



Supporting community based responses to HIV



Alberta Community Council on HIV

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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VISION

Our collective action will improve systems pertaining to HIV and related issues and enhance the lives of Albertans.

MISSION

ACCH provides provincial leadership through its collective voice to bring about social change with respect to the human and social impacts of HIV and related issues.

Alberta Community Council on HIV

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

This past year Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) has been focussing on the transition from being an operational board to a policy board. We started by hiring an Executive Director. It is with pleasure that we hired Jessica Daniels in this position. Jessica has been able to dance with the Board over the past few years in the Executive Administrator position. As we implement a Policy Board structure the Executive Director position will be in a leadership role, ensuring smooth operations and helping the board and membership meet its provincial objectives. We are thrilled to have Jessica with us.

The Board has focused on this transition and as a result we are setting the foundations by updating our policies and operational systems. This will serve us well in the coming years as the organization will have the ability to look outwards and develop a strong provincial voice. It will also allow ACCH to be in a position to discuss and adopt upcoming trends rather than being focused on the day to day operations. The Board has recently adopted new board policies which reflect this change in structure.

Board work continues to implement the changes reflected in the Bylaws that were approved at the last

Annual General Meeting. These two key objectives included the expansion of membership and the development of a Caucus system.

The Board also continues to work strongly with our provincial partners and funders. Last year our funding was approved for the next three years (2014- 2017) and ACCH continues to contract with Alberta Health and Wellness and the Public Health Agency of Canada in stewarding the Alberta Community HIV Fund.

It is important to note that none of the Councils work could be accomplished without the passion and dedication of its members. The members that agree to be on the board spend time and energy working

towards the development of a strong provincial voice. I cannot express words adequately to reflect the appreciation and importance in addressing HIV and AIDS at the provincial level. It is to you who work tirelessly, making a difference in your community and believing in the possibilities, that we say thank you.

Sue Cress and Shelley Williams

SPECIAL THANKS

ACCH Member Agencies and their representatives

Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium

Alberta Health

Public Health Agency of Canada

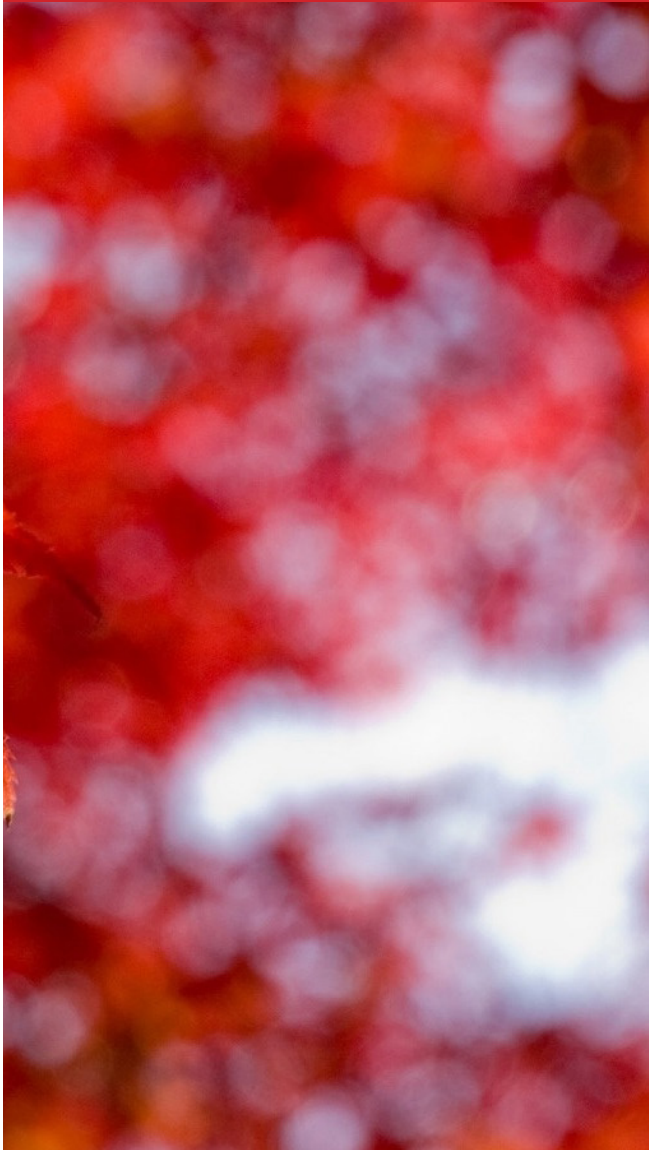
Our Partners

Our Staff

Our Contractors

This report is dedicated to the people who work every day to prevent the spread of HIV and to support the people, families, and communities living with it.

2013-2014 ACCH KEY POINTS



ACCH hosted 3 successful skills building events focusing on gay men's health and community based research, social media and access to testing, and the Alberta HIV Education conference in partnership with HIV Edmonton and CATIE.

ACCH was given an increase in funding by Alberta Health and has been implementing aspects of the provincial STI BBP Strategy and Action Plan throughout this year. This included the continuation of the Bulk Harm Reduction Supplies Purchasing and Distribution program, the Aboriginal Strategy, fund development strategy, and scholarships for people with current or former drug use, and people living with HIV to attend ACCH events and meetings.

ACCH developed a community technology collaborative directed at Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) to provide health information and HIV/AIDS prevention which launched in March 2014

ACCH collaborated with its membership to produce the Alberta Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy to develop a framework for reaching and working with Aboriginal communities

ACCH continues to grow its membership and is seeking new ways to engage community, especially those disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS through the development of caucuses and more open membership criteria.

ACCH began the transition to policy governance with significant changes to its bylaws and organizational structure through a collaborative process with its membership

2013-2014 STAFF

Tim Kim
Bookkeeper

Kim Mackenzie
ACHF Steward

Jessica Daniels
Executive Administrator

Meseret Haileyesus
Communication and Resource
Coordinator



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

ACCH has momentum... momentum to support positive change in an ever changing landscape. We are a strong collaborative made up of dynamic organizations and individuals and I am very honoured to have been a part of ACCH for the last 3 years. This year we successfully made the transition to a policy governance board, made great strides in increasing engagement with members and affected communities, and have laid a solid foundation for the work ahead.

Our staffing team is committed and passionate and we are dedicated to building and growing the ACCH collaborative. Our vision for the next 3 years includes: strengthening and diversifying the funding to support our work; building relationships with policy makers, legislators and allied professionals to ensure that HIV remains a priority on the public agenda; and increasing the profile and membership utility of ACCH to grow and strengthen our collective voice.

ACCH has undertaken a tremendous amount of work to ensure it has the structure, capacity, and community support necessary to be an effective voice. The opportunity to end the epidemic lies before us; we could be the generation to end AIDS.

Jessica Daniels
ACCH Executive Administrator

ACCH TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

Shelley Williams, HIV Edmonton
Sue Cress, HIV Community Link

Past Chair

Floyd Visser, SHARP Foundation

Secretary/Treasurer

Charleen Davidson, Lethbridge HIV
Connection

Member at Large

Marliss Taylor, Streetworks

COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

Community Action

Charleen Davidson, Lethbridge HIV
Connection

HIV Positive

Mark Randall

Research & Evaluation

Raye St. Denys, Shining Mountain
Living Community Services

Harm Reduction

Jennifer Vanderschaeghe, Central
Alberta AIDS Network

Governance

Shelley Williams, HIV Edmonton

Aboriginal Strategy

Raye St, Denys, Shining Mountain
Living Community Services,
succeeded by Susan Cress, HIV
Community Link

CURRENT ACCH STAFF

Executive Director

Jessica Daniels

Program Assistant

Tammy Pfeiffer

Fund Steward

Kim Mackenzie

Communication and Resource Coordinator

Meseret Haileyesus

*all committees were dissolved at the 2013 AGM with the exception of the Governance and Aboriginal Strategy Committees. The Harm Reduction Committee is in transition to Caucus status.

ACCH MEMBERS

AAWEAR Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly
Calgary Alpha House Society
Calgary Sexual Health
Canadian Red Cross
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society
Centre for Race and Culture
HIV Community Link
HIV Network of Edmonton Society
HIV North Society
HIV Peer Support
HIV West Yellowhead Society
Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services
Kairos House
Lethbridge HIV Connection Society
Living Positive
Metis Nation of Alberta Association
Pride Centre of Edmonton
Red Cross Tipi of Courage
Safeworks
The SHARP (Society Housing AIDS Restricted Persons) Foundation
Shining Mountains Living Community Services
Sik Ooh Kotoki Friendship Society
Streetworks

ACCH PARTNERS

Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium
Alberta Health
Alberta Housing Coalition
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)
Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
Calgary STD Clinic
CATIE
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)
Canadian UNGASS Network
Centre for REACH
Edmonton STD Clinic
Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)
Kimamow Atoskanow Foundation
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Northern Alberta HIV Clinic
Ontario AIDS Network
Pacific AIDS Network
Public Health Agency of Canada
Southern Alberta HIV Clinic
University Without Walls

INFORMATION & TRAINING

The purpose of the information and training program is to build upon and increase the skills, knowledge, and awareness of the ACCH membership in order to provide community-based HIV programming in an effective and responsive manner.

ACCH WEBSITE

The ACCH website averages over 20,000 hits per month. Content is updated regularly by ACCH staff and includes our Facebook and Twitter Feeds. ACCH has a members only section where meeting minutes, notices, and article archives are available for its members.

WEEKLY UPDATES

ACCH continued to send updates to its members. The variety of information of interest to ACCH members included: information about ACCH and other learning opportunities; information about provincial, national and international trends in HIV/AIDS and related topics; information about research being conducted; and announcements by government and other stakeholders on HIV and related issues.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The ACCH Monthly Newsletter aims to keep you informed on HIV/AIDS related articles, include updates from the workshops, technical guidelines, and some recent publications and news in Alberta and beyond.

SKILLS BUILDING

ACCH was proud to present the Alberta HIV Education Conference in partnership with HIV Edmonton and CATIE. Key topics included:

- Living with HIV
- Co-infection Hep C and HIV and Hep C Basics
- HIV and Mental Health
- New Technologies in Testing and Prevention
- HIV Treatment, Side Effects, Adherence and Resistance
- Viral Replication Cycle
- Aboriginal Communities: Issues and Solutions
- African, Caribbean and Black Communities: Issues and Solutions
- Stigma and Discrimination

INFORMATION & TRAINING Cont'd

We also presented skills building sessions at our May 2013 and March 2014 meetings. The May meeting focused on community based research related to Gay men's health, while our February sessions focused on social media and access to testing.

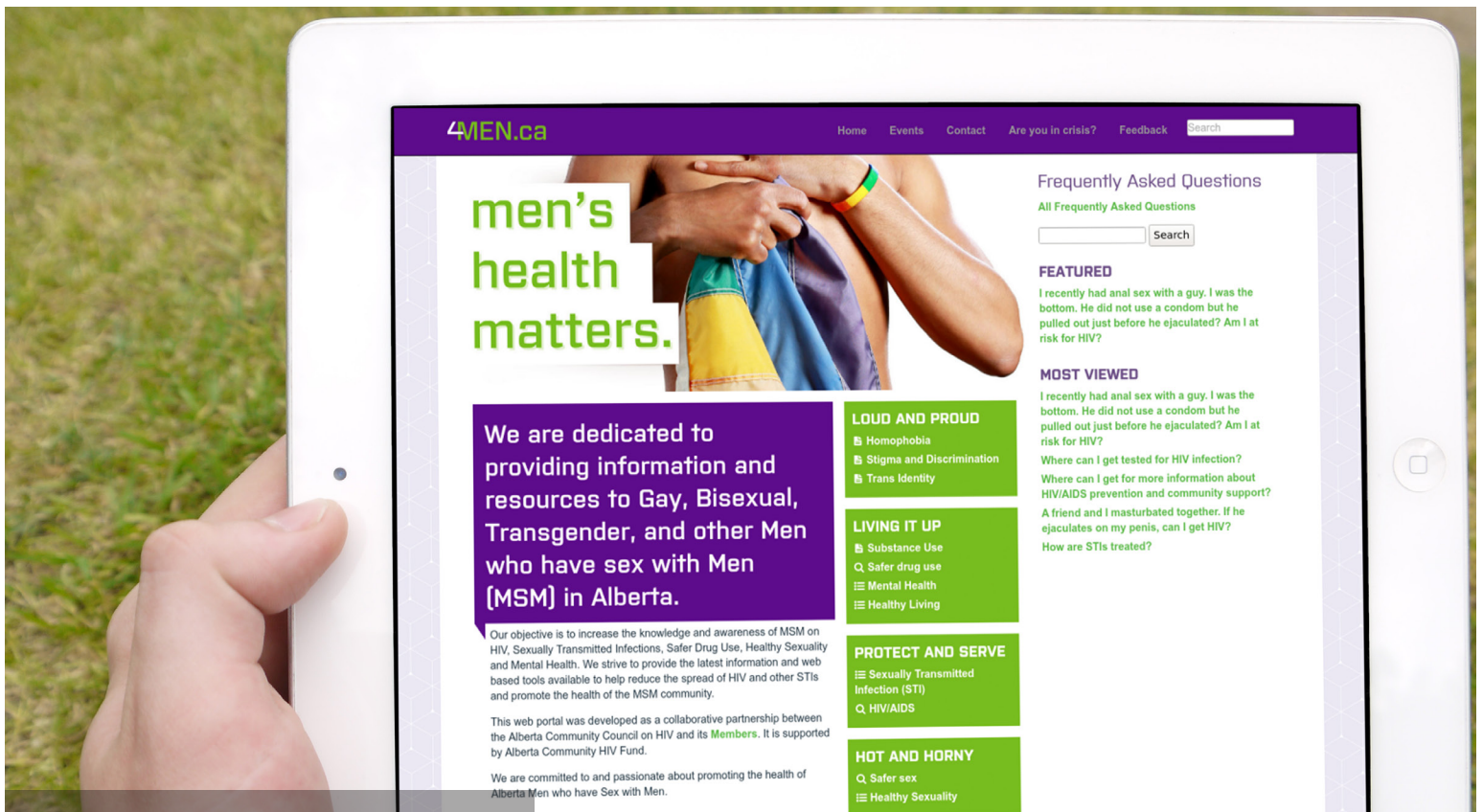
POSITIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

ACCH hosted 2 workshops in partnership with the Ontario AIDS Network to enhance leadership skills of people living with HIV. The training held in Edmonton in late June early July, 2013 and was organized with the assistance of HIV Edmonton. 8 people completed the training from across northern Alberta. In Calgary, Lethbridge HIV Connection was the local partner for the training in Calgary in March 2014 that also saw 8 people living with HIV complete the training. ACCH is very pleased to have been able to bring this training to Alberta.

4MEN.ca

MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) WEB PORTAL

This project is designed to provide information, resources and support to MSM, Bisexual and Transgender men in Alberta at risk for HIV/AIDS. Essentially, this project is a platform for MSM, Bisexual and Transgender men to access the latest information and support/counselling services to reduce the spread of HIV and other infections. The site features information on testing, treatment, prevention, mental health, safer drug use, social inclusion, and other resources to support the health of MSM.



ACCH MEETINGS

ACCH membership meetings are held tri-annually (three times per year). These meetings facilitate opportunities for sharing, networking, planning, and collaborating, as well as providing a platform for educational skill building and awareness sessions.



May 2013 – Calgary

Knowledge to Action (K2A) Alberta Research roundup, in partnership with University Without Walls and the Centre for REACH.

Topics included:

- Updates on Men's Health Initiative in Calgary
- A brief introduction to gay men's health issues
- Health Initiative for Men in Vancouver
- Innovative interventions for HIV prevention in the MSM community



November 2013 – Edmonton

Committee meetings, AGM, and skills building sessions presented.

Highlights include:

- Aboriginal Communities: Issues and Solutions
- African, Caribbean and Black Communities: Issues and Solutions
- Harm Reduction, Prisons, Safe Consumption Sites, Oh My!
- Aging with HIV
- New Technologies in Testing and Prevention



March 2014 – Edmonton

General business meeting of the ACCH membership, as well as member updates.

Highlights include:

- Positive Community Norms & Social Norms Marketing skills building
- Reflections on a Clinical Mentorship Program for Nurses in HIV Care: Exploring the Relevance to AIDS Service Organizations.
- Harm Reduction Best Practices Round Table
- Conversation Café on Transient Workers and HIV
- HIV and Hep C Education Focus Group
- Evaluation Pitfalls and Risk Management

FUND DEVELOPMENT

ACCH contracted Ketchum Canada to provide a fund development strategy which included interviews with membership and key stakeholders, initial steps and suggestions to improve our fund development work, and a final report available on our website. We thank Ketchum Canada for their work and support of our aim to increase resources for ACCH while respecting our members resource needs as well.

ACCH will develop a 3 year fund development plan to increase resources in the following key areas:

- Travel and skills building
- Communication
- Administration including staffing, office space, profile

The initial steps to be undertaken include:

- Application as a registered charity
- Increasing the profile and brand recognition of ACCH

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES YEARS 1 - 3

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>Plan “kick off”: Convene a meeting of the Fundraising Advisory Committee to confirm the plan</p> <p>Charitable registration: Prepare documentation and submit application</p> <p>Recruit Fundraising Resource</p> <p>Create the Case for Support: Identify funding priorities, develop the Case</p> <p>Develop and activate a Marketing and Communications Plan</p> <p>Develop protocols: Create gift acceptance, recognition policies</p> <p>Build the prospect “pipeline”: Create a list of prospective donors for long term cultivation</p>	<p>Start with who you know: Confirm the list of top prospects to approach</p> <p>Develop plans to build relationships: Determine the best ACCH representative(s) for each prospect - determine cultivation strategies, determine communications required</p> <p>Create solicitation strategies: Determine what steps are needed to approach top prospects</p> <p>Conduct solicitations when prospects are ready</p>	<p>Build the prospect pipeline: Continue to identify and introduce new prospects to ACCH</p> <p>Celebrate and report on success: Report on and steward philanthropic relationships build in Year 2</p>

ALBERTA ABORIGINAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

Key recommendations included:

Development and Implementation of Indigenous Holistic Services – Emotional, Mental, Physical and Spiritual.

Capacity Building within the Aboriginal communities to be able to provide culturally appropriate community-based HIV Education and Training.

Increase public awareness of HIV programs and services and complete an assessment of ASO's to identify gaps in services and to evaluate programs and services delivered from an Indigenous perspective.

Develop better early screening programs and initiatives for testing, specifically for HIV and HCV in Indigenous communities

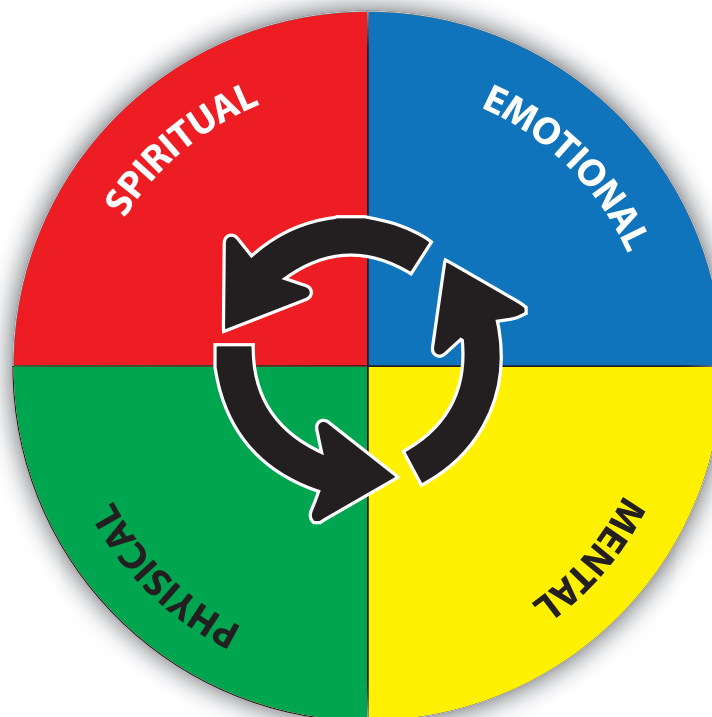
ASO's require a basic level of cultural safety and knowledge.

ACCH worked with consultants to develop an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy for reaching and working with Aboriginal populations. The methodology included community consultations in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Piikani First Nation, and Grande Prairie as well as an online survey. The final report is available on our website.

VISION FOR ALBERTA - BENEFITS - BALANCE

- Interconnected Community
- Prayer Ceremony and Connectedness to Spirit
- Success in the Lives of the Aboriginal People

- Lower rates of HIV
- Better services for Aboriginal People and HIV
- Capacity Building - more educated community on HIV
- Community Engagement



- Break down Barriers
- Feel Safe
- Feel Accepted
- Better working relationship

- Educated Community - Elders, Families and Services Providers
- More Awareness of HIV
- Empowerment of the People

TRANSITION TO POLICY GOVERNANCE

At special meeting of the membership in November 2013 we agreed to significant bylaw and structure change and the transition from an operational board to a policy governance board. New bylaws were passed at the AGM in November 2013 and a new program model and structure were established. At the same time, we instituted new vision and missions statements that incorporate issues related to HIV and our systems level approach.

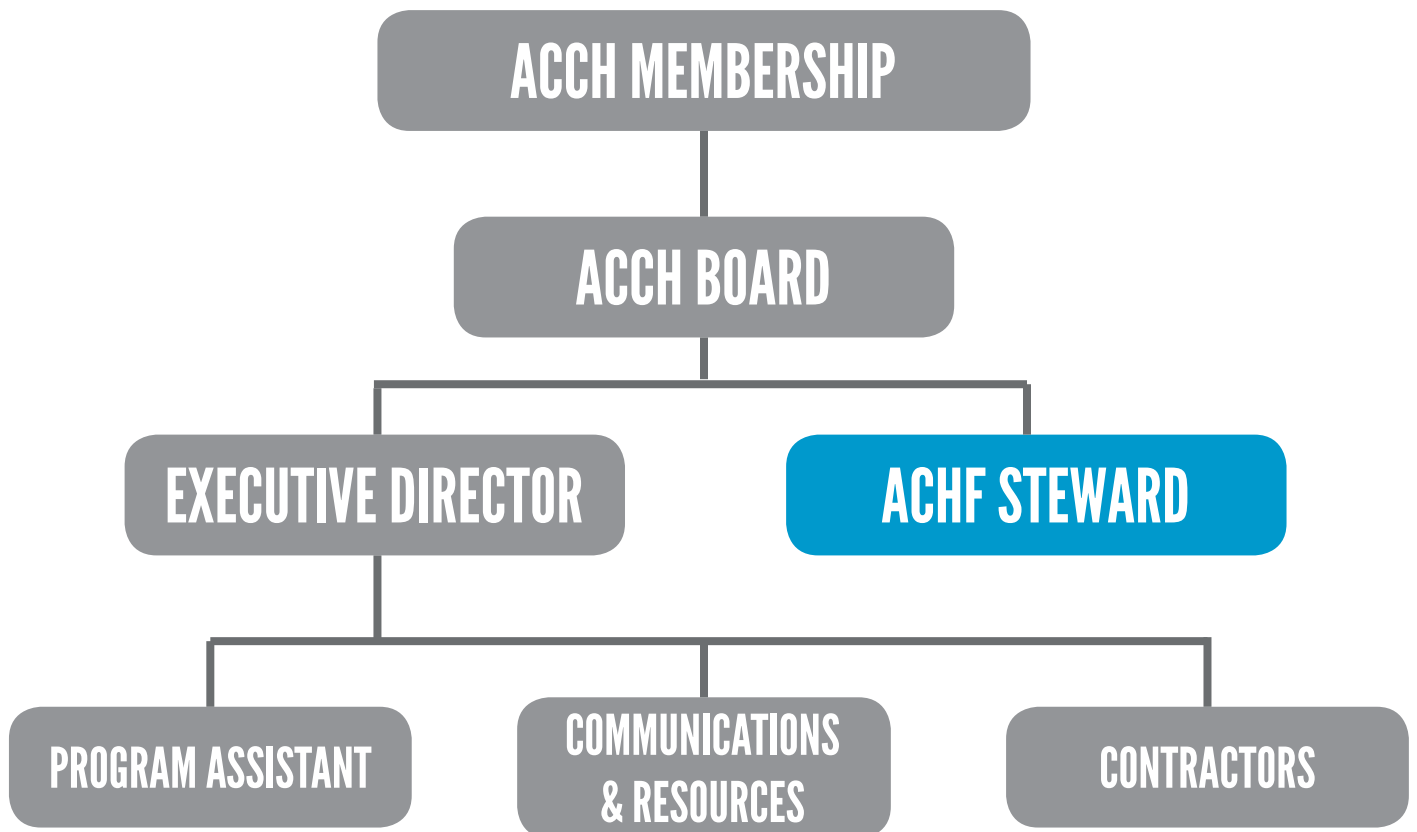
The governance committee met on a regular basis to develop and work on the next steps necessary to complete the transition. These steps included:

- Develop and Implement recruitment strategy for new members
- Develop job description for Executive Director
- Develop overall plan for funding new model
- Write job descriptions for Board positions and members
- Develop succession planning process for Board
- Establish Board priorities for first year
- Present Board Policies to new Board

NEW PROGRAM MODEL



NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

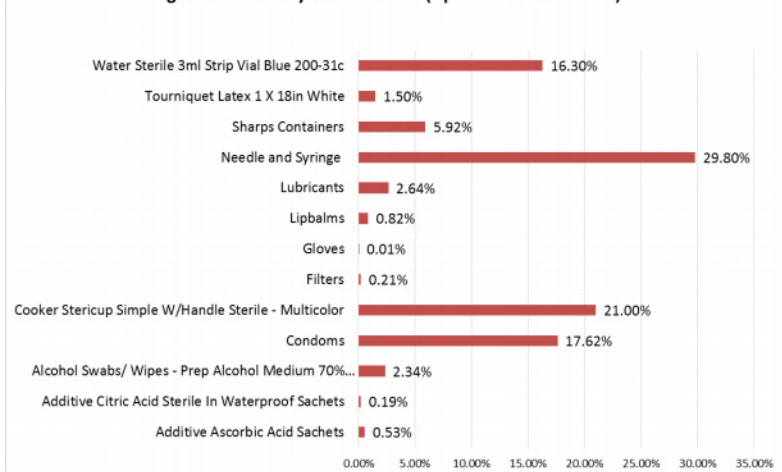


ALBERTA BULK HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

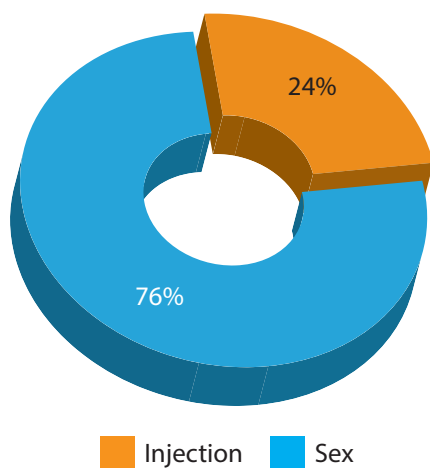
Total quantities distributed (April 2013 - March 2014)

ITEMS	QUANTITIES(EACH/BOX)
Needles and syringe	1,988,100
Sharps containers	6,563
Sterile water	733,000
Cookers	360,000
Alcohol Swabs	7,251,000
Filters	422,850
Lip balms	2,750
Condoms	735,396
Lubricants	105,168
Tourniquets	55,500
Gloves	7 (boxes)
Citric acid sachets	10,000
Ascorbic acid sachets	17,000

Budget utilization by % of total cost(April 2013-March 2014)



Total Spending
April 2013 - March 2014



Starting in April 2012, ACCH began a Harm Reduction supplies purchasing and distribution program. The purpose of the program was to ensure all areas of the province had access to the Harm Reduction supplies needed to prevent the spread of HIV and other BBPs for people who use injection drugs. The program has resulted in an increase access to supplies in rural communities and a wider variety of supplies in urban centres. This program is provided free of charge to Harm Reduction programs in Alberta. We supply injection supplies to approved Harm Reduction programs, and safer sex supplies to all of our member groups.

Left is the detailed information on the type of supplies, quantities, and percentage of budget from April 2013-March 2014.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Research and Evaluation committee was disbanded at the special meeting of the membership held in November 2013 as part of the restructure and governance shift. Before that time, their work focused on the research roundup on Gay men's health held in Calgary in May 2013. Currently ACCH is working toward the development of a research caucus to enhance partnerships with researchers and research institutions for ACCH and its member groups.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

The Community Action Committee was responsible for drafting an important background document this year: "Access to Testing and Treatment in Alberta" which highlighted an action plan to improve access to testing as a precursor to any movement toward treatment as prevention in public policy. This committee was disbanded at the special meeting of the membership held in November 2013 as part of the restructure and governance shift.

HARM REDUCTION COMMITTEE

The Harm Reduction Committee met 4 times over the 2013-2014 fiscal year and discussed and strategized on several issues of importance to Harm Reduction programs and the people who use them. The need for community consultations and needs assessment and the incorporation of best practices in programs were highlighted as important considerations in expanding to rural and other underserved communities. Information sharing on the latest trends and needs of people who inject drugs as well as the need for action on overdose were key features of the work. Provincial programmers also assisted in the coordination of the 2013 Alberta Harm Reduction conference in May 2013 hosted by HIV Community Link in Calgary. Planning also began for 2015 Alberta Harm Reduction Conference. As the year came to a close and programs were informed of the level of funding available for Harm Reduction supplies, it became apparent that while the need for supplies was rising dramatically, funds to pay for them were diminishing – this is expected to become a crisis in the coming months and the committee is advocating for increased funding. The Harm Reduction committee is in the process of transitioning to a caucus under the new structure of ACCH.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

It has been a pleasure to Chair the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors. The committee this year was tasked to ensure we developed an Executive Director Position Description and identified priorities for the transition period as the Board implements a policy governance structure. The Committee also recommended to the Board of Directors a Governance Policy Manual which clearly outlines the boundaries for both Board and the Executive Director. These policies were approved and are available to anyone interested. The final piece of work for this committee was the development of a Board Orientation Manual which outlines the work of the board, its policies and priorities. I must thank all the committee members over the past two years; Floyd Visser, Jennifer Vanderschaeghe, Susan Cress, Brenda Yamkowy, the Board of Directors and our Executive Director Jessica Daniels. It is also important to thank Gabe Shelley who is the consultant that has assisted myself and the committee over the last two years. Thank you to all.

Respectfully Submitted

Shelley Williams

ABORIGINAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE

ACCH undertook the development of an Aboriginal HIV Strategy for reaching and working with Aboriginal communities in Alberta with a membership working group that over saw the work of the consultants hired to research and write the Strategy. The committee comprised every area of the province and linked Aboriginal people living with HIV, Elders, service providers, and government to the work of the project. The final report is available on our website.

HIV+ COMMITTEE



The HIV Committee has been very quiet over this past year as the ACCH membership organizations have undertaken a review and restructuring of the ACCH including areas of governance, committee structures, reporting and activities. The HIV committee remains connected although no formal meetings have occurred while ACCH continues towards their final structure including a move from committees to caucuses moving forward.

The committee did continue with follow up items from the 2013 Alberta positive Voices Conference held in Nordegg Alberta regarding the Positive Leadership Development Institute's Training program for People Living with HIV. These actions included follow up with participants who had registered at the APVC or who showed an interest when it was promoted again into communities that ACCH members are currently in.

The leadership training was provided through the support of the ACCH with two separate trainings held; one in Edmonton 2013 and the other in Calgary in 2014. Both were very successful and plans are underway to bring the training back for part two and bring the participants from both centres together in one location; perhaps as part of the next APVC or as a separate training.

The next APVC planning has been on hold without any planning or action until word of the changes to ACCH membership, structure and governance were in place. This decision has left planning at a very late stage and a need for some changes on process needing to be considered. We do have the support from our past conference coordinator who is very keen to do this again with us and I would heavily encourage organisers to consider this option moving forward.

One strong recommendation coming out of the past two years of committee work and the 2013 APVC was to consider changing the name of the committee from HIV Committee to APV (Alberta Positive Voices) Committee/Caucus to reduce stigma related to term HIV/AIDS.

My role as chair was to have been handed over to a new chair this past year however due to personal opportunities that arose I remain in the chair position at this time and continue to seek a new person to undertake this role. This does however require some transitional time and training for the incoming chair and leaves me in a position having to provide that support without a clear understanding of how best to do that currently. I am also challenged in my role at ACCH by not knowing when my role is work related and covered by ACCH and my agency and when it becomes a volunteer and personal time related activity. This ongoing intersecting issue of role can be frustrating and will be an important factor on how my participation within this committee/caucus continues or not as planning for the next APVC moves forward with the March 2015 deadline months away.

As always I want to thank the member organisations and their staff, the staff at ACCH and people living with HIV and AIDS who continue to participate and support the efforts of the HIV Committee in all that it has done and continues to do in our Province.

Sincerely

Mark Randall
HIV Committee Chair ACCH



ALBERTA COMMUNITY

HIV FUND STEWARDSHIP

ACCH administers the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF). The overall role of the ACHF Steward is to maintain the integrity of the fund and to support funded organizations in ensuring they are delivering competent HIV programming and services. The Steward must ensure that funding is distributed in accordance with the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium's allocation decisions, and that spending by funded groups is in keeping with approved budgets. The Steward provides sound support to groups in preparation of their proposals to ACHF and monitors financial and narrative reporting. The Steward also acts as liaison between funded groups, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Alberta Health (AH) and ACCH.

For fiscal year 2013-2014, 12 organizations received Operational Funds.

ACHF 2013-2014 Operational Funding

Alberta Community Council on HIV	\$1,012,700
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society	\$311,788
HIV Community Link	\$860,686
HIV Network of Edmonton	\$700,000
HIV North Society	\$374,661
HIV West Yellowhead	\$136,922
Kairos House	\$83,818
Lethbridge HIV Connection	\$217,797
Safeworks	\$268,069
SHARP Foundation	\$145,000
Shining Mountains Living Community	\$67,125
Streetworks	\$439,011
TOTAL	\$4,617,577

Alberta Health Contribution: \$3,715,000

Public Health Agency of Canada Contribution: \$902,577



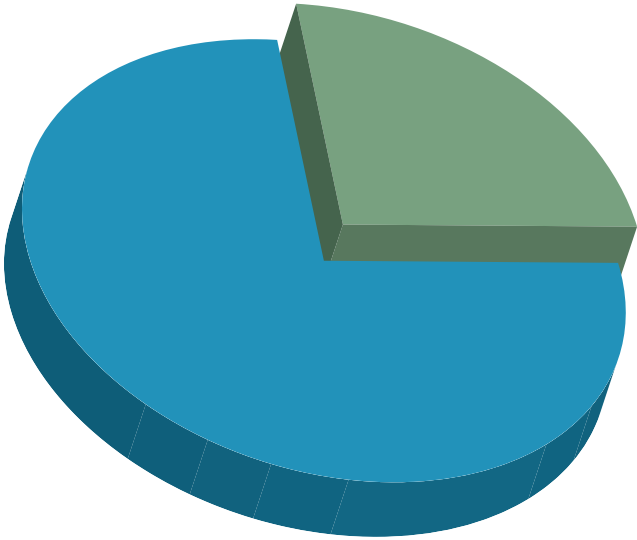


For fiscal year 2013-2014, 3 organizations received Project Funds from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

ACHF 2013-2014 Project Funding

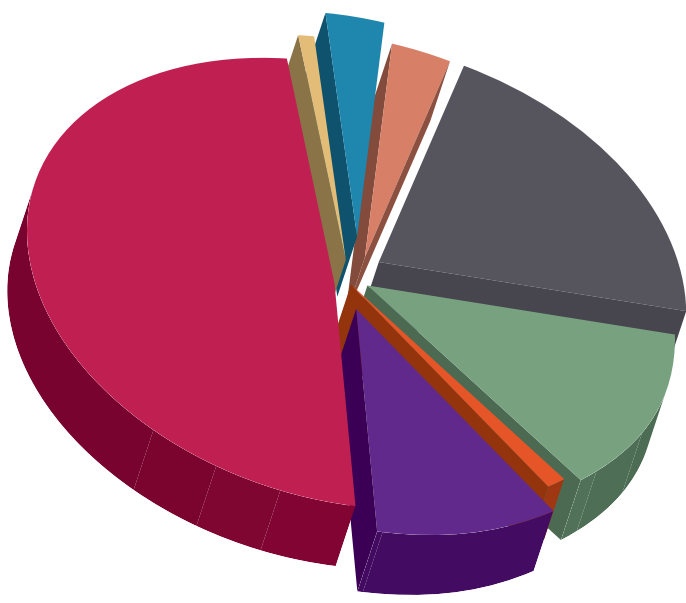
Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly (AAWEAR)	\$81,574
HIV North Society	\$120,783
Streetworks	\$89,319
TOTAL	\$291,676

REVENUE



- Alberta Health Services
- Public Health Agency of Canada

EXPENSE



- Harm Reductions Supplies
- Travel
- Rent & Utilities
- Professional Contracts
- Personnel
- Other
- Equipment & Materials
- Evaluation





**ALBERTA COMMUNITY
COUNCIL ON HIV**

Alberta Community Council on HIV

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