
- providing a voice for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS through our work with local, provincial and national organizations on policy development, health strategy and program design.

We are a charitable organization serving people and communities primarily in metropolitan Edmonton. Our strength is our staff and volunteers who are subject matter experts in the prevention, management and treatment of HIV and AIDS.

Values

We strive to create a positive and welcoming environment for all who use our services.

We appreciate and celebrate diversity in all its dimensions.

We are compassionate in all that we do.

We demonstrate respect for each other, our volunteers, clients, services partners and health care professionals and recognize that success is achieved through collaboration.

We protect the dignity and confidentiality of our clients.

We are honest, trustworthy and act with integrity.

We honour the generosity of others through responsible and efficient use of our resources.

We are transparent with respect to decision making.

We strive for continuous improvement in fulfilling our mission.

We encourage and support a healthy work/life balance for our staff.

“HIV may not discriminate but it does seek out the most vulnerable in our society....
It disproportionately affects people whose human rights are most in need of protection”
Ron Rosenes honored with the Order of Canada

“The speaker was very informative and inspiring, it allowed us to get a patient’s perspective of HIV.”

“Everytime I come in we accomplish something. I feel like I am going somewhere.”

“Ross Armstrong is a place I can come and don’t have to watch my back. Everyone likes me here.”

“Sometimes coming here for a smudge and a talk is just what I need to keep taking care of myself. It’s important.”

Zero new HIV infections

What we do

Prevent new infections in populations known to be vulnerable to HIV.

How we do it

Education and outreach to at-risk individuals and groups, referrals to health and social service providers, access to condoms and on-site needle exchange.

- Although the primary focus of prevention programs are the groups listed below, HIV Edmonton also works to provide information and resources to intravenous drug users, sex trade workers, prisoners and women at risk.

Aboriginal

Aboriginal people have higher rates of HIV infection than the general population. We reach out to youth programs, high schools, colleges and universities, health centres, and Aboriginal agencies through community events, workshops and presentations. Highlights for the year included:

- Aboriginal HIV & AIDS awareness events and activities in Edmonton, Wabasca, Calling Lake, Saddle Lake and Kehewin.
- Cultural activities including elder visits, smudges, talking circles, and memorial services.
- Assisting with implementation of ACCH Aboriginal Strategy.
- One-on-one support for HIV+ individuals.

2,464
youth contacts

551
contacts with African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities

813
contacts with Aboriginal people

2,714
contacts with men who have sex with men

451
calls, e-mails and walk-ins answered



People from countries where HIV is endemic

The African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities face unique challenges in addressing HIV. We are working at the community level to build support and reduce stigma and discrimination and at the individual level to support people who are living with HIV. Activities included:

- Promotion of the first annual African, Caribbean and Black Canadian HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.
- Workshops, presentations and awareness activities in African, Caribbean and Black Communities.
- Cultural activities including coffee ceremonies, Amharic radio interview, and professional meet and greets.
- Assistance with immigration and settlement issues.
- Support, outreach and access to treatment for HIV+ individuals.

Men who have sex with men (MSM)

MSM continue to have the highest rates of new infections. Activities to increase the capacity of MSM to prevent HIV included:

- Up-to-date prevention and treatment information.
- Weekly outreach to bathhouses to provide education and support for rapid testing in partnership with Edmonton STI Clinic's outreach team.
- Online outreach, cruise board posts, awareness events and activities.
- Outreach to LGBTQ gathering places and events (e.g. Edmonton Pride Festival, Fruit Loop, Queer Prom).
- Distribution of condoms and educational materials.
- One-on-one support for HIV+ individuals.

Youth

We reach out to youth in the places they "hang out" in. We reached 1,400 youth through:

- Testing Fairs at Grant MacEwan University and University of Alberta.
- Outreach, presentations and booths at Queer Prom, Cool Camp in Edson, University of Alberta Aboriginal Student Services Centre, Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS), Youth Connect, Edmonton Youth Attendance Centre and Seminar on the United Nations and International Affairs (SUNIA).
- Workshops and presentations at high schools, colleges and universities, youth shelters and treatment centres.
- One-on-one support for HIV+ youth.



Zero AIDS-related deaths

What we do

Promote the increased capacity of people living with HIV or AIDS to manage their health and provide support to people who are affected by HIV.

How we do it

Individual and group support through the many programs and activities offered at HIV Edmonton and in the Ross Armstrong Centre Drop In.

Outreach Support

Some people do not want to come to the Red Ribbon building, often because of the stigma they have experienced. When this is the case, we go to them. We visit clients in their homes or at a local coffee shop. We also visit other agencies (e.g. prisons, hospitals, and addictions facilities) where current or potential clients might be.

Ross Armstrong Centre

Ross Armstrong Centre is a place in our agency where people living with HIV can relax and be themselves without worrying about being judged because of their HIV status. We help participants get and stay healthy through nutritious meals, referrals, advocacy and support for housing.

A key part of the Ross is the support and companionship of peers. Activities such as collective kitchens, smudges, support groups, barbecues, movies, and just hanging out give people living with HIV a chance to connect and learn from each other.



7,817
total client interactions in
Support and Outreach programs

938
contacts for Ross Armstrong
Week, an average of 78 client
contacts per month

343
people living with HIV are
currently registered in Support
and Outreach programs

31
new clients registered for
Support and Outreach programs

3
of our clients died during
the year

Zero stigma and discrimination

What we do

Create supportive environments by ensuring that the community has awareness and capacity regarding HIV and related issues.

How we do it

Education is key to reducing stigma and discrimination. Information, presentations and community events focused on prevention and education are provided to community members, service providers, partner organizations, policy makers, media and students.

- Building the Circle: HIV & Aboriginal Communities
- Building Strength in Practice: Nursing Students
- Dynamics of HIV
- Improving Health Equity of HIV Programs & Services in African & Caribbean Communities
- HIV & HCV 101
- PrEP presentation at ACCH Conference and Alberta Positive Voices Conference
- Speakers (people living with HIV) at workshops, events and activities.

Community events

Our major community events help us move towards Zero stigma and discrimination. We can educate people about HIV, we can make HIV more visible and less intimidating, and we can have fun while doing it. Nothing beats stigma more than people having fun attending, participating and promoting HIV prevention!

85
workshops and
presentations

2,376
attendees at
workshops and presentations

10
positive speakers

33
community events and
awareness activities

2,153
contacts with practitioners,
professionals and service
providers

3,316
attendees at community
events and awareness activities

Zero stigma and discrimination

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

On September 20, we really shook things up! We had an amazing event this year. We were excited to launch the new style of Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life with a new place, new time, new day but the same iconic walk. We were warmly embraced by Old Strathcona as over 300 Heroes for Zero took over McIntyre Park.

With Yukon Brewing joining us for our first ever post-walk beer gardens and some great dance hits played by Audrey and the Crashers, it was a spectacular entry into a new era for the AIDS Walk!

This year our walkers were energetically led by our Heroes from The Africa Centre as our Grand Marshalls.

Brook Biggin spoke about his experience as a young man living with HIV and had the crowd silenced as he bravely expressed the importance of “increasing dialogue” in ending HIV.

Retaining our success with our outstanding corporate sponsors and adding some new community partners, we had a wonderfully positive move forward raising a total of \$110,575.

This event would not have been such a success without the vision and commitment of our planning committee members and all the volunteers on the day. They really pulled out all the stops this year!



World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day (December 1) continues to be a day for reflection as well as a day to remind the public that while we are not yet at Zero, it is possible to get there!

We joined with Starbucks again in a wonderful partnership to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS right here in Edmonton. Celebrities from Global, CTV, CBC, and Up99.3 (and some incredible community influencers) donated their time and voices to help break down stigma. Customers donated to the cause or just picked up a Red Ribbon to show their support. We love this event!

National Philanthropy Day

National Philanthropy Day is a day to recognize and pay tribute to the great contributions made to our organizations and communities. This year HIV Edmonton was proud to nominate JTMF West for their true philanthropic spirit towards both HIV Edmonton and the global cause of HIV and AIDS.

JTMF West is run entirely by volunteers. They not only put on the best event, Artists for Life, but work year round to bring awareness and funds to HIV Edmonton. They are a real partner in getting to Zero.



Volunteers

Our vision is ambitious and our volunteers come armed with a variety of skills and inspiring energy to help move us toward that goal.

- Zero new HIV-infections means we need volunteers to help us distribute condoms, educate on how HIV is transmitted, and start sex-positive conversations that counter the misinformation that persists around this virus.
- Zero stigma and discrimination means we need unabashed champions for our cause, willing to take to Edmonton streets as the Heroes for Zero, quelling myths and spreading knowledge everywhere they go.
- Zero AIDS-related deaths means we need volunteers to help us encourage regular testing and speak about the importance of increased access to treatment.

This year we are honouring the late Dianne Rogers with the Trudie McLaren Volunteer Award of Excellence. Dianne passed away in October 2014 and we will always remember the laughs and hugs she shared while volunteering in the Ross Armstrong Centre—something she did weekly for over four years. HIV Edmonton misses Dianne, and we are forever grateful for the time we did get to share with her.

We are also delighted to recognize James Mabey as the recipient for this year's Bob Mills Leadership Award. James served on the Board of Directors at HIV Edmonton and helped lead the agency through several tough transitions during his tenure. We are so grateful for the time and hard work he dedicated to our agency.

We would like to thank Marni Panas, a long-time supporter of our agency and HIV Edmonton's nominee at the 2015 Women of Distinction Awards. As a transgender woman, Marni has committed much of her life to ensuring equal rights for all individuals, no matter where they fall on the sexuality or gender spectrum. She celebrates diversity in all its forms, and believes that a beautiful society is one where everyone is free and comfortable to be their true self. We are so grateful for Marni's support!

It's not easy to be a Hero for Zero, and we are very thankful for the inspiring courage of all our volunteers!



76
volunteers participated
in 2014-2015

2,902
hours were contributed
by volunteers supporting
our programs, events and
operations

13
student placements
contributed 1,682 hours

Partners in Fund Development

Thank you does not seem sufficient when recognizing the contributions of our many funders, volunteers and donors. We are so thankful for all of you who continue to help us move towards our vision of Zero.

Funders and Grants

Alberta Community Council on HIV
Alberta Health and Wellness
Public Health Agency of Canada
City of Edmonton
ECALA
ATB Financial
TD Bank

MAC AIDS Fund
Government of Alberta
Realtors Community Foundation
The Muttart Foundation
Union 52 Benevolent Society
Edmonton Community Foundation

2014-2015 Major Sponsors



Third Party Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors

Cookies By George
Edmonton Pride Festival
Evolution Wonderlounge
Fairmont Hotel MacDonald
Famoso Pizzeria
Fringe Festival
HiQ Soft
Jatec
Magic Lantern Theatres
Peterson Walker LLP
Save-On Foods (Old Strathcona)
Special Event Rentals
United Communities
VIA Rail
Vue Weekly
WestJet

1,172
donors

\$160,179
raised through donations,
fundraising activities
and grants

\$112,917
raised through
Scotiabank AIDS Walk
For Life

This money supported:
Ross Armstrong Program
Emergency assistance
for clients
The Red Ribbon Building
AIDS Awareness Week
Volunteer recognition

Financials

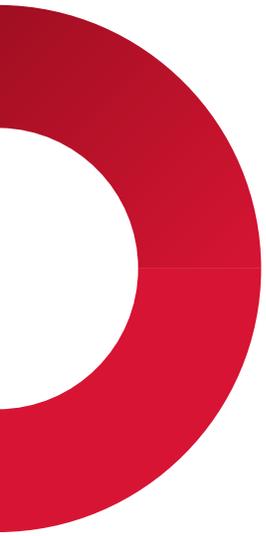
A full set of the Audited Financial Statements is available upon request.

HIV Network of Edmonton Society Financial Position March 31, 2015

		<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets:	Current	\$350,178	\$324,689
	Property & Equipment	<u>70,563</u>	<u>135,517</u>
		<u>\$420,741</u>	<u>\$460,206</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets:	Current	\$144,014	\$112,426
	Deferred Contribution related to Property & Equipment	<u>34,227</u>	<u>66,628</u>
		178,241	179,054
	Net Assets	<u>242,500</u>	<u>281,152</u>
		<u>\$420,741</u>	<u>\$460,206</u>

HIV Network of Edmonton Society Operations Year Ended March 31, 2015

		<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue		<u>\$1,002,779</u>	<u>\$1,033,202</u>
Expenses	Operations	939,968	1,010,426
	Amortization	67,905	70,036
	Red Ribbon Building Campaign	<u>33,558</u>	<u>—</u>
		<u>1,041,431</u>	<u>1,080,462</u>
Revenue under Expenses		<u>\$ (38,652)</u>	<u>\$ (47,260)</u>



Zero



Zero new HIV infections
Zero stigma and discrimination
Zero AIDS-related deaths



HIV
EDMONTON

HIV Network of Edmonton Society
www.hivedmonton.com