

**AIDS**  
New Brunswick  
**SIDA**  
Nouveau-Brunswick



2015-2016  
Annual Report

Serving our Community for  
30 Years

# Acknowledgments

Our work is made possible through the generous contributions of:



# Table of Contents

Keynote Speaker Barbara Santosousso.....	3
2015-2016 Board and Staff.....	4
Message from the President.....	5
Message from the Acting Executive Director .....	7
Objectives .....	9
Community Events .....	10
Prevention .....	13
Education .....	15
Support.....	17
Social Media.....	19
Partners.....	20
Honourable Mentions .....	21

## Keynote Speaker Barbara Santosousso

Barbara Santosousso is the Interim Executive Director at CTAC, Canada's non-governmental organization led by and for people living with HIV and HIV/HCV co-infection, focusing on access to treatment. CTAC works with community, public, private and not-for-profit leaders to inform research and public policy, and promote public awareness and discussion.

Barbara has been with CTAC for almost three years as the HIV Policy Researcher. In her former role as a Policy Researcher, she led the Treatment Map, CTAC's interactive tool that maps out the HIV and hepatitis C treatment access landscape in Canada. With a graduate degree in Health Policy, Barbara has developed a keen interest in the social determinants of health, health equity, and mental health and wellness.



## 2015-2016 Board of Directors and Staff

Board Member	Position on Board
Karen Tanner	President
Nicholas Doyle	Vice President
Margot Cragg	Treasurer
Cyrille Godin	Secretary
Tom Johnston	PHA Representative
Raymond Arseneault	Director
Mike Connors	Director
Valerie Edelman	Director
Adrian Edgar	Director
Megan Hill	Director
Susan MacKillop	Director
Nicholas Scott	Director

Staff Member	Title
Stephen Alexander	Executive Director (Resigned)
Keri-Ann Scott	Operations Coordinator
Matthew Smith	Acting Executive Director
Jessi Taylor	Education Programs Manager (On leave)
Luc Malenfant	Director of Community Development
James McCarthy	Education Programs Coordinator

# Message from the President

This year AIDS NB celebrates 30 years of service to its membership in the Province of New Brunswick and 30 years of support to its sister organizations across Canada providing services according to the three pillars of the organization: Prevention, Education and Support. Much progress has been made through the hard work and dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who guided the organization and broke down barriers to the health and success of those living with HIV. Much work is still to be done.

The past year has been one of challenges and victories for our organization. Our strategic plan was the roadmap to a journey in a new direction. I am proud of the staff, Board members and our stakeholders for their hard work and genuine belief in the goals of our organization and I feel proud to be a member of this dynamic group of people, working for the safety and sexual health of all New Brunswickers. We have expanded our outreach to include support for individuals with HEP C and other STBBIs in our services. After a two year Hiatus we are excited to announce that the Wellness Retreat will be held again this year. We are excited to be able to bring people together for education, support and fellowship.

Our organization has taken a good look at ourselves from within. Through the work of our dedicated committee members we have reviewed our policies and procedures. By next year we will have the amendments to policies and bi-laws ready for presentation at the annual general meeting. Our partnership with the law students of UNB, guided by our Board member, Nick Doyle, has been invaluable to AIDS NB. We wish him the best as he leaves our Board after many years of service. We will truly miss his dedication to the organization and the wealth of knowledge and experience he gives to us each year. We have formally created the New Brunswick STBBI Community Alliance, partnering with SIDA/AIDS Moncton and AIDS Saint John for our next funding proposal to the federal government. Our organizations will stand separately with a strong communication system linking our different areas of focus in order to support each other in our common goals. I am proud of the Board members and Executive Directors of the three agencies who spent countless hours drafting the Terms of Reference, and Memorandum of Understanding which formally link our organizations together.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for AIDS NB, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to present and former board members and our AIDS NB volunteers. Your commitment is inspiring to all who experience it, I will finish with a thank you to our tremendous staff. Thank- you is not enough for your professionalism, expertise, creativity and hard work on behalf of the stakeholders of AIDS NB. You are the key to our success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Karen Tanner  
President of the Board



# Message from the Acting Executive Director

Let me begin by saying that I was not the Executive Director for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. That post was filled by Stephen Alexander who, after 25 years of dedicated service in the field of HIV, decided it was time to move on to new adventures. We wish him all the best!

Over the past 30 years AIDS New Brunswick has been at the forefront of HIV, STIs, and hepatitis C, and I'm proud to have been a part of that work for the past 6 years. From Prevention to Education to Support, the agency has more than left its mark on New Brunswick, and I am honored that the Board of Directors has entrusted me at the helm of AIDS NB during this transitional period.

This past year has witnessed some astounding results. Serving 293 people in Fredericton and 65 people in Miramichi, the prevention programs distributed 19,873 condoms and 185,416 sterile syringes. With 59 presentations/workshops, 6 health fair information displays, and 5 community events our education programs reached 3,641 people from all over New Brunswick, with a particular focus on the northern Francophone communities. And, through our support programs, we continue to offer aid to PHAs, and have leveraged our relationship with the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre to offer a monthly hep C support group and to maintain bi-weekly STBBI testing at our Fredericton office.

We continue to build new relationships with organizations and agencies to educate and build capacity, help break down barriers that stand in the face of the people we serve, and to reach new people who may need our help too. For many people, HIV/AIDS, STIs, and hepatitis are not at the forefront of their mind. Stigma and stereotyping would have them believe that neither they nor anyone they know can be affected by STBBIs, and this misconception is what puts people at the most risk: Risk of exposure, risk of transmission, and risk of intentionally or unintentionally discriminating against someone who is affected.

With 20 percent of those living with HIV in Canada unaware that they are living positive we have more than our fair share of work cut out for us. We'll continue to work to prevent new infections, offer accessible testing, educate about STBBIs, and support those living with and affected by STBBIs.

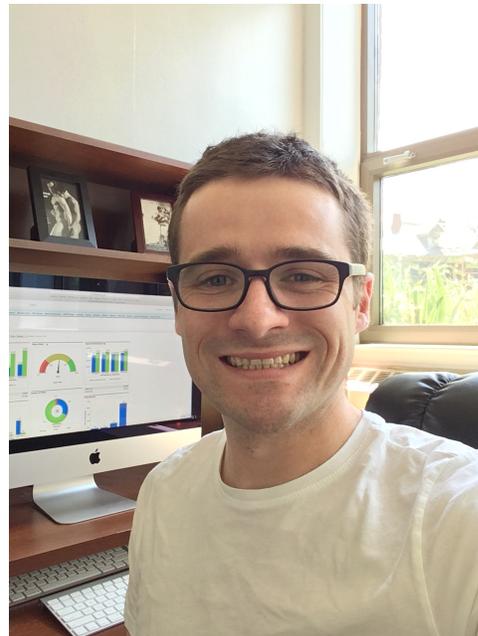
None of what we've accomplished, or will accomplish, would have been possible without the tremendous team who work diligently to ensure that everything runs smoothly and that we never miss a beat. Keri-Ann has never dropped the ball when ensuring that our financials are spot on, and our events are planned and run without a hiccup; Luc ensures that our support programming is accessible, and works to keep the agency's profile strong and relevant in the community; Jessi ran a hefty education program all over the province reaching thousands of people; and James has so eagerly and flawlessly stepped into Jessi's shoes while she takes an academic leave of absence from the agency. Last, but certainly not least, to the 27 volunteers who collectively donated 1,502.5 hours to AIDS New Brunswick over the year, nearly an entire full-time position: thank you.

We are all a well-oiled machine.

Respectfully,



Matthew Smith  
Acting Executive Director



# Objectives

<p><b>Increase knowledge</b> among <i>vulnerable populations</i> about HIV/AIDS prevention and testing through presentations, workshops, and distribution of information and materials.</p>
<p><b>Improve access</b> to prevention programs and support programs or treatment services for <i>vulnerable populations</i> through the delivery of programs, distribution of information and condoms, partnership activities, and referrals.</p>
<p><b>Increase awareness</b> among <i>People Living with HIV/AIDS</i> about care, treatment, and support options through the provision of programs, information and referrals.</p>
<p><b>Increase knowledge</b> among <i>People Living with HIV/AIDS</i> about healthy behaviours and practices.</p>
<p><b>Improve attitudes</b> among the <i>general population</i> 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.</p>
<p><b>Increase the capacity</b> of <i>staff, board, and other volunteers</i> to sustain and to strengthen the organization through training, planning, evaluation, fund raising, and human resource management.</p>
<p><b>Improve collaboration</b> across sectors and stakeholders to address HIV/AIDS through working group participation, network participation and other activities.</p>

## 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.**

# Events

## Red Scarf Campaign

This year on World AIDS Day AIDS New Brunswick piloted the Red Scarf Campaign. At 7:00 am on December 1<sup>st</sup> staff from AIDS NB and volunteers from Salesforce began tying 115 red scarves around Downtown Fredericton in a symbolic representations of the Red Ribbon used to draw awareness to those lost to, affected by, and living with HIV/AIDS.

These 115 red scarves (49 knit/crochet, 66 fleece) were graciously donated to us by many great community organization and individuals including:

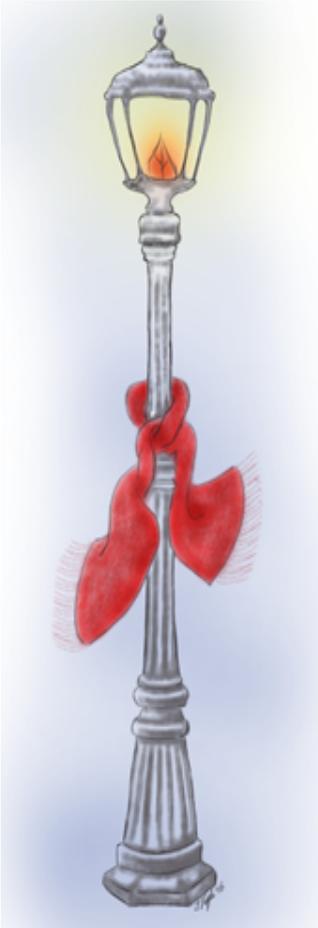
- St. James Presbyterian Church
- David Coon, MLA Fredericton South
- Matt DeCoursey, Member of Parliament for Fredericton
- Fredericton Regional Resource Network
- Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Salesforce
- STU Social Work
- Wilmot United Church
- And, many friends of AIDS New Brunswick

By the end of the day each one of the scarves was taken by members of the public and worn in support of HIV/AIDS

awareness.

## Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

On September 12 AIDS New Brunswick hosted the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life in Fredericton and Miramichi. Over 50 walkers participated in the two events including Salesforce, St. James



Presbyterian Church, Fredericton and Miramichi Scotiabank Branches, Miramichi Pride Dinner and Cruise, Fredericton Youth Feminists, Miramichi Youth House and more! The Honorable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, attended the Fredericton walk and spoke at the opening ceremonies. Onsite promotion, entertainment and MC in Fredericton was provided by 106.9 Capital FM.



The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau,

### World Hepatitis Day Community BBQ

On July 28<sup>th</sup> AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with UNB Nursing and Miramichi Youth House, hosted World Hepatitis Day community BBQs in Fredericton and Miramichi. This annual event is an opportunity to give the community information about HIV, HCV, and STI testing in Fredericton and Miramichi. This event also provided the community with the opportunity to learn more about the programs offered by AIDS NB. Bi-weekly testing continues to be available on site at AIDS NB's office in Fredericton.



### Car Smash

On October 4<sup>th</sup> AIDS New Brunswick partnered with the University of New Brunswick's Aitken House for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Smash Stigma Car Smash. For the past five years, the Men of Aitken have hosted an annual auction car smash at UNB with proceeds going to AIDS New Brunswick. The event raised 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 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.

### **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 forming a team, raising money and participating in the walk. The congregation also donated more than 50 red scarves to the Red Scarf Campaign. We thank them for their continued support.



**Red scarves tied around Fredericton City Hall**

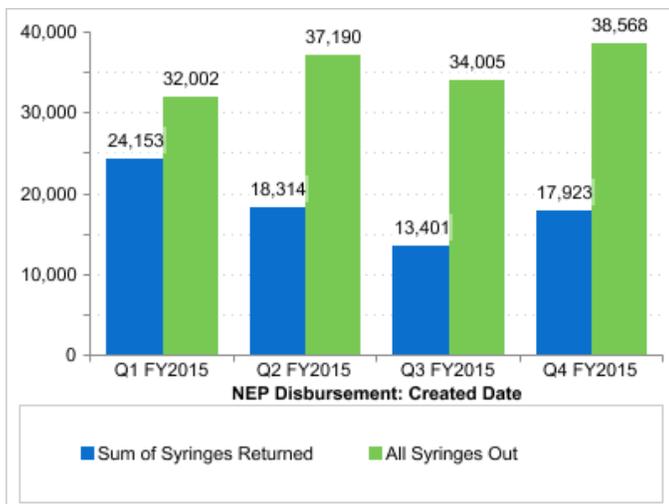


**Miramichi AIDS Walk 2015**

# Prevention Programs

## Fredericton Needle Exchange Program

In its 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation the Fredericton Needle Exchange Program (FNEP) continues to experience record numbers. This past year the FNEP served 293 people, 130 of whom were new to the program. Those 293 people accessed the program a total of 1,738 times. The FNEP distributed a grand total of 141,765 sterile syringes, 1,721 safer smoking kits, and 19,254 condoms.

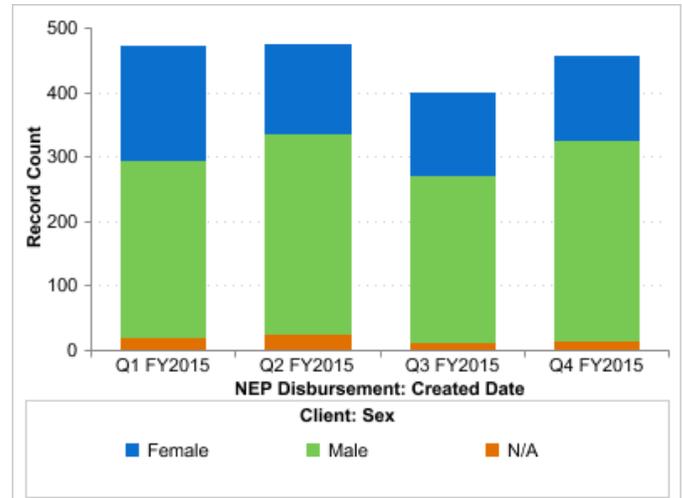


FNEP Syringes In/Out

When comparing these figures to the 2014-2015 fiscal year we can see that there is a steady and consistent increase in all areas:

- Syringes ..... Up 26%
- Service Users ..... Up 19%
- Visits ..... Up 12%

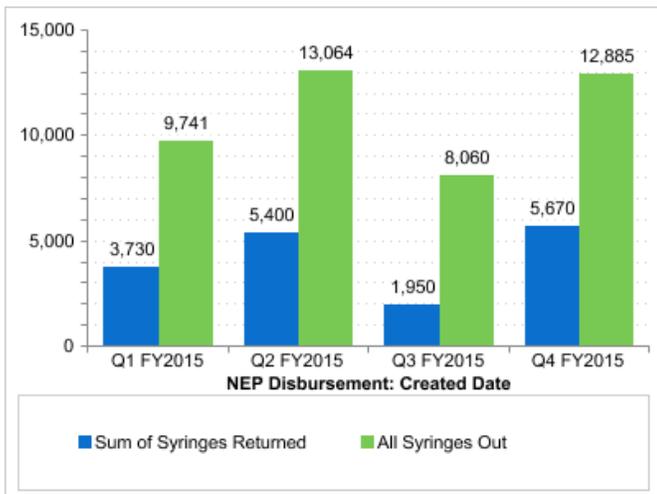
- Condoms..... Up 6%
- Safer smoking kits Up 412%



FNEP Visits by Sex

## Miramichi Needle Exchange Program

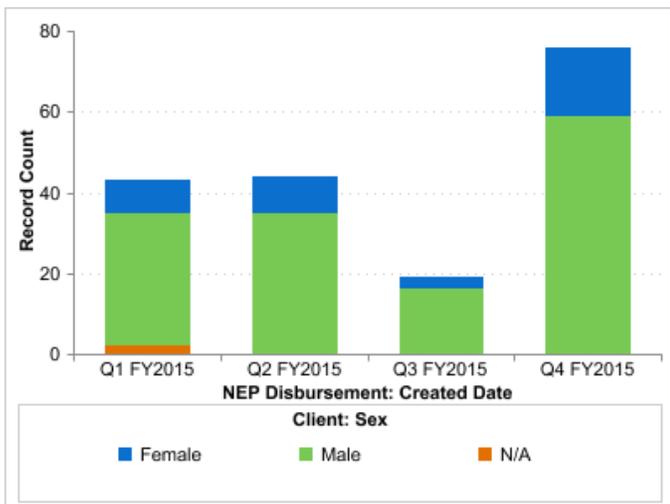
The Miramichi Needle Exchange Program (MNEP), now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of operation, continues to be a valuable service to its community. This past year the MNEP served 65 people, 17 of whom were new to the program. Those 65 people accessed the program a total of 180 times. The MNEP distributed 43,650 sterile syringes, 206 safer smoking kits, and 619 condoms.



**MNEP Syringes In/Out**

When comparing these numbers to the 2014-2015 fiscal year we can see both increases and decreases:

- Syringes ..... Up 9%
- Service Users ..... Down 52%
- Visits ..... Down 57%
- Condoms ..... Down 57%
- Safer smoking kits Down 8%



**MNEP Visits by Sex**

Like last year, we are experiencing a decrease in the number of service users and visits to the MENP, but an increase in

syringes distributed. Again, we attribute this to the nature of a rural needle exchange program where, because the MNEP serves many rural northern NB communities, it is commonplace to have one person picking up supplies for many others.

**Combination of FNEP and MNEP**

Between its two Needle Exchange Programs, AIDS NB served 358 people, 147 of whom were new to the programs. Those 358 people accessed the programs 1,918 times, and took 185,415 sterile syringes, 1,927 safer smoking kits, and 19,873 condoms.



# Education Programs

## Overview

It's been a very busy year for our Education Programs. We've conducted 59 presentations and workshops, held 6 information displays, and participated in 5 community events. All told, last year we reached an estimated total of 3600 people across the province. Our tried-and-true "HIV 101" presentation, covering the basics of transmission and prevention for HIV/AIDS, STIs, and Hepatitis C, was presented 43 times to a variety of audiences, including presentations at 13 secondary and post-secondary schools. We've also been actively delivering this presentation to a variety of community groups and organizations, including the Sarah Tracy Centre, the John Howard Society, and the Fredericton Youth Feminists.

## Evolution

In addition to HIV 101, this year we've debuted a new workshop: Sexual Diversity 101 (SD 101). SD 101 (originally known as Queer 101) is a highly interactive workshop designed to provide frontline workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to create services and environments that are welcoming and supportive of individuals of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

In 2015-2016 this workshop was delivered three times, with participants including public health nurses, social work students, and current social workers. Following its successful debut, we've already had numerous requests to present this workshop in the coming fiscal year.



**Jessi Taylor at Fredericton Pride 2015**

2015-2016 has also been a time of expansion and change. We've continued to expand the reach of our presentations, particularly towards the North-West of the province, visiting schools in Edmundston, Saint-Léonard, Campbellton and Dalhousie. We've also begun working alongside

representatives from the Université de Moncton Campus d'Edmundston (UMCE), and Vitalité Public Health Region 4, in the hopes of offering HIV, Hepatitis, and STI information as part of a series of workshops being planned for post-secondary students in Edmundston. In addition to our on-going workshop series at both Chrysalis House and Miramichi Youth House, we were also invited to the John Howard Society in Fredericton to provide safer sex and healthy relationships workshops.



Info Booth at NB Federation of Home and School Association Inc. tradeshow

### Going Forward

We have lots to look forward to in the coming fiscal year. Our Sexual Diversity 101 Workshop has already been requested numerous times, by a growing list of

organizations located in various regions of the province. We've also begun adapting our workshops to new audiences: an adapted version of Sexual Diversity 101 has been developed specifically for individuals working with older adult and senior citizen populations in our province, and a modified version of our HIV 101 presentation is beginning to make its rounds through middle schools. Presentation delivery is also expanding, with open training sessions proving quite popular.



James McCarthy Presenting Sexual Diversity 101

# Support Programs

Another year is in the books for AIDS New Brunswick and its support program. We've been keen on making sure we're able to provide information, education, and support to those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and other STBBIs.



Luc Malenfant at Louis-Mailloux High School

Throughout the year we've continued to gain momentum in our hepatitis C drop-in group in partnership with the Downtown Community Health Clinic. The monthly group sees between 12 to 15 people, and provides an opportunity for those affected by hepatitis C to learn more about living with the illness. Several UNB nursing

students have been involved with the group, which in turn gives them a first-hand look at the issues surrounding those living with hepatitis C.

We also rolled out our first webinar and fact sheet on hepatitis C. This ongoing series of webinars will help give the public a better understanding of hepatitis C by looking at prevalence rates, routes of transmission, treatment, and harm reduction practices.

**Hepatitis C: Get the Facts**

**Did You Know?**

- Hepatitis is Greek for "inflammation of the liver"
- Hepatitis C is transmitted through blood-to-blood contact
- There is no vaccine or immunity for Hepatitis C
- Most people do not show any signs or symptoms until many years after getting hepatitis C
- Travels through blood stream to the liver where it infects liver cells
- Can result in extensive liver damage
- 170 million people affected worldwide
- 1 in 100 Canadians affected in their lifetime
- An estimated 20% of Canadians are living with hepatitis C and do not know it
- NB Hepatitis C rates highest among youth (age 20-29)\*\*
- Hepatitis C has 6 genotypes
- Hepatitis C can be an acute or chronic virus.

**How Do I Know?**  
How can I find out if I have hepatitis C?

**Get Tested!** →

\*Via NB Communicable Disease 2013 Annual Report

AIDS NB offers bi-weekly confidential testing in our office!

Increased awareness and education around STBBIs such as Hepatitis C and HIV can help encourage people to get tested; that's

why we've also had Community Health Clinic nurses provide bi-weekly confidential testing at our office. By hosting testing days at our Victoria Health Center location, we can provide healthcare to our service users in a safe, familiar environment.



**Guest speaker at the hep C drop-in Group**

As always, we continue to assist many PLWHIV/AIDS in finding appropriate healthcare resources in New Brunswick, as well as providing financial assistance where possible. Our toll-free support line assisted several people across the province by providing answers to questions about STBBIs and navigating the proper healthcare channels.

As we move into the next year, the AIDS New Brunswick Support Program will be

looking to continue to strengthen its programming by increasing the involvement of our community members so that we can better serve our populations.



**Luc and James at UNB Sexuality week**



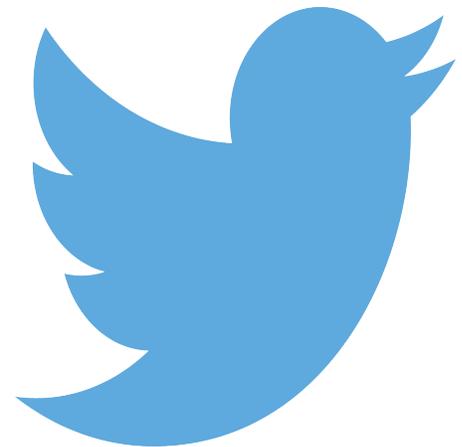
# Social Media



13,013 Page views

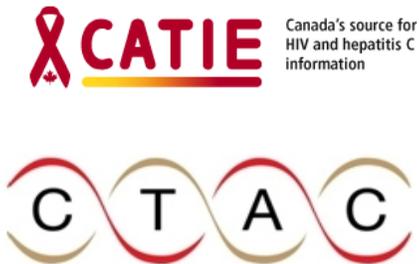


691



1,506 Followers

# 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
- City of Fredericton
- City of Miramichi
- Delta Fredericton
- Fredericton Poice
- Fredericton Youth Fems
- Miramichi Police
- Papa John's Pizza
- Regent Mall
- Simm's Home Hardware
- Sobeys
- Tim Hortons
- 106.9 Capital FM

And Thank You to all our private contributors.

Your continued support is invaluable to our work.