

Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN) Update #18.29 – October 16, 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 Fast Track Cities Initiative** presentation and Town Hall will be held on **Thursday, November 1, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Location: The 519 Ballroom. It's up to us! Come out and discuss how we can end the HIV epidemic in Toronto, together. *[please see the attachment for more information]*

Community News and Information

- The **Toronto Urban Health Fund** is now accepting Letter of Intent applications for one-year project funding for 2019. [The Letter of Intent application and Funding Guide can be found here.](#) Letters of Intent are due on **Wednesday, October 24, 2018** *[please see the attachment for more information]*
- **The City of Toronto** has released City's current 44 wards and for the new 25 wards that come into effect December. The ward profiles contain information from the 2016 long-form Census of Statistics Canada. The ward profiles highlight key demographic factors using charts and detailed tables on a variety of measures, including the following:
populations by age group, dwellings by type, tenure and period of construction, families and households, immigration and mobility, language group, ethnic origin and visible minorities, education and labour force, and income and shelter cost. The ward profiles use information from the 2016 long-form Census, as well as the 2011 Census and the 2011 National Household Survey to enable local comparisons to be made over time. The updated ward profiles for the current 44 wards and Community Council boundaries are now available at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/neighbourhoods-communities/ward-profiles/>.

Toronto Municipal Election

- Toronto Municipal election will be held on **Monday October 22 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.** Electors vote in the ward they live in.

- Advance vote for Toronto's municipal election begins **Wednesday, October 10** and will run for five continuous days, from **October 10 to October 14 between 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.** at 50 locations across the city. There are two voting locations in each ward. Advance vote will also be offered at Toronto City Hall. Electors, regardless of where they live in Toronto, can vote at City Hall during the advance vote period.
- For more information and voting locations [please click here to view](https://www.toronto.ca/elections/myvote) or <https://www.toronto.ca/elections/myvote>
- **Social Planning Toronto** has released 5 issues you need know about for October 22. [Please click here to view](#). The five issues Poverty, Housing, Jobs, Public Transit, and Child Care are presented.

Community Events, Programs and Seminars

- **Engage Study** – Preliminary findings. Please join for a fun-filled evening of food, performances, and conversations about gbMSM health as they discuss some preliminary findings from the Engage study. For the full classroom experience, attendees are encouraged to wear preppy attire. Engage is a Canadian collaboration between researchers and community-based organizations on HIV and sexual health among gay, bi, and queer men, including trans men, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) in Canada. It will be held on **Wednesday, October 17th from 7 p.m.** Location: Buddies in Bad Times, 22 Alexander Street, Toronto [*please see the attachment for more information*]
- **Toronto Harm Reduction Alliance & Toronto Public Health** is presenting **Harm Reduction 101 Tuesday, October 23, 2018 and Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm** (both days) at The 519, 519 Church Street [*Please see the attached flyer for more information.*]
- **Toronto Public Health** is presenting **HIV 101 on Thursday, November 1, 2017 and Friday, November 2, 2017 9:30 am - 4:30 pm** (both days) at Metro Hall, Room 308, 55 John St. (King & John) [*Please see the attached flyer for more information.*]
- **The AIDS Committee of Toronto Totally outRIGHT Toronto** Recruitment has begun for **Totally outRIGHT Toronto** (ACT sexual health leadership program) for **young gay, bi, pansexual and queer men, ages 18-29** who want to be community leaders, including racialized guys, guys from diverse ethnic communities, trans guys, and guys living with HIV. It's an opportunity for participants to develop leadership skills, connect with interesting guest community speakers, as well as meet other young gay, bi, queer male identified peers. Will be held over four **Saturdays: October 27 and November 3, 17, 24, 2018.** . [*Please see the attached flyer for more information.*]

PHA and Peer Programming

- **The AIDS Committee of Toronto's (ACT)** coffee night/social program for gay, bi, queer and other men who have sex that are over the age of 40 and living with HIV. This informal group is a

great way for older gay men living with HIV to connect and socialize with one another. Being held on **Tuesday, October 16th** [please see the attached poster for more information]

- **HIV+ Women - Health Promotion/Nursing Clinic – Embracing Diversity. The Hassle Free Clinic**, in collaboration with the **Toronto People With AIDS Foundation & Casey House**, is offering this clinic on **Wednesday, October 3rd – 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.]
- **The AIDS Committee of Toronto - Community Health Forum on Autism & 90-90-90: Reaching for the Goal.** Presenting preliminary findings on ACT's "ASD & HIV Prevention Needs Assessment" survey and explaining the impact the autism spectrum has on negotiation safer sex, accessing services, and community connectivity. **Thursday October 18th** from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** (a light dinner will be offered at 6:30) **Location:** Ramada Plaza Hotel (300 Jarvis Street) [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **Fife House** is hosting a weekly Mindfulness drop-in group starting on **Wednesday's till November from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Experience how mindfulness can help train your attention and help connect you to the present moment [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **Peer Summit – AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Program of Ontario (ABRPO), Fife House, McEwan Housing and Support Services, and the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA)** present on ways to navigate food insecurity in Toronto. The speakers will provide information on how to prepare meals using common foods sourced from Toronto food banks, maintaining a healthy diet with limited access to fresh foods, and more. The Peer Summit will be held on **Friday, October 19, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Location: Fife House, Community Room, 490 Sherbourne Street. To register please email: summitregistration@fifehouse.org [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]
- **The AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)** is offering an *Expressive Arts & Self Care Group*. This group is open to people living with HIV and is facilitated by two Expressive Arts Therapists from Hospice Toronto. Meet the Expressive Art Therapists on **Monday, November 12th**. Group Meetings **Mondays from November 19th to December 10th 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** [Please see the attached flyer for more information.]

Annual General Meetings (save the date)

- **2-Spirited People of the First Nations'** Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** Location: 145 Front Street, Suite 105. [Please see the attached poster for more information]
- **HIV AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO)'s** Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:00pm.** Location: 55 University Avenue, 14th Floor Room H2, Toronto, Ontario [please click here for more information]

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.*]
- **Consultation on Strengthening Canada's approach to Substance abuse issues.** The purpose of this consultation is to ask Canadians for new and innovative ideas on how to further strengthen the federal government's health-focussed approach to substance use issues through the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS) [Please click here for more information and to participate](#)
- **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

- **Hassle Free Clinic (HFC)** is seeking volunteers for their Men's and Trans Clinic and the Women's and Trans Clinic (1 shift per week, ongoing) Application Deadline: Open till filled [*please see the*

attached job posting for more information or [apply online here](#)]

- **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)** is seeking four (4) Peer Research Assistants (part-time). Application Deadline: Open till filled [please see the attached job posting for more information]
- **Canadian HIV AIDS Legal Network** is seeking a Director of Development (full-time). Application Deadline: **Monday, October 22, 2018** [Please click here for more information](#)
- **Supporting Newcomer Access Project (SNAP) at Planned Parenthood Toronto** is seeking volunteers. Application Deadline: **Friday, October 26, 2018**. [please see the attached flyer for more information]

Member Agency Fundraisers

- **Realize's** second annual fundraising *Living Out Loud* **on Wednesday, November 14, 2018** concert.3 Choirs/Great Music/Positive Change for People Living with HIV. [Advance tickets are available online](#)
- **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

Newsletter of Note

- **Ontario Aids Network (OAN)** has issued their October newsletter. [Please click here to view](#)
- **Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN)** has issued their October newsletter. [Please click here to view](#)