

AIDS New Brunswick Annual Report Fiscal Year 2005-2006



Message from the President

As I approach the end of my first year as President of the Board of AIDS NB I can say that it has been anything but dull. I took on the role of president, as everything at the organization seemed stable and moving forward. But of course I was not going to be able to cut my teeth on this position during stability. I knew that we were going to be working with a new Program Support Coordinator we welcomed Morgan Worth to AIDS NB and have been very pleased with her ability to jump into the fire and come out shinning. Shortly after I came on board Haley Flaro the Executive Director was offered a position that moved her career in a very positive direction. So with heavy hearts we bid Haley best wishes and good luck. Thankfully we were able to find a most able and suitable replacement in Joannah Lang. Jo took over the position at a time of great change. As you can imagine the two of us have been in constant communication, neither of us having the historical knowledge that Haley and Margaret had! We have overcome the challenges of staff changing through retirements, maternity leaves, and loss of funding. And on that note we have had to forge ahead with a budget that was smaller than the previous year and a demand for services that continues to increase.

One of the first official acts as President was to represent the Board at the World AIDS Day Breakfast. It was very nice to be able to meet the new Lieutenant Governor, Hermenegilde Chiasson, and to speak with various members of the New Brunswick Legislature during this awareness raising activity. Always a fun event, and who can say no to a free breakfast.

We have had a number of fundraising events over the past year; a yard sale, a basket raffle, dances and our annual AIDS Walk all of which have helped to raise the profile of the organization and bring in much needed additional funds.

And we have experienced a number of challenges. Despite all of our fund-raising activities we still regrettably had to cancel the Fall Forum due to a shortage of funds. This was not done without much thought and a great deal of discussion with the Board members and the staff in the office.

Board of
Directors
2005-2006

President:

Tracey Rickard

Past President

Margaret Dykeman

Vice-President:

Jim Burns

Treasurer:

Roberta Ellingsen

Secretary:

Maria Richard

**Persons Living with
HIV/AIDS**

We have also had to decrease the number of face-to-face board meetings from three a year to two. This poses its own set of challenges as the daylong meetings were often used to discuss contentious issues and move the organizations mandate forward. Further, we recognize the ongoing challenge that we face as a result of not being able to fulfill the bilingual language requirements for this provincial organization and are constantly looking for ways to improve.

But with every challenge there has emerged an idea, a hope of improvement and a renewed commitment. Not everyone sees change as improvement but as the President, I like to keep a positive outlook. We recognize the need for greater funds development plans. As a board we will be putting a plan into place to work towards generating enough funds so that the very important Fall Forum will happen next year. We recently had two board members leave the organization after completing two of their three-year terms and it is our expectation that our Recruitment and Retention committee will fill those positions in such a way that our Board is enhanced and further energized to ensure our Province is well represented with skilled individuals. We need to have a renewed look at the organization's mandate to ensure that we are able to continue to answer to it, that we are able to provide services that address the needs of the people we serve and represent. I will be looking for greater involvement from our Board members on this new exciting journey. We are hoping for a better relationship with the new Liberal government. I think it is time that they took a look at the cost saving that we provide the province with the Needle Exchange Program and the info-line that continues to function despite a significant lack of funding.

I know that we have our work cut out for us for the coming year, and that exciting possibilities are out there for us, we just have to re-focus, strategize and work together in order to use these opportunities to continue to improve our programs and services.

Tracey Rickards

Executive Directors note:

This year's annual report reflects the agency's finances and activities for the fiscal year April 01, 2005-March 31st, 2006. We hope that this new format will provide a clear reflection of the years activities.

Jo Lang

A community Movement

Formed in 1987, AIDS New Brunswick is a non-profit, community-based agency directed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Our Mission

AIDS New Brunswick is a provincial organization committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. The aim is to promote and support the health and well-being of persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in New Brunswick.

Responding to HIV/AIDS: We Can All Take Action

All of us, regardless of the communities to which we belong, can be part of a response.

How can we respond and make a difference? How can AIDS New Brunswick support individual, family and community responses to HIV/AIDS?

On an individual or personal level...

- Assess your risk of getting HIV and take positive steps to reduce any risks. Part of assessing your risk may first involve getting informed about HIV transmission.
- Reflect on your own attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Volunteer and/or support the

fundraising efforts of your local AIDS organization and write letters to community leaders and policy makers in support of funding HIV/AIDS related initiatives.

AIDS New Brunswick helps people become better informed and address HIV/AIDS-related concerns.

In 2005-2006, we:

- Responded to over 700 callers through the toll-free Helpline.
- Received an average of 672 visitors per month and over 8,000 annual visits on our web site (www.aidsnb.com).
- Provided support counseling to persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) and caregivers on 326 occasions.
- Supported financial assistance for 42 PLWHIV/AIDS through a partnership with AIDS Saint John and SIDA AIDS Moncton.
- Participated in 18 Media features throughout New Brunswick.
- Took in over 23,000 used needles and distributed just over 22,000 needles.
- Our Health and Wellness Committee with contributions from many community partners produced a recipe book for People living with HIV/AIDS entitled *The Positive Gourmet*.
- Provided educational and support sessions at the Atlantic Correctional Centre in Renous.

Among your families, friends and co-workers you can...

- Raise awareness about HIV prevention by talking about

AIDS New Brunswick Staff 2005-06 Executive Director:

Haley L. Flaro

Program Support Coordinator:

George Flanders

Program Coordinators:

Denise Ogon
Julie Keirstead

Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) Liaison:

Sara Davidson

Project Coordinator

Amber Nicol

Walk-in Programs Coordinator

Kelly Morrell

Announcing

AIDS New Brunswick Staff for 2006-07

Executive Director:

Joannah Lang
RSW

Program Support Coordinator:

Morgan Worth

Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) Liaison:

Janelle Sweatnam
Sara Davidson
(on leave)

how HIV is transmitted and prevented, and by encouraging those you know to change activities that put them at risk of contracting HIV.

- Raise awareness and challenge prejudice directed at those living with HIV or AIDS.
- Offer support to family and friends affected by HIV/AIDS.

AIDS New Brunswick helps to inform and support networks.

In 2005-2006, we:

- Provided sessions to schools/universities, non-profit organizations and government departments through our Speakers Bureau.
- Delivered a Hepatitis C workshop in the Miramichi. 39 area service providers attended.
- Ran youth-friendly radio Ads regarding Hepatitis C prevention.
- Responded to requests for nearly 20, 000 print materials from our provincial Resource Centre/Library.
- Updated two bilingual Hepatitis C fact sheets: *Get the Facts! Living with Hepatitis C*, *Get the Facts! Know your Risks and Get Tested* (fact sheets)
- Held *Peer Support Phone Chats* for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Held a summer *Gathering* for people living with HIV/AIDS at camp Rotary, a Fall Forum, and a gathering for women was held in Doaktown.
- Provided student preceptorship support to a St. Thomas University Social Work placement .

As a community...

- Become involved in groups or organizations that work towards the development and improvement of public policy and services, such as sex education programs in schools, income security programs for PLWHIV/AIDS, needle exchange and methadone programs.
- Participate in community initiatives aimed at increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and generating funds for prevention and support programs.

AIDS New Brunswick supports community opportunities.

In 2005-2006, we:

- Worked in partnership with the UNB Faculty of Nursing, City of Fredericton Police Department, NB Department of Health and Wellness, Addiction Services and STU Department of Social Work to deliver a Needle Exchange Program.
- Worked in partnership with St Thomas University to organize the Fredericton AIDS Walk; over 300 people participated. raising \$8,666.

The proceeds were shared between AIDS New Brunswick and the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

- Organized a Poinsettia campaign which netted over \$1,500.
- In partnership with the *Queer & Other Folks Dance Committee* and the *East Coast Bears* delivered 3 social events for the gay/lesbian/bisexual/two spirited community raising almost \$2,500.
- Delivered, in partnership with other AIDS organizations in New Brunswick, a World AIDS Day awareness-raising breakfast for MLAs and other community leaders.
- Through the PLWHIV/AIDS Summer Gathering that was offered in partnership with AIDS Saint John and SIDA AIDS Moncton, the Women's Gathering and the Fall Forum, we provided an opportunity for approximately 40 PLWHIV/AIDS to come together for skills-building and peer support.


- In partnership with youth-serving agencies, continued lobby efforts for a comprehensive sexual health curriculum.
- In partnership with members of the NB Coalition on Prescription Drug Use and the CCENDU Fredericton Site Committee and with financial support from Purdue Pharma, produced the AWARE!/INFORMATION, a provincial newsletter on drug and alcohol issues in New Brunswick.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are the cornerstone of our efforts. In 2005-2006, AIDS New Brunswick recorded 981 volunteer hours in areas such as our Speakers Bureau, translation, Board of Directors, Youth Advisory Committee, AIDS Walk, Walk-in Programs (e.g., Needle Exchange Program), dances, Health & Wellness Committee for PLWHIV/AIDS and our Resource Centre.

In 2005-2006, we had 105 volunteers, who volunteered a total of 981 hours over 373 occasions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the so many more "volunteers" who gave of their time to gather pledges, walk in our Annual AIDS Walk, pitched in to help deliver Poinsettias, and those who spontaneously offered help throughout the year. These volunteers gave of their time without submitting their hours for recording purposes and contributed much to our success. Thank-you all.

Did you know?

- You are welcome to tour our agency, use or borrow the Resource Centre materials, pick-up a pamphlet, and/or meet the staff. All are welcome. We are open weekdays from 8:30-4:30 pm. Please call ahead to arrange a tour.
- In 2005-2006, Claire Shanahan recorded the highest number of volunteer hours at 172 hours, followed by James Edwards (83), Margaret Dykeman and Cyrille Godin (62), Myles Legacy (56), and Tacey Rickards (48)
- Our Health & Wellness Committee continues to launch a provincial newsletter for people living with HIV/AIDS called POZITIVE NEWS.
- You can now make a direct online donation at www.aidsnb.com through CanadaHelps.org! Click on "fundraising" and "donate". You will receive an electronic tax receipt.
- As a member, you can register to receive our  e-newsletter—*Action HIVIH*—every 6 months!

Report on 2005 PLWHIV/AIDS Forum Recommendations

Recommendations (Presented on Nov. 10, 2006)	Action Taken (by March 31, 2006)
1. We recommend that that all previous recommendations brought forth in the past continue to be brought to the table.	We continued to enhance actions taken on recommendations from previous years. The Health & Wellness Committee continues to play a key role in PLWHIV/AIDS program, service and policy development; the three PLWHIV/AIDS designated seats on the Board are currently filled; there are four PLWHIV/AIDS currently registered in our Speakers Bureau; a summer gathering, a women's gathering and an annual Fall Forum for PLWHIV/AIDS were delivered; and persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) and caregivers received support counseling on 326 occasions. In addition, the PLWHIV/AIDS Liaison position was expanded from three days per week to four days per week for this reporting period.
2. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick develop a study on the impact to its programs and services as a result of the loss of provincial funding, then develop a public awareness raising campaign around	Due to the unavailability of funds and staff turnovers, resources were not available to address this recommendation.
3. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick conduct a survey of clients in regards to their attempts to access provincial disability benefits, to determine what barriers may be there to accessing disability benefits. Once these experiences have been collected, it is recommended that AIDS New Brunswick work with the appropriate levels of government and	To ensure staff continuity in gathering and compiling interview data a phone survey of PLWHIV/AIDS is planned for early in the New Year 2007 to survey experiences accessing disability benefits.
4. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick provide HIV/AIDS sensitivity training and awareness-raising to existing counseling and support agencies in the province to help provide persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS with more appropriate	HIV education and awareness raising training is available by request of the service provider.
5. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick annually provide a Persons Living with HIV/AIDS weekend retreat.	We have heard this request and in the next fiscal year 2006-07 will develop a funds development strategy to attempt to provide this opportunity in the most cost effective manner.
6. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick consult with clients to discover the most effective format for peer support to take; furthermore, that a buddy system be explored, and existing programs be further	We have consulted with many PLWHIV/AIDS informally and plan to incorporate this question into the PLWHIV/AIDS survey early in 2007. An informal buddy system has been arranged for a number of PLWHIV/AIDS upon request, further, the women's and gay men's chats are in place.
7. We recommend that AIDS New Brunswick advocate with the New Brunswick Medical Society, the Chief Medical Officer and other appropriate organizations, to ensure that health care practitioners have adequate resources to enhance their capacity to deliver appropriate services to	Unfortunately, to date, we do not have the necessary data to lobby for enhanced capacity. We are currently exploring opportunities to gather data regarding the medical community's resources to provide adequate care to PLWHIV/AIDS.

- Interested in the Board of Directors? We are interested in hearing from you! We keep a reserve list of potential Board candidates so there is no need to wait. Apply anytime. Please go to www.aidsnb.com and click on “About Us” and “Board” and fill out both a nomination form and a membership form!