

**PARN—Your Community
AIDS Resource Network**
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December 2016

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Hours of Operation

Monday: 9:30 am—5.00 pm
Tuesday: 9:30 am—5.00 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am—1.00 pm
3.00 pm—5.00pm
Thursday: 9:30 am—6:00 pm
Friday: 9:30—5.00 pm



What's Going On December 2016

PARN Clients, Peers and Volunteers are invited to **PARN's Annual Holiday Social** Friday, December 16

As the holidays approach PARN would like to invite you to our Annual Holiday Social being held on Friday December 16th at All Saints Anglican Church, 235 Rubidge Street in Peterborough. This event will run from 2pm until 6pm with a holiday meal being served at 4:30. We will have an opportunity to get together, play some games and eat some good food.

You are welcome to bring one guest to this event. This is an adult's only event. The space will be mobility accessible. This is a free event.

If you are interested in attending The Annual Holiday Social please RSVP to Brittany Cameron, Peer Engagement Worker no later than 3:00 pm Friday December 9th, 2016. You can email brittany@parn.ca or call 705-749-9110.



Office Hours @ PARN

Monday:

9:30 am–5 pm

Tuesday:

9:30 am–5 pm

Wednesday:

9:30 am– 1 pm, 3 pm–5pm

Thursday:

9:30 am–6 pm

Friday:

9:30 am–5 pm

Closed Saturdays and Sundays



Rainbow Youth Program Every Thursday - 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Suite 302-2, 159 King Street



EVERY THURSDAY

10 am - 11.30 am

Positive Living Room

This program is open to anyone attending The Positive Care Clinic on Thursday mornings. We open at 10am and run until 11:30 – join us Thursdays for a light breakfast, coffee and conversation while you wait!

PARN Office Closures in December

Please note that the PARN offices will close at 5pm on Friday, December 23 for the holidays and re-open at 9:30 am on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

HIV Support Services

@ PARN



December Office Hours

Please note that the PARN offices will close at 5pm on Friday, December 23 for the holidays and re-open at 9:30 am on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Join the Central East Opening Doors Planning Committee

The Central East Opening Doors (CEOD) Planning Committee is seeking two people living with HIV and/or AIDS in Peterborough and the Four Counties to represent PARN and the people living with HIV and/or AIDS in our communities.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in planning our annual educational conference! If you are able to attend year round meetings on the first Monday of every month from 10-2pm and assist with activities and sessions throughout the conference – we want to hear from you!

No prior committee experience is required. Lunch is provided. Travel, childcare and pet care subsidies are available.

The application process will involve answering a few questions about your interest in joining the committee and what you hope to get out of the experience. Please connect with Brittany or Adam by phone at 705-749-9110 or email at brittany@parn.ca or adam@parn.ca if you have any questions or if you would like to apply!

The CEOD planning committee values all contributions made by people living with HIV and/or AIDS.

Get Involved!

Join Project Inform!



Project Inform group works to amplify the voice, increase levels of involvement, empower individuals, and improve support services for people living with HIV in Peterborough and the Four Counties by: encouraging diversity of voices and participation, by creating meaningful programs and by influencing decision making at all levels of PARN activities. Members can participate by Skype, and/or phone. Please contact Brittany at 705-749-9110 or brittany@parn.ca for the application and/or more information.

HIV Survivors Group

Are you HIV positive? Why not come and join us for lunch on the 3rd Thursday of every month? We meet at the PARN office from noon until 2pm. A truly positive space run by positive peers. To find out more please contact Mark Phillips at markyfund@aol.com

PLDI Level 1 Training in March

Applications are now being accepted for the next Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) Level 1 training happening from March 3-5, 2017.

You can contact Adam or Brittany to get an application or for help with applying.

Visit www.oan.red/pldi/ for more information.

Canadian Justice Minister addresses criminalization of HIV non-disclosure in World AIDS Day statement

Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, released a statement on World AIDS Day promising to investigate how the criminal law in Canada deals with cases of HIV non-disclosure, and acknowledged that the current system is discouraging people from seeking HIV testing and treatment.

People living with HIV who do not disclose their status to a partner prior to sexual activity can be charged in Canada with aggravated sexual assault. As of December 2015, more than 170 people have faced these charges in Canada. The way the law is being used in Canada does not reflect the science of HIV as people are being charged even when there is no risk of HIV transmission.

World AIDS Day Statement from the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould

Canada



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

"World AIDS Day is a time to reflect on the impact that HIV/AIDS has had on Canadians, and to give thanks to the many dedicated people who work to prevent this disease and help people get the care and support they need.

It is also a time to recognize the tremendous medical advances that have been made since the first World AIDS Day was held in 1988. HIV treatment has slowed disease progression to the point that, for many, HIV infection can now be regarded as a chronic, manageable condition.

Still, the over-criminalization of HIV non-disclosure discourages many individuals from being tested and seeking treatment, and further stigmatizes those living with HIV or AIDS. Just as treatment has progressed, the criminal justice system must adapt to better reflect the current scientific evidence on the realities of this disease.

Over the coming months, I intend to work with my provincial and territorial counterparts, affected communities and medical professionals to examine the criminal justice system's response to non-disclosure of HIV status. This could include a review of existing charging and prosecution practices, as well as the possible development of prosecutorial guidelines. I also look forward to working with Member of Parliament Randy Boissonnault, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 issues, in his continued efforts to engage Canadians on important issues such as this one.

On World AIDS Day, we should all share in the commitment to reduce stigma and discrimination against those living with HIV or AIDS."

"Callous, Cold and Deliberately Duplicitous"

The representation of HIV Criminalization in Canadian Newspapers

A team of researchers from the University of Toronto, York University and Lakehead University released a study in November that explores how mainstream Canadian newspapers are covering the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, particularly viewed through the lenses of racism and anti-immigrant discourse.

The study found that racialized people living with HIV and newcomers to Canada living with HIV are drastically overrepresented in media coverage of HIV non-disclosure criminal charges. For example, while black men in Canada account for 20% of people who have been charged with HIV non-disclosure, 68% of Canadian newspaper articles about criminal charges relating to HIV non-disclosure since 1989 have focused on black men. Almost half (49%) of all coverage since 1989 has focused on just 4 cases, all involving men who immigrated to Canada from African and Caribbean countries. Of the 1680 articles about HIV non-disclosure since 1989, 820 were about these four men.

To view the full study, please visit: http://www.publicimpactpr.com/images/clients/can/callous_cold_report_final.pdf

Measuring Canada's Progress on the 90-90-90 HIV Targets

The following is an abridged version of a report released by Health Canada on World AIDS Day measuring Canada's progress on the United Nations 90-90-90 campaign. To view the full report, please visit:

[http://healthy Canad ians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/hiv-90-90-90-vih/index-eng.php](http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/hiv-90-90-90-vih/index-eng.php)



Increased uptake of HIV testing and early access to antiretroviral treatment are critical to stopping the spread of HIV and ending the AIDS epidemic. Timely initiation of treatment and sustained engagement in HIV care are important to achieving viral load suppression, which is a key marker for successful treatment. This has individual benefits by preventing HIV-related illness and optimizing health, and also reduces the potential for onward HIV transmission in the community.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization have established global targets that will generate momentum towards the elimination of AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Canada supports these targets, including the 90-90-90 targets that by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90% of those diagnosed receive antiretroviral treatment, and 90% of those on treatment achieve viral suppression. Reporting on these targets supports national responses to HIV/AIDS, promotes the use of data in new ways to guide HIV prevention and care efforts, and helps to identify gaps and opportunities for intervention.

At the end of 2014, an estimated 65,040 persons (plausible range: 53,980 to 76,100) were living with HIV in Canada. Of persons living with HIV, an estimated 52,220 (plausible range: 47,230 to 57,440) were diagnosed, 39,790 (plausible range: 36,470 to 43,140) were on antiretroviral therapy, and 35,350 (plausible range: 32,430 to 38,260) had suppressed viral load. An estimated 80% (73% to 87%) of persons living with HIV were diagnosed, 76% (70% to 82%) of persons diagnosed with HIV were on treatment, and 89% (84% to 93%) of persons on treatment had suppressed viral load (Figure 1). Canada's 90-90-90 estimates lie within the range reported by other developed countries such as Australia, the United States, and the countries of Western Europe.

From the pages of PositiveLite.com

Exclusive Interview with Health Minister Jane Philpott

POSITIVE LITE.COM

Canada's Online HIV Magazine

On World AIDS Day, PositiveLite.com featured an exclusive interview with Jane Philpott, Canada's Minister of Health. In this wide-ranging interview, Minister Philpott talks about Canada's progress on 90-90-90, federal funding for AIDS Service Organizations, the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, the impacts of stigma, treatment, prevention and more.

"Canada still has work to do in the matter of criminalization, and it's absolutely one of our priorities to address this." - Jane Philpott, Canadian Minister of Health

Read the full interview here:

<http://positivelite.com/component/zoo/item/an-exclusive-interview-with-health-minister-jane-philpott>

December 1, 2016 - World AIDS Day

Red Scarf Project



At 8:00 am on Thursday, December 1, a group of nine PARN volunteers placed 116 red scarves on lamp posts in downtown Peterborough.



All of the scarves were knitted or crocheted by members of our community. In total, 35 people contributed scarves to the Red Scarf Project. Scarves were crafted for us by PARN service users, Trent and Fleming students, residents at Jackson Creek Retirement Home, the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre's Purls of Wisdom knitting group, friends and family of PARN staff members, Peers and Volunteers, and many more.

The Red Scarf Project also gave us an opportunity to connect with members of the community who we had not met before, knitters from throughout Peterborough and the Four Counties who chose to give their time to PARN. We thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Red Scarf Project!



On World AIDS Day, people arrived in downtown Peterborough to find the scarves lining George Street like giant red ribbons. We received great feedback from our community and pictures and discussion of the scarves soon found their way onto social media, on CHEX News, and on the front page of the Peterborough Examiner.

In addition to HIV awareness, the scarves provided another purpose: people in need of a scarf were encouraged to take one from a lamp post to help bundle up against the cold this winter. We are thrilled to report that 112 of the 116 scarves were picked up by people before dusk on December 1.

A special thank you goes out to PARN volunteer Jess Grover who donated her time and expertise to teach knitting and crocheting to beginners in October and November. Jess also found time to crochet 15 scarves herself for the Red Scarf Project. Thank you Jess!

2016 Red Ribbon Campaign

42 Volunteers

8 Locations

2300 Red Ribbons

\$2850 raised



Thank you to all of the volunteers and business owners who made our 2016 Red Ribbon Campaign such a success in Peterborough and the Four Counties on November 25 and 26. Our 42 volunteers and 8 locations made it possible for us to distribute more than 2300 red ribbons to our communities and raise \$2850 to support PARN programs and services.

2016 Red Ribbon Locations

Eight grocery stores in Peterborough, Lakefield and Lindsay hosted our volunteers for the 2016 Red Ribbon Campaign. Please support these businesses when you can.

Dieter and Darcy's No Frills (Peterborough)

Ken's No Frills (Peterborough)

Freshco (Peterborough - both locations)

Foodland (Lakefield)

Metro (Peterborough)

La Mantia's (Lindsay)

Morello's Independent Grocer (Peterborough)

Special Thanks to our 2016 Red Ribbon supplier



I just wanted to send a note to let you know about my experience in participating in the fundraising for the 2016 Red Ribbon Campaign. My granddaughter and I were stationed at the Lansdowne Street West No Frills store and it was a very rewarding experience to be part of, especially based on some of the comments from store customers such as:

"Thank you very much for volunteering for such a worthwhile cause."

"It's so wonderful to see a young lady like you volunteering at your age." – directed to my granddaughter.

"I would love to support PARN - my son died 20 years ago from AIDS-related complications. PARN does such great work to create awareness and educate the community"

We received no negative comments at all during our approximately 2 hour stay at the store, and a large number of people were certainly aware of PARN and happy to donate. I was amazed at the number of people who would put down an armful of groceries and search for some change, or folks that passed us by, but then after putting their groceries in their vehicle, would come back with some change or bills.

Again, thanks very much for the opportunity to assist in your 2016 Red Ribbon Campaign. - Warren, 2016 Red Ribbon Campaign Volunteer

HIV Testing in Peterborough and the Four Counties

"The biggest risk is not knowing"

PARN kicked off AIDS Awareness Week on Thursday, November 24 with a testing campaign in partnership with the Positive Care Clinic. People concerned about their HIV status were encouraged to come to PARN for a test, with registered nurses and PARN peers living with HIV on hand to answer questions.

This year marks 20 years since the introduction of Anti-retroviral Therapies (ART). The new treatments introduced in 1996 changed HIV from a deadly virus to a chronic disease for people with access to treatment. Adherence to treatment results in what is called an "undetectable viral load", which means that the person no longer has enough of the virus in their body to transmit to someone else.

"Treatment is the key to ending HIV transmission," says Brittany Cameron, Peer Engagement Worker at PARN. "Studies have made clear that Canadians who are diagnosed with HIV are living longer than ever thanks to anti-retroviral therapies. Testing is quick, confidential and can give you either peace of mind or start you on a path to regaining control of your personal health."

HIV testing is available at the Positive Care Clinic every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. HIV Testing is also regularly available in Peterborough and the Four Counties through local health units. For information in Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland, please contact the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit at 1-866-888-HKPR (4577) or visit www.hkpr.on.ca. For testing in Peterborough, please contact Peterborough Public Health at 1-877-743-0101 or visit www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca. For testing sites in other communities call the AIDS and Sexual Health Info Line: 1-800-668-2437.

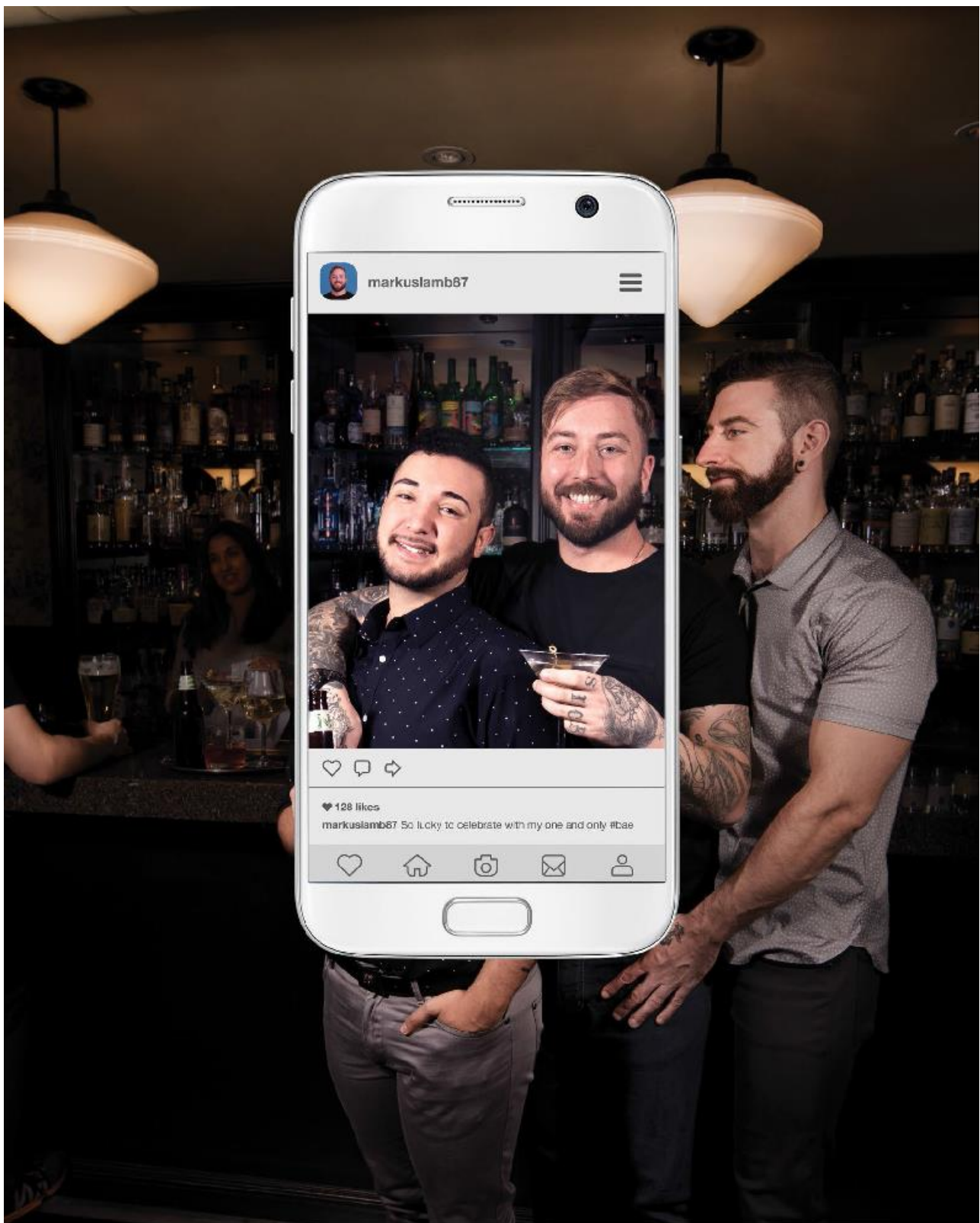


That Freddie Feeling

More than 40 people joined PARN staff and volunteers for a night of Queen Karaoke at the Spill on the evening of December 1. This year marked 25 years since Queen singer/songwriter Freddie Mercury passed away from AIDS-related complications on November 24, 1991.

That Freddie Feeling raised \$169 for the United Way's Annual Giving Campaign. Thank you to everyone who attended, and big thanks to The Spill and The Sweet Kitchen for their support of this event.





Whether you and your partner are exclusive or like to play with others, the reality is, sex happens. To stay on top of your status you need to get tested regularly, even if you're in a relationship – because 21% of Canadians who are HIV+ don't even know it.

For more information, visit cdnaids.ca/partnertesting

#sexhappens

WHAT IS YOUR STATUS



Where to go and what you need
to know to get tested for HIV.



Questions?

Call us or stop by:

PARN - Your Community
AIDS Resource Network
159 King Street
Peterborough ON
Phone: 705-749-9110
OR 1-800-361-2895

For a testing site near you call
the AIDS and Sexual Health
Info Line: 1-800-668-2437

PARN25
COMMUNITY-BASED HIV/STBI PROGRAMS
SUPPORT. PREVENTION. EDUCATION.



United Way
Peterborough & District
Change starts here.