

Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN) Update #18.35 – November 27, 2018

THN Updates are sent to member organisations, working group members, and other community partners who have indicated they wish to receive them – please email thn@torontohivaidnetwork.org to be removed.

>> See attachments for additional item details; please post or forward as appropriate. If you are unable to open any individual types of attachments, please let us at THN know <<

Toronto Fast Track Cities Initiative, Toronto to Zero

The new Toronto to Zero website <http://torontotozero.ca>

- **"Can't Pass It On" and talking about U=U.** Come out to hear Ian Green and Michael Brady of the UK's **Terrence Higgins Trust** talk about their anti-HIV stigma campaign "Can't Pass It On". Ian and Michael will be joined by a panel of community members to talk about the impact the Can't Pass It On message could have here in Ontario. A **Toronto to Zero/OHN/ACT** community forum to be held on **Tuesday, December 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Location: Casey House, 119 Isabella Street, Toronto. [This is a free event but please click here to register](#)

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is **Saturday, December 1st**. To have your organisation's event added to the list, kindly forward the information to thn@torontohivaidnetwork.org. This year's events and notices include:

- **CATIE** has released new World AIDS Day infographics [Please click here to view and download](#)
- **The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA)** 2018 **Red Ribbon Brigade** takes to the streets to raise awareness about World AIDS Day and be a Voice for HIV! on **Friday, November 30, from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** the Red Ribbon Brigade will be in 3 locations in downtown Toronto handing out red ribbons and World AIDS Day cards asking people to wear a ribbon and use social media to spread the word to: #endSTIGMA, #endISOLATION, #supportHEALTH, @TPWA, #Voices4HIV, #VoixIDA [Please click here for more information and to volunteer](#)
- Join **ACT** on World AIDS Day eve to acknowledge the people and organizations dedicated to preventing HIV, caring for and empowering people living with HIV, and the movement to end new HIV infections in Toronto at the Together Towards Zero Luncheon on **Friday November 30th 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Location: St. Regis Hotel, 325 Bay Street. Tickets: \$125.00 [Click here for tickets.](#)

- **The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA)** is hosting the **Community Carnation Memorial** on **Saturday, December 1 at 1:00 p.m.** We join together to honour and remember those we have lost to AIDS and support those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Location: The 519 Ballroom, 519 Church St., Toronto [Please click here for more information and to volunteer](#)
- **LetsStopAIDS**, a youth-HIV charity focusing on knowledge exchange and HIV Prevention is hosting an Open House on **Friday, November 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Location: 122 John St, 3rd Floor. *[please see the attached flyer for more information]*
- À l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de lutte contre le sida, le groupe de travail francophone en matière de VIH à Toronto (GTFVIH) vous invite à une soirée spéciale, *Armés pour une vie en santé*, le vendredi 30 novembre à 17h30 au Collège Boréal, 1 Yonge, 3e étage. Cette soirée sera une occasion de commémorer ceux qui nous ont quitté, mais aussi de tourner le regard vers un avenir d'espoir.
- **AIDS Committee of Durham Region (ACDR)** is hosting a viewing of the film Strong Medicine. Strong Medicine is an educational video developed by the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and CATIE. It will be held on World AIDS Day, **Saturday, December 1st** Show times: 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the ACDR Community Room *[please see the attached flyer for more information]*
- **Women Empowering Positive Women (WEPW)** is celebrating the Creativity of Women living with HIV, **Wear Red Scarf**. Order Scarfs for your team for World AIDS Day *[please see the attached flyer for more information]*

Community News and Information

- **Ontario AIDS Network** has released, in a visually attractive format, a **U=U Position Statement**, a comprehensive summary and analysis of everything you need to know about U=U. Also available is a U=U toolkit that contains printable, poster-quality pages with key messages for display or for sharing. [Both are available for viewing online or as downloadable PDFs at this link](#)
- New report presenting HIV indicators by public health unit. **The Ontario HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Initiative (OHESI)** is pleased to announce the release of a new report titled "*HIV in Ontario by public health unit: Testing, new diagnoses and care cascade.*" [Please click here to download the report.](#)
- From **HALCO**, On November 22, 2018, the province of Ontario announced a new direction for social assistance in Ontario. While the government provided few details, and while we welcome additional employment and other supports that were included in the announcement, we have serious concerns with the government's approach. Please see the attached update that highlights three particular areas of concern for people living with HIV and other disabilities, or [view the update here.](#)

- **THN** would like to congratulate Suzanne Paddock on becoming the Executive Director of the **Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA)**. [Please click here for PWA's Board of Directors announcement.](#)
- **The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network** are calling upon the government to adopt a human rights–based approach to drug policy, which requires (1) decriminalizing all drugs for personal use and (2) scaling up access to health, harm reduction and social support services for people who use drugs. They are requesting you to also participate in this [consultation](#) completing the survey by **December 4th**.
- **Ontario AIDS Network (OAN)** Honour Roll nominations are open for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement within the HIV/AIDS movement in Ontario. Three categories of awards which are accepting nominees: **The Person with HIV/AIDS Leadership Award; The Caring Hands Award; & The Community Partners Award.** Nominations close **Monday, January 14, 2019 at 4:00pm**. The award ceremony will take place March 2, 2019 at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. For more information, please visit [OAN's website](#).
- **Toronto Public Health** wants to hear from you about your learning needs related to conducting community health assessments. A community health assessment is the collection and analysis of data to understand the various health issues and opportunities within a specific community. These assessments can help organizations and communities develop responsive strategies to address local health needs. Your responses will help inform our future capacity building efforts with community agencies, coalitions and networks. This short questionnaire will only take a few minutes to complete and your responses are anonymous. [Please click here to complete the survey.](#)

Community Events, Programs and Seminars

- **St. Michael's Hospital, Centre for Urban Health Solutions** is hosting a symposium and discussion on - **Ending the HIV Epidemic in Canada**. Please join speakers Ann Burchell, PhD (ESTIMATE Lab), Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, PhD (www.uwow.ca - @UWWcanada), Andrew Pinto, MD, MSc (The Upstream Lab), Sean B. Rourke, PhD, FCAHS (CIHR Centre for REACH), LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN (HiFi Interventions Labs). Moderator: Ron Rosenes, LLD, CM (Community Health Advocate) It will be held on **Wednesday, November 28** from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Location: La Ki Shing, Auditorium, 209 Victoria Street, 2nd floor. [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **CATIE and Positive Living B.C** are presenting a webinar - *Peer health navigation: mental health implications of working as a peer*. The webinar will provide an orientation to the mental health implications of working as a peer health navigator, including aspects of boundary setting and self-care; and provide peers and program managers with an opportunity to learn about issues and challenges, as well as discuss real-world scenarios related to the delivery of peer services. The webinar will be held on **Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.** [Please click here to register](#)

- **Teresa Group and CPARG** in conjunction with HIV Endgame 3: Breakthrough Initiatives is *Sharing Canadian Pediatric HIV Research Results* on **Wednesday, December 5, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Location: Casey House, 119 Isabella Street. [Please click here to register](#) [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **Casey House Mental Health Series** on 'Indigenous Perspectives on Harm Reduction' with Les Harper and Tasunke Pejuta being held on **Thursday December 13th – Part 1 and Thursday January 10th – Part 2 from 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.** Location: Casey House, 119 Isabella Street, Conference Room [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]

PHA and Peer Programming

- **HIV+ Women - Health Promotion/Nursing Clinic – Wellness and Connection.** The **Hassle Free Clinic**, in collaboration with the **Toronto People With AIDS Foundation & Casey House**, is offering this clinic on **Wednesday, November 21st – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Location: Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, 200 Gerrard Street East, 2nd floor [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)** is hosting a weekly Meet n Eat lunch program Friday from 11am – 1pm. [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- "HIV-Positive Backup Singers Needed for The Southern Time Band" Have you ever wanted to make a positive difference in ending HIV-stigma by sharing your positive story through song? This is the opportunity the Southern Time Band is presenting to 3 openly HIV-positive backup singers in 2019. We are looking for people, ideally, under 30, who can SING, have a good work ethic, have overcome (inner) HIV stigma and are now living life to the fullest, regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. Must live in the GTA or are willing to relocate. Rehearsals will begin in February. To find out more, and fill out our audition form, [please click here](#)

Save the Date Annual General Meeting and Conferences

- **Action positive** l'assemblée générale annuelle aura lieu **le jeudi 29 novembre 2018, de 18h à 20h**, au 543, rue Yonge, 4e étage, salle A. Veuillez confirmer votre présence auprès de Danny à danny@actionpositive.ca
- The 28th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV / AIDS Research (CAHR 2019) will be held **May 9-12th, 2019** in Saskatoon. Follow the CAHR Conference website as it becomes available. <https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>
- CAHR 2019: Saskatoon, SK Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the 28th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2019) The deadline for abstract submission is **Friday, January 4, 2019.**

Surveys, Studies and Focus Group

- **Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, and Asian Community AIDS Services (CAAT-ASSAP-ACAS)** collaboration for International Student HIV (ISHIV) study is seeking volunteers for a study on what challenges may be encountered by HIV+ international students when accessing treatment and health services. **Eligibility criteria:** 16+ years or older; HIV+ person who holds (or has held) a student visa to Canada in the last 5 years; and who is able to communicate and provide consent in English. **Compensation:** \$50.00, plus TTC tokens. [*Please see the attached poster for more information.*]
- **HIV Stigma Index** is seeking participants to collect information about their experiences living with HIV related to stigma, discrimination, and human rights. **Eligibility criteria:** living with HIV. **Compensation:** \$50.00. Interview will last between 1 to 2 hours. [*Please see the attached poster for more information.*]
- **HIV Prevention Lab** is seeking individuals for **Project THRIVE+**. It is a 10 session individual cognitive behavioural therapy treatment to reduce trauma-related distress and increase antiretroviral treatment adherence and engagement in HIV care in gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men living with HIV. In this study, participants will be randomly assigned to receive 10 individual counselling sessions or 2 individual counselling sessions. Randomization will be stratified by the presence or absence of current post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis. Participants will complete baseline assessments involving self-report questionnaires and clinician-administered interviews, as well as assessments 3, 6, and 9 months later. Medication adherence will be tracked through the use of Wisepill dispensers. Treatment adherence will also be assessed through self-report measures and by obtaining viral load and CD4 cell counts from participants' healthcare providers. **Compensation:** Individuals who get randomized to the Treatment group will get paid up to **\$375** and individuals randomized to the control group will get paid up to **\$230**. There is no waitlist. This study is led by Dr. Conall O'Cleirigh (the Fenway Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School) and Dr. Trevor Hart (HIV Prevention Lab Director, Ryerson University and the University of Toronto). [*Please see the attached poster for more information.*]

Employment, Volunteer, and Board Opportunities

- **Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN)** is seeking a Lead Evaluation (fulltime). Application Deadline: **Friday, November 30, 2018** [*please see the attached job posting for more information*]
- **Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS)** has issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Strategic Planning Consulting Services. (contract). Application Deadline: **Friday, December 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** [*please see the attached request for proposals for more information*]

- **Fife House** is seeking a Manager Community Programs, Peer Engagement, and Volunteers (fulltime) Application Deadline: **Friday, December 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** *[please see the attached job posting for more information]*
- **Rainbow Health** is seeking a Trans Health Information Specialist (fulltime). Application Deadline: Open till filled [\[please click here for more information\]](#)

Member Agency Fundraisers

- **ACT** on the eve of **World AIDS Day** will acknowledge the people and organizations dedicated to preventing HIV, caring for and empowering people living with the virus, and the movement to end HIV in Toronto at the ***Together Towards Zero Luncheon***. This year's luncheon will be held on ***Friday, November 30, 2018 from 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*** St. Regis Hotel Toronto, 325 Bay Street. [Please click here for more information](#)

Newsletter of Note

- **The Ontario AIDS Network (OAN)** released their November 23rd newsletter [please click here to view](#)