

Annual Report

AIDS
New Brunswick
SIDA
Nouveau-Brunswick



Creating Connections

2014-2015

Acknowledgement

Our Work is Made Possible Through The Generous Contributions of:





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Message From the New Brunswick Minister of Health



As Minister of Health, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you a warm welcome to the annual general meeting of AIDS New Brunswick.

As "Creating Connections" is this year's theme for the annual general meeting, our entire community and society must come together to fight the growing numbers of sexually and blood borne infections affecting the citizens of our province, especially our youth.

AIDS New Brunswick continues to make a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections in our province.

I would like to commend everyone for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the prevention of HIV/AIDS as well as your support and advocacy on behalf of those who struggle with this disease.

En ma qualité de ministre de la Santé, je tiens à profiter de l'occasion pour vous souhaiter la plus cordiale bienvenue à l'assemblée générale annuelle de SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick.

En s'inspirant du thème de l'assemblée générale annuelle de cette année, « Créer des connexions », toute la collectivité et la société en général doivent s'unir pour lutter contre le nombre croissant des infections transmissibles sexuellement et par le sang touchant les citoyens de notre province, notamment les jeunes.

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick continue à influencer pour le mieux la vie de ceux qui sont touchés par le VIH, l'hépatite C et d'autres infections transmissibles sexuellement et par le sang dans la province.

Je désire vous féliciter tous pour votre excellent travail, votre dévouement et votre engagement envers la prévention du VIH/sida, ainsi que pour vos activités de soutien et de représentation à l'égard des personnes qui luttent contre cette maladie.

Victor Boudreau
Minister of Health/Ministre de la Santé



Keynote Speaker Dr. Tracey Rickards Ph. D.

Tracey Rickards is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick (UNB-Fredericton campus). Completing her PhD at Dalhousie University's School of Nursing, Tracey's educational career also includes a Bachelor of Nursing in 1986 and a Masters of Nursing in 2005 both from UNB.

Dr. Rickards' dissertation research focus was the process of becoming a lesbian headed stepparent family. The theory she developed is called Authenticating Family: Re/claiming legitimacy by the lesbian headed stepfamily. She has begun building a program of research focusing on LGBTQ health, women's health, and community health.

Dr. Rickards has worked in intensive care, government, and community health nursing. She has taught extensively in the Faculty of Nursing, among other courses she has taught the community theory course for third year students. She worked at the Faculty of Nursing's Community Health Clinic for five years providing primary health care to vulnerable populations and clinical instruction for several community clinical practicums.

Dr. Rickards has been the Atlantic Representative for the Canadian Association of Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care since 2011. Dr. Rickards is also a member of the Research Ethics Board at the University of New Brunswick, and the president of the Public Health Association – NB-PEI branch. Ms. Rickards was on the organizing committee for the CANAC conference held in Fredericton, NB in 2010 and on the committee for the CANAC 2016 conference in Halifax. The theme of the conference is "Out on the Edge: HIV and LGBT Communities." Tracey spent 5 years on the board of AIDS NB. She began as member at large and continued up through the ranks, acting as President for 3 years and Past President for one year.



2014-2015 Board and Staff

Board Member	Position on Board
Karen Tanner	President
Nick Doyle	Vice President
Mike Connors	Treasurer
Conor Falvey	Secretary
Louis Guimond	PHA Representative (Resigned)
Tom Johnston	PHA Representative
David Beckerson	Director (Resigned)
Denis Cyr	Director (Resigned)
Emerald Gibson	Director
Cyrille Godin	Director
Tom Johnson	Director
Susan MacKillop	Director
Nanette Noel	Director
Nick Scott	Director
VACANT	Director

Staff Member	Title
Stephen Alexander	Executive Director
Keri-Ann Scott	Operations Coordinator
Matthew Smith	Prevention Programs Manager
Jessi Taylor	Education Programs Manager
Diedre Smith	Support Programs Manager (Resigned)
Luc Malenfant	Director of Community Development

Message from the President and Executive Director

There is something fundamental about creating connections that help facilitate the sharing of resources and ideas. There is enormous strength when people come together in the most basic of ways to create spaces where divisions can drop away, where stigma and discrimination pale in the light of our common purpose.

AIDS NB continues to make a significant impact across our catchment area. Serving a region that spans across 8 counties is a daunting task. Yet, it seems each year, through the talents and dedication of staff, volunteers and Board, we are able to make important “connections” with the communities we serve.

In the last year we launched our new website, developed partnerships to address the rising rates of Hepatitis C and access to testing, continued to offer a gold standard of service within our two Needle Exchange Programs (Fredericton and Miramichi), strengthened relationships with women specific organizations and the African, Black and Caribbean communities. We continue our efforts to offer PHA support programming that provides equitable access for all people in New Brunswick living with HIV to emergency funding for housing

and food security, dental and vision subsidies, travel subsidies for medical appointments, skills building opportunities, and the Christmas Gift Card program.

Increasingly, we are putting more energy behind educational and prevention programs for our youth and young adults, expanding our footprint in central and northern regions of the province to attain the goal that “no one in New Brunswick is without the necessary education and tools to ensure a healthier and safer life”. And we have experienced positive results for our labour, our programs for New Brunswickers are in high demand and gaining strength and effectiveness.

We continue to work towards breaking down barriers to access and raising awareness efforts to help people living with and vulnerable to HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections through our initiatives in education, prevention and support that are truly integrated and available to all New Brunswickers. We continue to foster and build unique partnerships resulting in new services and resources for all who are in need.

Message from the President and Executive Director

There are many successes or perhaps “gifts” in the work of HIV/AIDS. A member, who happens to be HIV positive, expressed his profound appreciation for our services saying “I want you to know that this organization saved my life.” Without AIDS NB, he suggested, he would not be among us. We are confident the amazing AIDS NB team provides services that save lives each and every day. This success is a monumental gift in the social justice work of HIV/AIDS.



Our successes are the direct result of the support, commitment and enthusiasm of the communities we serve. Together, we are putting AIDS NB in a position to thrive as a leader and change-maker in the sector. To our Board of Directors for their leadership, our staff for their energy and creativity, and our volunteers for their caring and dedication, and of course to our many members who trust us to help them work towards their goals and dreams, thank you. Without you there is no AIDS New Brunswick.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen".

Karen Tanner
President of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Alexander".

Stephen Alexander
Executive Director

Objectives

Increase knowledge among *vulnerable populations* about HIV/AIDS prevention and testing through presentations, workshops, and distribution of information and materials.

Improve access to prevention programs and support programs or treatment services for *vulnerable populations* through the delivery of programs, distribution of information and condoms, partnership activities, and referrals.

Increase awareness among *People Living with HIV/AIDS* about care, treatment, and support options through the provision of programs, information and referrals.

Increase knowledge among *People Living with HIV/AIDS* about healthy behaviours and practices.

Improve attitudes among the *general population* towards HIV, persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) and vulnerable to HIV, which will be done through community events and partnership work related to addressing social stigma, poverty, homelessness, and other issues related to the social determinants of health.

Increase the capacity of *staff, board, and other volunteers* to sustain and to strengthen the organization through training, planning, evaluation, fund raising, and human resource management.

Improve collaboration across sectors and stakeholders to address HIV/AIDS through working group participation, network participation and other activities.

Mission Statement

AIDS New Brunswick Inc. is a provincial organization that aims to promote and support the health and well-being of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS while helping to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections in New Brunswick through the provision of prevention, education, and support initiatives.

Community Events

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

On September 20 AIDS New Brunswick hosted the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life in Fredericton and Miramichi. Over 100 walkers participated including Miramichi Scotiabank Branches, St. James Presbyterian Church, UNB Aitken House, Miramichi Pride Dinner & Cruise, UNB Health Outreach Program, and UNB Psychology. This year's walk earned the staff of AIDS NB the Gilead Team Fundraising Incentive Award. On-site promotion and entertainment was provided in Fredericton by The New Hot 92.3 and in Miramichi by 95.9 The Sun FM.



Miramichi Scotiabank AIDS Walk

World AIDS Day Declaration

On November 24 the World AIDS Day Declaration was read at three city council meetings reminding us that the fight against HIV/AIDS is not over. Council members wore red ribbons in recognition and support of National HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day. Thank you to the Cities of Fredericton, Miramichi, and Bathurst for your support.

World AIDS Day

December 1 marked World AIDS Day. This is an opportunity for people to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and remember those who have died. On this day AIDS New Brunswick launched a new, updated website. Visit the website at www.aidsnb.com. AIDS NB staff also hosted an info booth at the University of New

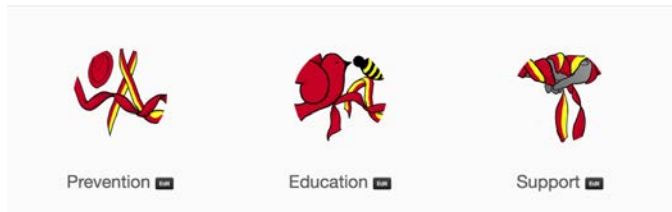


Fredericton Scotiabank AIDS Walk



Community Events

Brunswick providing information about prevention, education, and support programs. Condom roses, made by Canada World Youth students, were given out at the event.



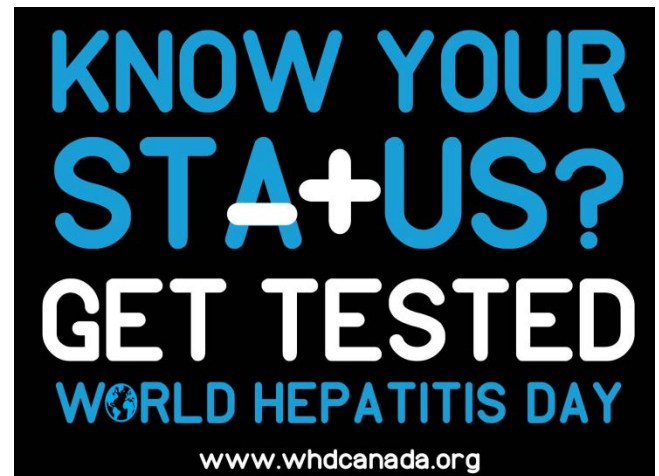
Partnership with the Faith Community

AIDS New Brunswick continues to work in partnership with the faith community. Once again this year St. James Presbyterian Church in Hanwell supported the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life by having a hotdog sale and forming a team for the walk which raised close to \$1000.00. AIDS NB was invited to address the congregation for World AIDS Day and St James chose AIDS NB as one of the recipients of its Christmas outreach campaign.

World Hepatitis Day Community BBQ

On July 28 AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with UNB Nursing and Miramichi Youth House, hosted a World Hepatitis Day community BBQ in

Fredericton and Miramichi. The BBQ's promoted HIV, HCV and STI testing opportunities at AIDS New Brunswick (Fredericton) and Miramichi Public Health. The event also provided the community with the opportunity to get more information about programs offered by AIDS NB. Bi-weekly testing is now available on site in Fredericton.



Car Smash

On September 27 AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with the University of New Brunswick, hosted the 4th annual Car Smash on campus. The event raises awareness about the issues related to HIV/AIDS in our province and the stigma associated with the disease. Thank you to Aitken House for working hard to make this event a success, UNB for allowing the event, AA Towing for

Community Events

donating the car and tows, everyone who donated T.V.'s and other assorted items for smashing, and everyone who came out to support AIDS New Brunswick



Aitken House Car Smash

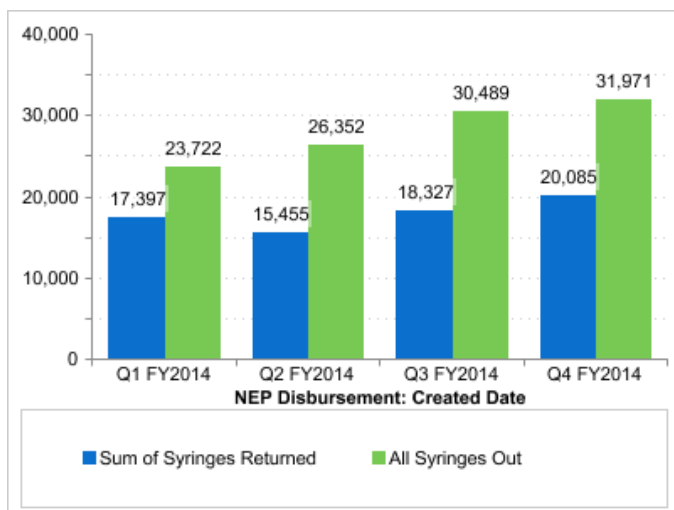


Keri-Ann Scott and Karen Tanner – Scotiabank AIDS Walk -2014



Fredericton Needle Exchange Program

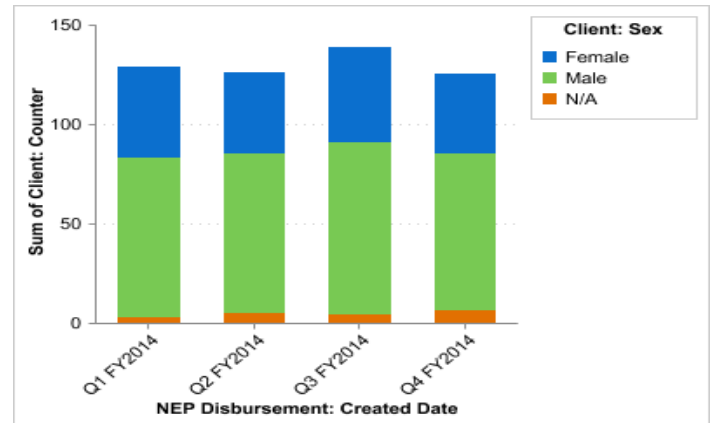
As in previous annual reports, AIDS New Brunswick's Needle Exchange Programs continue to show an increase in numbers. In the 2014-2015 fiscal year the Fredericton Needle Exchange Program (FNEP) experienced record high numbers of people accessing the service and syringes being distributed. The FNEP saw a total of 247 Service Users who accessed the service 1,556 times, and a grand total of 112,534 sterile syringes were distributed. Additionally 18,124 condoms were distributed through the FNEP.



FNEP 2014-2015 Syringes In/Out

When comparing these figures to the previous 2013-2014 fiscal year we see that while there is only a slight increase in the number of people accessing the service

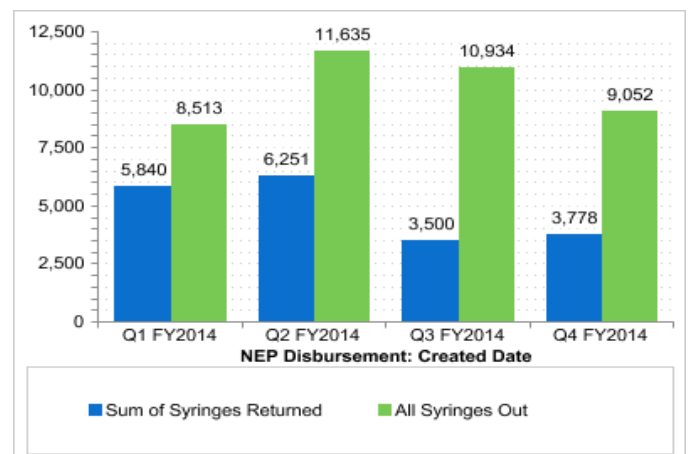
(seven people) there is a 12.5% increase in the frequency of access and a 6.5% increase in syringes distributed.



FNEP 2014-2015 Clients

Miramichi Needle Exchange Program

Now in its third year of operation, the Miramichi Needle Exchange Program (MNEP) has also experienced growth. This fiscal year the MNEP served 124 individuals, 60 of who are new to the service. These service users accessed the MNEP 416 times, and received 40,143 syringes. A total of 1,459 condoms were also distributed.



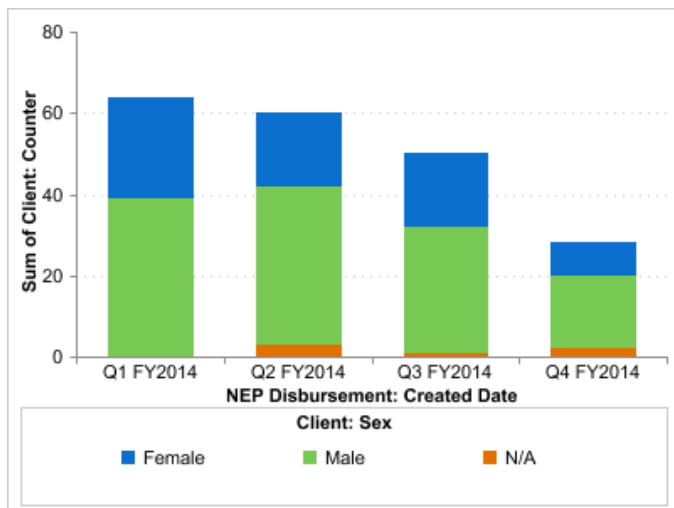
MNEP 2014-2015 Syringes In/Out

Prevention

While there is a 15% decrease in the number of people accessing the MNEP compared to the previous fiscal year, and a 45% decrease in the number of times the service is accessed, there is nonetheless a 63% increase in the number of syringes being distributed.

FNEP and MNEP Combined

Between its two Needle Exchange Programs AIDS New Brunswick distributed a grand total of 152,667 syringes to 371 service users, who accessed the programs 1,972 times.



MNEP 2014-2015 Clients

We conclude that despite the decrease in service users and visits, the increase in syringe distribution tells us that those accessing the MNEP are using sterile equipment more often when they inject; and because Miramichi is surrounded by many rural communities, the prevalence of Natural Helpers (one person picking up supplies for many different people) is increasing.



Matt Smith - Car Smash

Education

AIDS New Brunswick offers HIV/STI/Hep C 101 workshops that cover the basics of safer sex, risk reduction, safer tattooing and piercing. These programs are designed for youth, frontline workers, health care providers, and educators. This year we have done 56 presentations, 13 information displays, and 4 community events, that reached a total of 4,405 people in locations across New Brunswick including: Fredericton, Minto, Chipman, Miramichi, Caraquet, and Shippagan.

In partnership with the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Center, the Education Program has developed the Healthy Sexuality Series, acknowledging that sometimes “just wear a condom” can’t be the end of our conversations about sexual health. This series considers gender constructs, safer sex, sexual violence, healthy relationships, assertive communication, and self-esteem in order to help build a well-rounded and supported approach to sexual health. This project was designed for youth in transition homes and we are proud to partner with Chrysalis House and the Miramichi Youth House in this work.



The old adage, “A picture paints a thousand words”, was the impetus to present a special project combining art and sexual health. Historically, art has played an important role in HIV/AIDS activism, and continues to help improve the lives of those living with HIV, as well as keeping alive the memories of those who have passed. Working with North and South Esk Regional High School and Miramichi Valley High School, young artists in Miramichi created wearable t-shirts that highlighted themes around sexual health including consent, HIV, testing, STIs, and safer sex. These

Education

pieces were showcased in the lobby of the Miramichi Regional Hospital to make the young artists' work accessible to the community. Congratulations Sydney Matchett and Shawn Doucet who were voted top artists by their classes! This project was made possible through a grant from the MAC AIDS Fund.

committed to peer and community health promotion. AIDS New Brunswick is always looking for volunteers to train as peer educators. If you are interested in volunteering and making a difference in your community, get in touch!



The Education Program has some amazing volunteers! These remarkable young people help give workshops, info booths, and bolster the work we do. The volunteer program, consisting predominately of university and high school students interested in engaging their communities in an effort to create a healthier population, continues to grow. This year, AIDS New Brunswick partnered with the UNB Health Outreach Program, a student group



Jessi Taylor

Support

2014-2015 was another great year for the support program of AIDS New Brunswick. In conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June, AIDS NB held a Spring Forum for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PHA). These gatherings help positive folk to share with each other their lived-experience and knowledge in a safe environment.

As always, AIDS NB continues to focus on providing support in many different areas for PHA's, namely the PHA Emergency Fund, the Jocelyn Paul Skills Building Fund, and the lifetime members Christmas Gift Card program.



AIDS NB has also expanded its reach to include those living with Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections.

In its continued partnership with UNB

Nursing a Hepatitis C drop-in group was formed. Meeting weekly, this group of people living with Hep C tackles topics of discussions about lived experience, maintaining healthy diets, treatment opportunities and improving quality of life. These lively discussions help the group members gain knowledge about Hepatitis and Hepatitis C in particular and helps them take control over the disease and their lives.

This partnership has also made it possible for AIDS NB to offer confidential STBBI testing in our office on a bi-weekly basis. These testing days help make it easier for marginalized populations to receive essential health care and to know their sexual health and injection drug status.



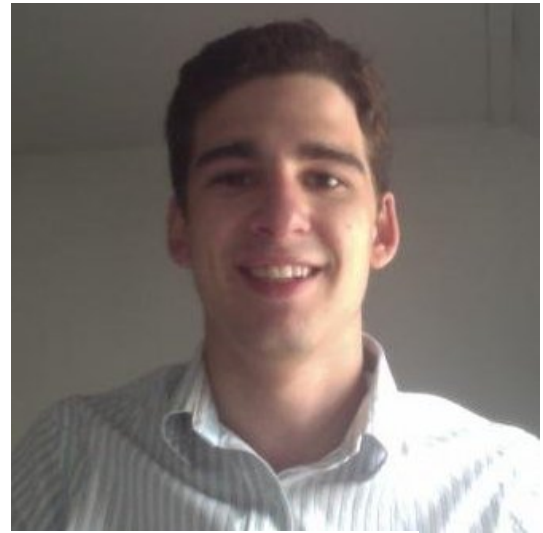
Support

In August 2014 AIDS NB said good-bye to Deidre Smith, Support Programs Manager. In consultation with the Board of Directors it was decided to revisit the position and post a job offering for a Director of Community Development. This revised position would be responsible for the support program but also work to develop new partnerships and promote a strategic social media plan for the agency.

witnessed a marked increase in Twitter and Facebook followers, re-tweets likes, and visits to the website.



**Diedre Smith and Aisha Fahmy –
Hepatitis Day BBQ 2014**



Luc Malenfant

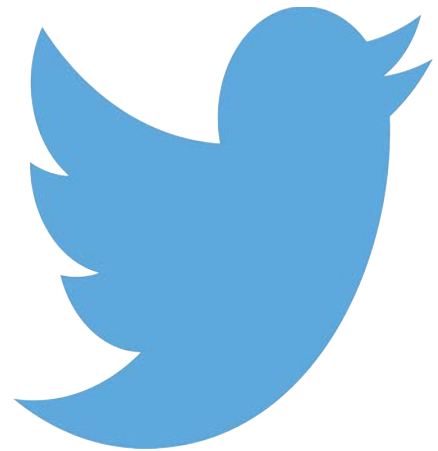


In November of 2014 AIDS NB hired Luc Malenfant for this position. The few months that Luc has been with AIDS NB have

Social Media



653  Like



1,292
Followers
81 Tweets



11 Blog Posts
13,875 Page views



214 Views

Partners



Honourable Mentions

Thank you to everyone who donated in-kind this year. Your contributions helped to make our work and events a success.

- Atlantic Superstore
- Ben's Trophies
- boom! nightclub
- Delta Fredericton
- Dominos Pizza
- Fort Nashwaak Motel
- GoodLife Fitness
- Greco Pizza
- Lakeview Inn & Suites
- Made You Blush
- McDonalds Restaurant
- Menchie's
- Papa John's Pizza
- Ramada Fredericton
- Regent Mall
- Sears
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Simm's Home Hardware
- Sobeys
- The New Hot 92.3
- 95.9 The Sun fm
- Tim Hortons

And Thank You to all our private contributors.

Your continued support is invaluable to our work.

