



# 2016-2017 Annual Report

Serving Our Community for  
30 Years

# Acknowledgments

Our work is made possible through the generous contributions  
of:



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## 2016-2017 Board of Directors and Staff

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

Staff Member	Title
Matthew Smith	Executive Director
Keri-Ann Scott	Operations Coordinator
Natasha Glover	Director of Education Programs
Luc Malenfant	Director of Community Development
James McCarthy	Director of Education Programs (Resigned)

## 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.

# Message from the Minister of Health



I would like to extend warm greetings to all participants of AIDS New Brunswick's annual general meeting.

Our government is committed to continue to support AIDS New Brunswick as your organization does a tremendous job facilitating community-based responses to the issue of HIV/AIDS.

Your organization makes a difference in our province to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood born infection through prevention, education and initiatives.

I would like to thank everyone for your dedication to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and your support and advocacy on behalf of those who struggle with this condition.

I wish you all the best as you participate in this annual general meeting.

Victor Boudreau,  
Minister of Health

## Message from the President



AIDS NB celebrates 31 years of service to its membership in the Province of New Brunswick and 31 years of support to its sister organizations across Canada providing services according to the three pillars of the organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors I am proud of the staff for their hard work this past year.

The past year has been one of challenges and victories for our New Brunswick STBBI Community Alliance. The hard work of the staff members in the three organizations led to a successful funding proposal to The Community Action Fund and we have secured funding for the next five years. AIDS NB received an extra \$100,000 from the Federal Government as a top up for a percentage loss of funding to our agency due to its relative size to the other agencies in the NBCBAO. Our staff have created and amended work plans and changed positions which have added to or changed their agency responsibilities. They have rolled with these changes without complaint and have outdone themselves in continuing the core work of the agency throughout this period of uncertainty. As an organization, we are truly blessed to have this team.

Due to the end of our funding grants this past April Luc Malenfant, Director of Community Development was laid off at the end of his contract. We wish him all the best and thank him for his tremendous work for the agency. James McCarthy did not renew his contract as Director of Educational programs as he is headed off to a Masters of Law Program at Queens University. We wish him good luck and happy studying. The Board welcomed Natasha Glover as the new Director of Education programs.

Our organization has taken a good look at ourselves from within. This year we have the amendments to bi-laws ready for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. Our partnership with the law students of UNB, guided by former Board member, Nick Doyle, has given us the expertise needed to do these amendments and we are truly grateful for their work. Through our committee work we are finishing the update to the policies and procedures handbook for the organization. This has been one of the primary goals of our Board for the past three years and will be completed in this calendar year. It is an exciting time in our organization and we are ready for the next 31 years of service.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Karen Tanner

President of the Board 2016-2017

# Message from the Executive Director



This year marks thirty years since our incorporation (thirty-one since our founding), and it has been a year of change. I thank the board for putting their trust in me and hiring me as permanent Executive Director. I will continue to work hard for the agency and its members.

I'll start with the huge advancement that happened this year in the world of HIV, the *Undetectable HIV is Untransmittable HIV (U=U) Consensus Statement*. The U=U Consensus

Statement outlines that if an HIV-Positive person is on antiretroviral therapy and their HIV viral load is undetectable then they have a negligible risk of sexually transmitting HIV to a partner. It is difficult to express just how much this will do to reduce infection, and reduce stigma around HIV and those who live with it. AIDS New Brunswick is proud to say that we are among the other esteemed organizations and people who have signed on as endorsing the U=U Consensus Statement.

Over the past year, the AIDS New Brunswick team has continued to work hard to serve our community. Through our Prevention, Education, and Support programs we reached more than 3,500 people around New Brunswick including eighty-eight presentations. We were so pleased to once again host a Workshop Weekend this year for our HIV-Positive Members. In partnership with CATIE and CTAC, AIDS New Brunswick ran this two-day workshop covering such topics as HIV and Aging, the CTAC Treatment Map, a final day focus group, and more. The event was a huge success and we will be working towards hosting another one.

Like most AIDS Service Organizations across Canada, AIDS New Brunswick's federal funding contract with the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP) has expired, and PHAC has discontinued ACAP funding permanently. With the discontinuation of ACAP, AIDS Service Organizations across Canada have spent much



of 2016-2017 applying to PHAC's new funding program, the HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund (CAF). For the CAF application, AIDS New Brunswick partnered with AIDS Moncton and AIDS Saint John. All three agencies remain independent from each other, but we have joined resources to create a joint work plan as it relates to the new CAF funding program. We are thrilled to be able to say that our hard work has paid off and we have been offered a five-year contract from PHAC to address: new testing technologies, improving epidemiology, increasing access to and PrEP and PEP, and more.

Unfortunately, the new CAF funding structure does not allow for funding to continue our support program position, which means that we sadly had to say good-bye to Luc Malenfant this past April. However, even though Luc will be greatly missed, I want to reassure our HIV-Positive and HCV-Positive members that AIDS New Brunswick is committed to continuing to support you in any way that we can, and that this work has been absorbed into our remaining positions.

We have a tremendously strong and diligent team, and I've leaned on them great deal this past year while I worked to complete the PHAC Application. Keri-Ann, unsurprisingly, continues to run our office like a Swiss watch keeping all of our operations on schedule; Luc worked diligently to support our members, and successfully pulled off a great PHA Workshop Weekend; James took our Education Programs to a new level revamping some of our presentations and securing a \$10,000 grant from MAC Cosmetics; and Natasha so eagerly stepped into James' role, and brought with her priceless knowledge and experience working in the field of reproductive cancers, including those caused by HPV, to our programming. A special thank-you to our twenty-five volunteers who over this past year donated 859 hours to our various programs. We make up a great team and we couldn't do it without each other.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Smith  
Executive Director

# Events

## World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on December 1<sup>st</sup> each year. It is an opportunity to commemorate those lost to HIV/AIDS and show support for those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The first World AIDS Day was held in 1988 after health ministers from around the world met in London, England and agreed that such a day would highlight the enormity of the AIDS pandemic.

Each year since then World AIDS Day has been an opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and address the stigma associated with the disease that may interfere with prevention, care and treatment.



New Brunswick Legislative Assembly lit red in recognition of National AIDS Awareness

This year the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly was lit red in recognition of National AIDS Awareness Week. This coincided with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Red Scarf Campaign which took place on World AIDS Day in downtown Fredericton. AIDS New Brunswick collected over 200 scarves from our community which were then pinned with an information card explaining the symbolism and were tied to lampposts and

benches

around the city

in a symbolic representation of the red ribbon used to represent those lost to and still affected by HIV/AIDS. The scarves were taken by members of the public and worn in recognition of World AIDS Day.

The scarves were graciously donated by the following groups and members of our community:



Fredericton City Hall on World AIDS Day

- Capital Community Church
- The Knifty Knitters
- The Machine Knitters
- Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Windsor Court
- Friends of AIDS New Brunswick



Hon. Victor Boudreau, Health Minister with Matthew Smith and Luc Malenfant of AIDS New Brunswick



Mayor Mike O'Brien with Matthew Smith of AIDS New Brunswick

## 2016 Smash Stigma Car Smash

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Smash Stigma Car Smash was held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. AIDS New Brunswick partnered with Aitken House to host the annual event in the quad at UNB with all proceeds going to AIDS New Brunswick. Big thank you to Aitken House for arranging the event, all those who came out to support it, and a HUGE Thank You to AA Towing for continuing to donate the car, and the tows to and from the event. Without AA Towing the Car Smash would not be possible.





## World Hepatitis Day Community BBQ

The 2016 World Hepatitis Day campaign message was *'Know Your Status? Get Tested - Learn Your Options'*. On July 28th AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with UNB Nursing and Miramichi Youth House, hosted World Hepatitis Day BBQs in Fredericton and Miramichi. The annual event is an opportunity to promote access to prevention, testing and treatment for people affected by hepatitis. This event also provides 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 Fredericton office.



James McCarthy, AIDS NB, with staff of the Miramichi Youth House at the Miramichi World Hepatitis Day BBQ

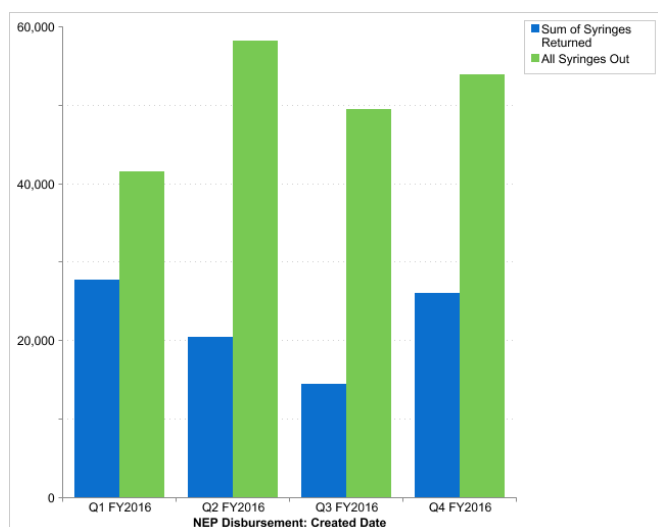


Luc Malenfant, AIDS NB, with Aisha Fahmy, Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre, at the Fredericton World Hepatitis Day BBQ

# Prevention Programs

## Fredericton Needle Exchange Program

In its 17<sup>th</sup> year of operation the Fredericton Needle Exchange Program (FNEP) continues to experience record numbers. This past year the FNEP served 346 people, 159 of whom were new to the program. Those 346 people accessed the program a total of 2006 times. The FNEP distributed a grand total of 203,124 sterile syringes, 1,160 safer smoking kits, and 17,228 condoms.

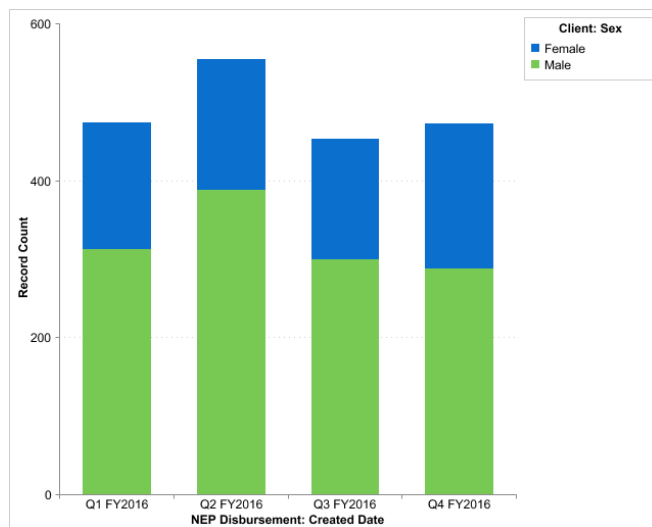


FNEP Syringes In/Out

When comparing these figures to the 2015-2016 fiscal year we can see that there is a steady and consistent increase in most areas:

- Syringes..... Up 30%
- Service Users..... Up 15%
- Visits ..... Up 13%

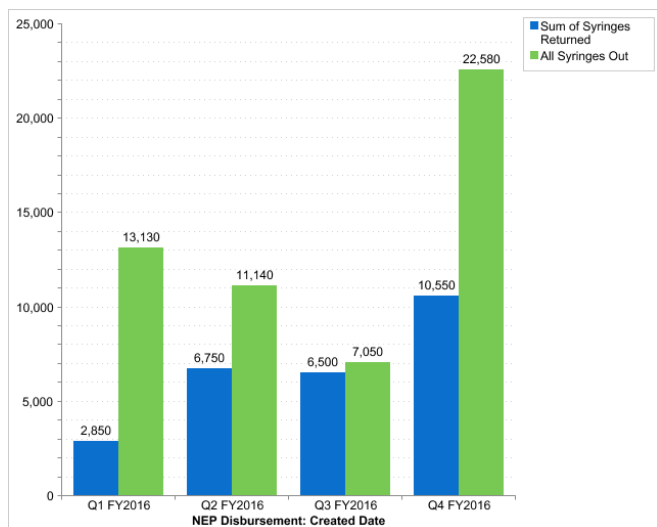
- Condoms..... Down 11%
- Safer smoking kits Down 28%



FNEP Client By Sex

## Miramichi Needle Exchange Program

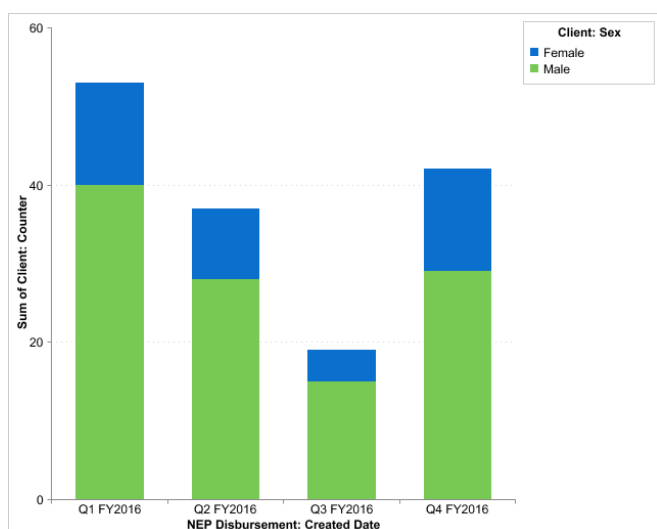
The Miramichi Needle Exchange Program (MNEP), now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation, continues to be a valuable service to its community. This past year the MNEP served 86 people, 18 of whom were new to the program. Those 86 people accessed the program a total of 282 times. The MNEP distributed 53,900 sterile syringes, 242 safer smoking kits, and 595 condoms.



**MNEP Syringes In/Out**

When comparing these numbers to the 2015-2016 fiscal year we can see increases in most areas:

- Syringes ..... Up 19%
- Service Users ..... Up 24%
- Visits ..... Up 36%
- Condoms ..... Down 4%
- Safer smoking kits Up 14%



**MNEP Client By Sex**

## Combination of FNEP and MNEP

Between its two Needle Exchange Programs, AIDS NB served 432 people, 177 of whom were new to the programs. Those 432 people accessed the programs 2,288 times, and took 257,024 sterile syringes, 1,402 safer smoking kits, and 17,823 condoms.

When comparing these numbers to the 2015-2016 fiscal year we can see both increases and decreases:

- Syringes ..... Up 28%
- Service Users ..... Up 17%
- Visits ..... Up 16%
- Condoms ..... Down 11%
- Safer smoking kits Down 37%

The overall decrease in condoms and safer smoking kits distributed is a result of the increase in syringes distributed and the subsequent need to prioritize resources to ensure that the basic needs are met. This meant that we limited the number of safer inhalation kits distributed to clients, and the number of condoms given to organizations. An increase to supply funding in September 2016 meant that we were able to resume normal operations.

# Education Programs

## Overview

The Education Program has been in a system of flux. Throughout the past year we've conducted 84 workshops and presentations in addition to 3 community events and 3 information displays, and reached an estimated 3000 people. The "HIV 101" presentation was changed to "STBBI 101" to expand more on hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections. "Sexual Diversity 101" was expanded upon to delve more into LGBTQ+ history in Canada. A pilot-presentation, "Let's Talk About Sex" was launched for parents with positive reviews and hopes to develop it further. Our presentations have been presented in Anglophone and Francophone public schools as well as various universities, colleges, and other educational institutions. Increasingly, we've been invited to do these presentations among service providers including outreach workers, social workers, nurses, and others. Additionally, we've partnered up to do presentations with the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre, The John Howard Society, Fredericton Homeless Shelter, the New Brunswick Association of Community Living, Miramichi Youth House, and Chrysalis House.

## Evolution

As numbers shift in terms of communicable diseases in the province, we have expanded our "HIV 101" presentation and renamed it "STBBI 101". "STBBI 101" has included a more detailed description of the "ABCs" of hepatitis, PEP/PrEP, as well as more information on prevention and treatment technologies for other viral and bacterial infections. The intent of the change is to maintain relevance by continuously updating our resources based on current research and medical practices and make that information accessible to the general population so that they may be empowered and engaged in their healthcare.



Natasha Glover, Director of Education Programs



“Sexual Diversity 101” has been expanded upon to include LGBTQ+ history within the province and greater Canada, to give greater context to non-LGBTQ+ individuals who may struggle in understanding the subculture. This addition has been met with a lot of positive feedback. More detailed and specific versions of this workshop and the STBBI presentation goes into further detail to provide frontline workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to create welcoming and supportive environments for all gender identities and sexual orientations as well as individuals who use illicit drugs.

Another workshop is in the midst of being “tweaked”, “Let’s Talk About Sex, is a response to a growing demand for understanding among parents in partnership with the Fredericton Public Library. The presentation skims over the important details of “STBBI 101” and “Sexual Diversity 101”, but also includes mention of sexual anatomy, contraception, and how to open up a discussion with one’s children about these topics.

2016-2017 also saw growing partnerships with Santé public, CCNB Edmundston, as well as Université de Moncton Edmundston as a member of “La Comité de la santé sexuelle”. The intent is to provide education among northern New Brunswick students—particularly nursing programs.

Additionally, we completed our *Sex Positive* project in partnership with local television outlet, Rogers TV—which is still regularly broadcasted province-wide. Sex Positive showcases the services offered by AIDS NB as well as shared community partner values in terms of sex positivity and harm reduction techniques. Three episodes encapsulates



the project with 30-minute air times. The first episode features Jessi Taylor presenting HIV 101. The second episode features the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, where Jenn Gorham discussed healthy relationships and consent. The last episode features Matt Smith, discussing harm reduction and drug use equipment as well as the Fredericton/Miramichi Needle Exchange Program. The project has successfully extended



AIDS NB's reach to both urban and rural communities, airing collectively 319 times. It was most often aired in Fredericton (141 times) followed by Miramichi (53 times) and Bathurst (17 times). The show also reached Saint John (82 times) and Moncton (26 times).

### **Going Forward**

There is a lot to look forward to, most notably, the creation of a "PEP/PrEP in New Brunswick" presentation designed to be delivered as a guide for healthcare professionals in the province. Research into HPV prevention and treatment as well as commissioning further education materials is also a goal of the upcoming year. More partnerships, particularly among youth in the area, in terms of engagement and critical discussion on communicable diseases and social determinants of health is also an aspiration of the education program. Further development of "Let's Talk About Sex" is expected as well as "STBBI 101". Overall, communication and community connection is the primary goal.

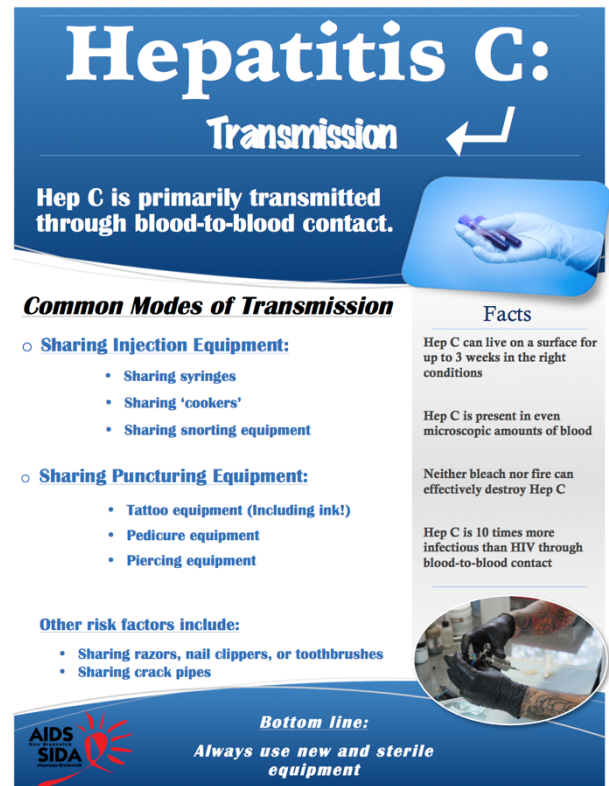
# Support Programs

This past year at AIDS New Brunswick has been an eventful one. We've continued to work hard to ensure we're able to provide information, education, and support to those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other STBBIs.

We achieved those goals in several different areas of programming. Our hepatitis C drop-in group in partnership with the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre has had a strong turnout throughout 2016 and into 2017. The group continues to see numbers between 10 to 15 people per session and has been revitalized by its new location at the spacious downtown clinic. Several guest speakers facilitated the group this year as well as several UNB nursing students.

The drop-in group also helped guide the direction of our webinars and fact sheets on hepatitis C. We published our second webinar and fact sheets in early 2017 with a focus on hepatitis C transmission. We hope that these webinars and fact sheets will be good tools for educating and creating awareness around hepatitis C in our community. Increasing awareness can help boost testing rates and since our

partnership with the clinic lets us offer testing days, we hope to see an uptake in people getting tested.



As in previous years, we helped many PLWHIV/AIDS find appropriate healthcare providers in New Brunswick to help meet their needs, and we continued to offer our PHA Member Support Fund. The support fund was accessed fifteen times throughout the year for housing security, medical needs, food security, and special situations, and distributed more than \$1,400 dollars to help our members.

Our toll-free support line continued to assist people all across the province by providing information to questions about STBBIs and navigating the proper healthcare channels. We received fifty phone calls in 2016-2017.

The support program continued to work closely with our membership throughout the year, which kicked off with our PHA Workshop Weekend and AGM. The Workshop Weekend, which was facilitated with the help of CATIE and CTAC, was very well received. The workshops covered topics such as HIV & Emotional Wellness, HIV & Aging, Communicating with Healthcare Providers, and Treatment Access. The weekend concluded with a focus group where members could voice concerns and discuss future events.



Thomas Egdorf, CATIE, presents at the 2016 PHA Workshop Weekend

## Social Media



12,463 Page views



749



1,613 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
- City of Fredericton
- City of Miramichi
- Miramichi Youth House
- Simm's Home Hardware
- Tim Hortons

And Thank You to all our private contributors.

Your continued support is invaluable to our work.