***Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN) Update #18.30 – October 23, 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@torontohivaidsnetwork.org***](mailto:thn@torontohivaidsnetwork.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]*

***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@torontohivaidsnetwork.org](mailto:thn@torontohivaidsnetwork.org). This year’s events and notices include:

* 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.](https://act.akaraisin.com/gala/Event/Registration.aspx?seid=18073&mid=41)

***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**](https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/t-o-urban-health-fund-tuhf/)**. Letters of Intent are due on *Wednesday, October 24, 2018*** *[please see the attachment for more information]*
* **AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) is calling for submissions.** They are accepting design ideas for their prestigious **Together Towards Zero Award**. The winner will be awarded a cash honorarium of $1,000 ($300 for the runner-up) and their design will be brought to life and bestowed upon the honourees at this year's Luncheon! The competition is open to all artists living in Ontario who identify as living with HIV. **Deadline for submissions: November 1st.** Please click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Po9523H-bqmZTCT9eUeGTgt00zqYO3RJmygUaG0g1r0sLzJNRb_6v1yw9VV3cP6oxOmla_A2EVKcCVJKapd1EEqiXV3Q-qxCZqSwxBbo-zQHgOBbC65wk1n5yEqWomFMAB9dNCpzQRly1LL6KBCbxdOPZF9eKl0J0WqojlMkjFU2GMVAssU_3ZdrfK9Obh4R_A2GZTgmTwkvOBdvqGEIfHZNppF3Z8nxieh4mJbmC0c=&c=c8raRy4azoeTpl7fWzM0U2fE_mWZfpnF2ZI3PgUxXg7mFOw6VJIOQA==&ch=MOblL5oYY4QMZA_s-FTL0RTZYL132dj079YFZy-TuVyR34pFexluWw==) for more information.
* Flu season is here again. The flu vaccine reduces your chance of getting the flu and is available free of charge. It is recommended that everyone get a flu shot. However, certain people are at greater risk of developing complications from the flu and strongly encourage those people to go to their doctor’s office for the flu shot. People at higher risk of developing complications from the flu include children age 6 months to 5 years, adults age 65 and older, pregnant women, and those with a chronic disease.

[*Toronto Public Health flu information*](https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/immunization/flu-influenza/)

* 2-Spirited People of The First Nations has introduced an extra service within their agency assisting members of the First Nations Community who are seeking employment opportunities. *[please see the poster for more information]*

# Government of Ontario to freeze minimum wage, eliminate paid sick days, that it plans to repeal sections of the previous government’s Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act. [Please click here view news release](https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2018/10/ontarios-government-for-the-people-cutting-red-tape-in-order-to-help-create-and-protect-jobs.html)

***Toronto Municipal Election***

* Toronto Municipal [election results](https://electionresults.toronto.ca/)

***Community Events, Programs and Seminars***

* **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.]*
* **Senior Pride Network (SPN)** is hosting their Annual Planning Meeting on ***Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m***. Location: The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Room 204.
* The HIV Endgame 3: Breakthrough Initiatives conference is happening ***December 6-7, 2018*** at the InterContinental Toronto Centre (225 Front St. West), where attendees will learn more about evidence-based interventions and approaches to HIV care that build on Ontario’s strengths. Registration extended to ***Thursday, November 1st***. [Please click here to register and for more information](https://ontariohivtreatmentnetwork.cmail19.com/t/i-l-njldhdk-fihvdlid-y/)

***PHA and Peer Programming***

* **Fife House** is hosting a weekly Mindfulness drop-in group starting on ***Wednesday’s till November 14th 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.]*
* **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.]*

***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 forInternational Student HIV (ISHIV)studyis 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](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-strengthening-canada-approach-substance-use-issues.html)
* **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*](http://hasslefreeclinic.org/volunteer-application/) *]*
* **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]*
* **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](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-working-group-on-hiv-and-rehabilitation-cwghr/events/living-out-loud-our-second-annual-fundraising-concert/)

* **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***

* **Teresa Group** has issued their October newsletter. [Please click here to view it](https://mailchi.mp/780821e440fb/its-been-a-busy-fall-stay-in-touch-with-the-teresa-group?e=4dfa196cd7)