



2017-2018 Annual Report

Serving Our Community for
Over 30 Years

Acknowledgments

Our work is made possible through the generous contributions of:



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2017-2018 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
Megan Hill	Director
Adrian Edgar	Director
Susan MacKillop	Director
Nicholas Scott	Director

Staff Member	Title
Matthew Smith	Executive Director
Keri-Ann Scott	Director of Operations
Natasha Glover	Director of Education Programs
James McCarthy	Director of Outreach and Program Sustainability
Cassandra Parsons	Prevention Programs Manager
Steve Colwell	Miramichi Needle Exchange Program Coordinator

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 President

Looking to the Future... Rooted firmly from our Past



I write my last president's report with feelings of sadness and pride. This organization and the people working in it have been a source of inspiration to me in the past five years. I cannot express in words how much each of the Board members, past and present, as well as the staff, have given me, personally during my time as President. Comfort, strength, ability, their talents and hard work, second chances; these are but a few of the values modeled for me as I worked in the organization. My heartfelt thanks to you all for all you have done. I will miss you.

To the two Executive Directors of AIDS New Brunswick, Stephen Alexander and Matthew Smith: what a pleasure it has been to work in a partnership which has at its core trust and mutual respect. We have been able to focus our full efforts on growing and strengthening our own organization and creating long-term ties with our sister organizations, as well as opening our communication to other organizations. This foundation of mutual support will ultimately help more New Brunswickers.

The Board of Directors has recently completed the first five-year cycle of the Strategic Plan for AIDS New Brunswick. This is the primary work of the Board and we are proud of the results. 90% of the goals were attained. The main priorities of our second five-year Strategic Plan are in final draft form and will be ready for the goals and timelines discussions in the October Board meeting.

As an organization we are moving to use our many talents and resources to continue to follow our three pillars; Prevention, Education and Support, to promote and support the health and wellbeing of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections while helping to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C and other STBBIs in New Brunswick through the provision of prevention, education and support initiatives.

This is our mission. The demographics of our population are changing, and with that we are looking for the ways our organization can continue to help all New Brunswickers using the solid foundation we have been given by those dedicated to this cause through the past 32 years while partnering with other organizations to share knowledge and services. We can do more together.

We can never forget why we came to be. People are people. Healthcare and support with respect must be available to all.

Respectfully Submitted,

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 2017-2018

Message from the Executive Director



AIDS New Brunswick has been very busy this year. Our federal funding was secured and we began work on our federal work plan; we were offered additional one-year Top-Up Funding through the federal government to continue our education program; our provincial funding was renewed; we received funding for the distribution of Naloxone kits; and we continued doing our valuable ongoing work.

Last year I explained that AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with AIDS Moncton and AIDS Saint John, had been approved for funding by the Public Health Agency of Canada under their Community Action Fund (CAF). Over the past year the three agencies, like many AIDS Services Organizations across Canada, have worked closely together with our federal funder to tighten up our work plan and evaluation plan. The process is ongoing, but, once completed, this work plan will address the stigma preventing access to health care which can result in increased transmission of STBBIs among those who inject drugs.

Unfortunately, under the new CAF funding program, AIDS New Brunswick's Education Program, specifically our in-school education program, was no longer an eligible program for funding. However, by virtue of a transitional funding program referred to as Top-Up Funding offered by PHAC, AIDS New Brunswick was able to continue this programming over the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Between September 2017 through March 2018, 109 outreach presentations were conducted, reaching approximately 2,254 people. That means that we held an outreach of some kind every 1.33 days and reached an average of 20 people per outreach. While this program is currently on hiatus, we are working diligently to re-establish it.

Our two needle exchange programs have once again reached record numbers with 527 clients served, and 290,146 sterile syringes distributed.

I am thrilled to report that beginning with a generous donation by Organigram, and continuing with funding from the Government of New Brunswick's Department of Health, AIDS New Brunswick, AIDS Moncton, and AIDS Saint John began distributing Naloxone kits. These kits are meant to help prevent death related to opioid overdoses in the wake of the current fentanyl crisis in Canada. The initial donation from Organigram was arranged by Debby Warren of AIDS Moncton, who generously negotiated AIDS New Brunswick and AIDS Saint John into the deal. On November 29th, 2017 New Brunswick Minister of Health Benoît Bourque announced at a press conference that the New Brunswick Department of Health would be initiating a Naloxone Distribution program, and that AIDS New Brunswick, AIDS Moncton, and AIDS Saint John would be partners in training the public and distributing the kits.

I want to give special thanks and recognition to Adam (Freeda Whales) Marshall who generously hosted Bottomless Bingo in Support of AIDS New Brunswick. Adam approached AIDS New Brunswick this year with a plan to host drag bingo, and wanted to give the proceeds and donations to the agency. And did he ever deliver. Over the course of just

one year Adam donated more than \$6,000.00 to us! His events are well known around the city, and we are so grateful for his generosity. A portion of Adam's donation was used to purchase \$50 Visa Gift Cards for the holiday mail out to our HIV positive members. Without his donation this would not have happened.

Our team remains strong, and gets stronger and stronger. Keri-Ann seamlessly adjusted to our changing funding structures and kept all of our operations running smoothly, never missing a beat; Natasha worked diligently on our new programming through revisions and adjustments, and produces high calibre invaluable work. New team members Cassandra, Prevention Programs Manager in Fredericton, and Steve, Miramichi Needle Exchange Coordinator, both eagerly and effortlessly stepped into their new roles, making the programming their own, and making it even better. Since I began my career with AIDS NB in the Needle Exchange I can say that I was reluctant to give that programming to someone else, but am extremely pleased with both of their work. Cassandra and Steve go out of their way to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for our clients. Finally, we were thrilled that we were able to lure James back for one more year to resume his role delivering presentations around New Brunswick, while he waited to begin his clerkship with the New Brunswick Court of Appeal. James is a tremendous educator, and we will miss him in our office; but we are so excited to see him move on to his next adventure.

Finally, thank you to each of our 20 volunteers who donated 356 hours to our work this year, and for the continued support and guidance of our Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Smith', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Smith
Executive Director

Events

Red Scarf Campaign

The 3rd annual Red Scarf Campaign took place on World AIDS Day in downtown Fredericton. AIDS New Brunswick collected over 100 scarves from our community.

The Picaroons Roundhouse hosted a knit-a-thon in support of the Red Scarf Campaign. Yarn and needles were donated by Picaroons. Trish Campbell formerly of Yarns on York provided knitting lessons for anyone who wanted to learn.

The scarves were 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.

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

- Capital Community Church
- The Knifty Knitters
- Picaroons
- Friends of AIDS New Brunswick



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



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



Hon. Benoît Bourque, Health Minister with Matthew Smith of AIDS New Brunswick

2017 Smash Stigma Car Smash

The 7th annual Smash Stigma Car Smash was held on October 14th. 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

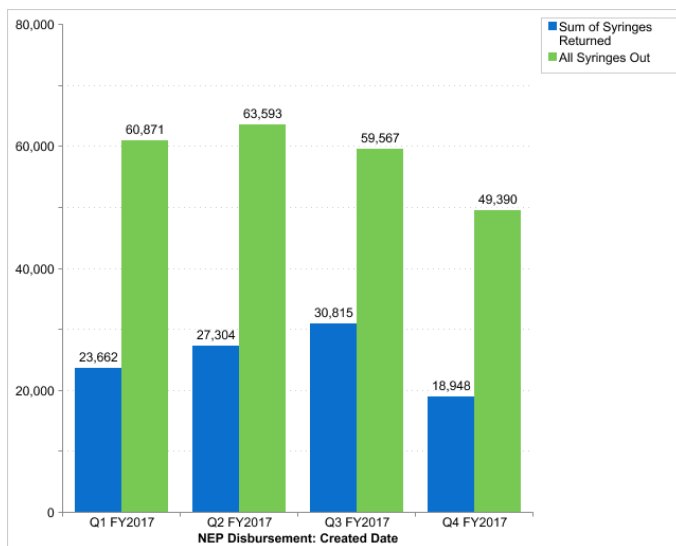
The 2017 World Hepatitis Day campaign message was 'Eliminate Hepatitis'. On July 28th AIDS New Brunswick, in partnership with UNB Nursing, hosted a World Hepatitis Day BBQ in Fredericton. The annual event is an opportunity to promote access to prevention, testing and treatment for people affected by 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.



Prevention Programs

Fredericton Needle Exchange Program

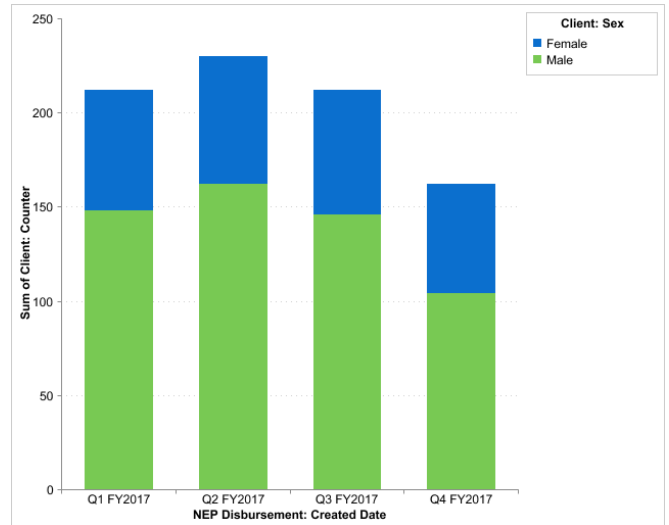
In its 18th year of operation, the Fredericton Needle Exchange Program (FNEP) continues to grow in its distribution numbers. This past year, the FNEP served 425 different people, with 169 of them being new to the program. The FNEP was accessed by all its clients a total of 2,510 times. The exchange program gave out a grand total of 233,421 sterile syringes, 3,338 safer smoking kits, and 13,138 condoms.



FNEP Syringes In/Out

Comparing these numbers to the 2016-2017 fiscal year shows an increase in most areas:

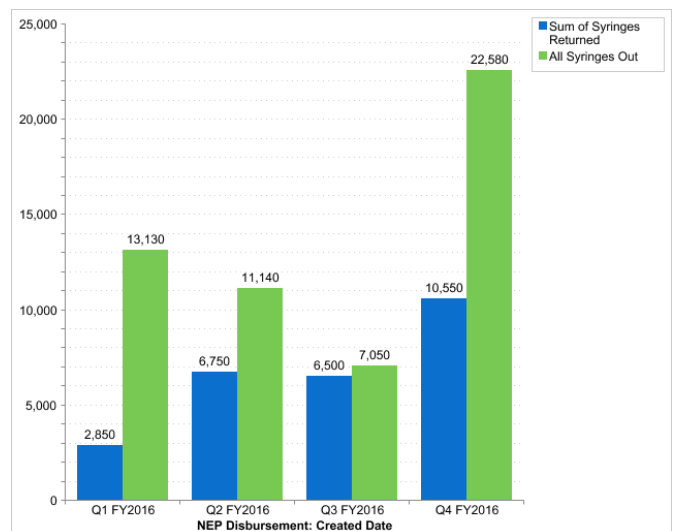
- Syringes Up 15%
- Service Users Up 23%
- Visits Up 25%
- Condoms Down 24%
- Safer smoking kits..... Up 187%



FNEP Client by Sex

Miramichi Needle Exchange Program

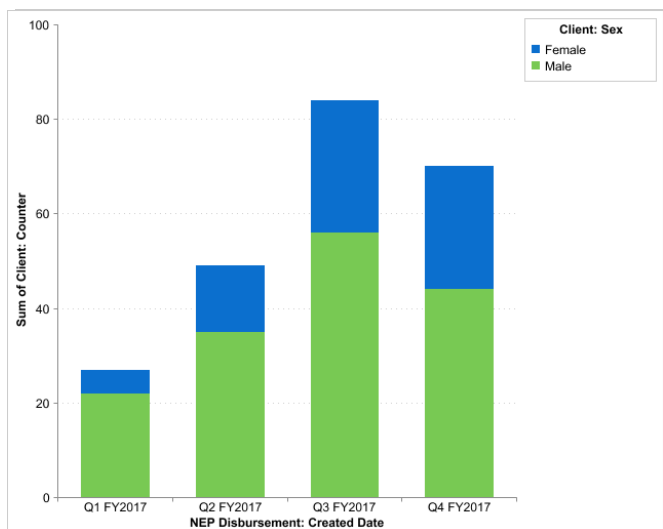
The Miramichi Needle Exchange Program (MNEP) is now in its 6th year of operation and continues increasing its impact on the community. This past year, the MNEP served 147 people, 51 of whom were new to the program. The program was accessed a total of 492 times with total distribution numbers of 56,905 sterile syringes, 431 safer smoking kits, and 749 condoms.



MNEP Syringes In/Out

Comparing these numbers to the 2016-2017 fiscal year, there is an overall increase in all areas:

- Syringes Up 6%
- Service Users Up 70%
- Visits Up 75%
- Condoms Up 26%
- Safer smoking kits..... Up 78%



MNEP Client by Sex

Miramichi has benefited from having an AIDS NB staff member working in the needle exchange again. The clients are thankful and more comfortable with a staff presence and that is evident in the 75% increase in client visits this year. The AIDS NB staff began working in Q2, and there is a large increase in syringes distributed in Q2-Q4 compared to Q1. In addition, the MNEP began distributing tourniquets, cookers, and short syringes in Q3 of this fiscal year, which may also be a reason for the high number of visits and new clients closer to the end of the fiscal year.

Combination of FNEP and MNEP

The two Needle Exchange Programs, FNEP and MNEP, served a record number of 572 people, 220 of whom were new to the program. Overall, AIDS NB Needle Exchange Programs were accessed 3,002 times and distributed the highest number of

safer injection and safer smoking tools yet; with totals of 290, 146 sterile syringes and 3, 769 safer smoking kits. The safer sex distributions decreased, with only 13, 887 condoms distributed this year. Compared to the 2016-2017 fiscal year, this year showed mostly increases:

- Syringes Up 13%
- Service Users Up 32%
- Visits Up 30%
- Condoms Down 22%
- Safer smoking kits..... Up 169%

The decrease in condom distribution may be attributed to the increase in syringe and safer smoking kits. Due to the increased needs in these areas, condom distribution to outside organizations was curbed and therefore, less were given out. Additionally, thanks to a grant from the MAC AIDS Fund, the AIDS NB Education Program was able to supply its own condoms for outside presentation, thereby taking the burden away from the prevention program.

This year, the demand for safer smoking kits greatly increased. Despite almost a 200% increase in distribution, these numbers would have been much higher if they could have been kept in stock within the needle exchanges. However, due to their cost and popularity, the demand was not able to be met given AIDS NB's budget. Clients have said their popularity is due to an increase of crystal methamphetamine in the city; and that the stems (glass piece of the safer smoking kit) are being used to create meth pipes, specifically. While we have been out of safer smoking kits clients have reported using light bulbs, plastic covered glass, and other products to create the meth pipes.

In the fourth quarter, the FNEP's number of distributed syringes decreased, and this is the first year since 2014 that there has been a decrease in

Q4 compared to Q3. This may be attributed to the increased accessibility of methadone and the increase of people opting to smoke crystal methamphetamine, both which began around the end of Q3 and into Q4. The high 32% increase in service users only impacted syringe distribution by 13%, potentially implying that a majority of new clients were not accessing syringes but other services, such as the safer smoking kits. This supports the assumption that there may be a drug smoking increase within AIDS NB supported areas.

Naloxone

This year in prevention, Naloxone kits are also being distributed to our clients. So far, clients have shown interest and appreciation towards our training and distribution of these kits. There has been continued mention of Fentanyl in Fredericton from clients, and reported overdoses, so it is very valuable that we offer these kits. Clients seem discouraged by the 20-minute training session and this may be a reason why there haven't been many distributed to clients yet. AIDS NB has been holding community Naloxone training sessions both in Fredericton and Miramichi. 8 clients and 56 community partners have received Naloxone kit training so far, 85 kits distributed in total.



Education Programs

Overview

There have been significant changes to the Education Program. Under our new contribution agreement, PHAC funding may not be used for in-school presentations and therefore AIDS New Brunswick was unable to secure long-term funding for this program. Fortunately, as a result of one-year of PHAC Top-up funding, we were able to deliver in-school presentations for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Under our new PHAC agreement we are now focusing on the injection drug use population's access to STBBI prevention and treatment services; and assess and advance the knowledge of primary healthcare providers such as physicians, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses on topics relating to STBBI prevention and treatment. As a result, this year the education program was split between the Director of Education and the Director of Outreach and Program Sustainability. The Director of Education was responsible for all newly funded PHAC initiatives, while the Director of Outreach and Program Sustainability was responsible for all in-school presentation, community workshop, and other related outreach and presentation.

In-school/Community Presentations and Outreach

Our program conducted 96 presentations, 8 information displays and 4 community event appearances throughout the province, reaching an estimated 2500 individuals.

Students continue to represent a key demographic for our presentations. Presentations were conducted in every school district in the province, reaching students at 26 secondary schools, 2 middle schools, and 4 post-secondary establishments. An agreement with our fellow New Brunswick ASOs allowing AIDS New Brunswick to conduct presentations across the province allowed us to reach a number of new communities this year, including Greater Moncton, Quispamsis, and Grand Manan.

In addition to students, our STBBI presentations and community information displays have reached a number of new audiences this year. We were invited to present booths at events aimed at the well-being of both senior citizens and new Canadians, and we were invited to present our STBBI 101 presentation to a variety of professionals at a training organized by the New Brunswick Association for community living.

Our Sexual and Gender Diversity 101 workshop became increasingly popular during this fiscal year. We presented to a variety of audiences, including teachers at two different high schools, Sexual Assault Nurse-Examiners (SANE), multicultural societies, and various community partners.

The coming year will be one of great change for this program. While funding is no longer available from the federal government to deliver STBBI 101 presentations in schools, we have secured some funding from the MAC AIDS Foundation which will allow for a limited number of presentations going forward. Our SGD 101 workshops have also received a generous grant of funding from the ARC foundation, which will enable us to continue to meet the increasing demand for these workshops.

New PHAC Initiatives

With respect to our new PHAC initiative to increase the injection drug use population's access to STBBI prevention and treatment services; and assess and advance the knowledge of primary healthcare providers such as physicians, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses on topics relating to STBBI prevention and treatment, we have already designed and administered one survey that was geared towards testing accessibility with a focus on the drug use population recruited through the four needle exchanges across the province. The results provided us with some interesting findings that may be used to conduct future research and use when justifying our programming when requesting funding. Additionally, it informs AIDS New Brunswick on testing technologies that may better suit our geographically diverse population. This same survey will be administered again in three years. Another survey that has been drafted is the NB teacher sexual health knowledge survey, which is under review. Future surveys include assessing primary healthcare providers in their STBBI knowledge. The intent will be to inform AIDS NB on outreach initiatives for healthcare staff so to better access to treatment to the drug use population. This particular survey will also be re-administered three years after the baseline.

Local community roles have become a marked feature of this project. Most notably, relationships with the Fredericton Region Resource Network (FRRN) and the Youth Healthy Relationship Network (YHRN) have flourished. This position has also absorbed the tasks associated with the hepatitis C drop-in with the Downtown Community Health Centre. As such, our relationship with this organization has continued to grow. Other organizations such as the Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF) and Public Health has also informed talks of future programing geared towards other priority populations in addition to intersecting current initiatives. Most notably are the implementation of school condom dispensers through public health, that first started in Miramichi and is now available in Fredericton and Saint John.

Overall, this year was full of many changes to our educational programs, but moving forward we are excited to see where our new direction takes us.

Support Programs

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 2017 and into 2018. 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.

As in previous years, we helped 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 four times throughout the year for housing security, medical needs, food security, and special situations, and distributed more than \$600.00 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 forty phone calls in 2017-2018.



Bottomless Bingo



Bottomless Bingo, hosted by Freeda Whales, takes place monthly at The Capital Complex. All proceeds from this fabulous drag bingo are donated to AIDS New Brunswick.

Thank you to Adam Marshall for raising over \$6,000. A portion of this money was used to buy gift cards for the annual Christmas mail out.



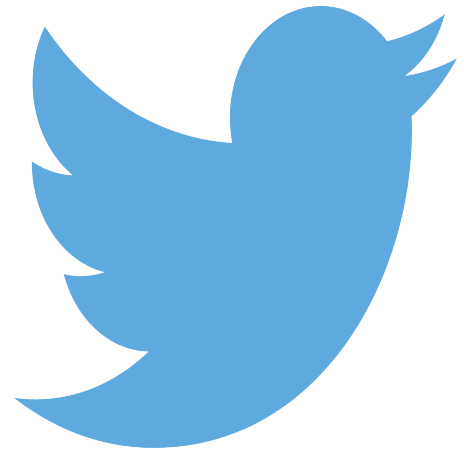
Social Media



19,014 Page views



762  Like



1,668 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.