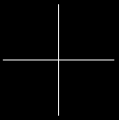


FORGOTTEN BUT NOT GONE





HIV doesn't have to be a death sentence.



But that does not mean it's easy.



Our lives change forever.



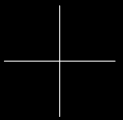
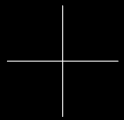
Without a cure.



We live in the margins.



And HIV is not our only challenge.



Finding real support can help.



Sometimes, it's essential.

+ THE
NEEDS
HAVE
NEVER
GONE
AWAY.



For 37 years, HIV Edmonton has served our city's HIV+ community. We started in the midst of the AIDS crisis. Our work was as top-of-mind as you could get. A generation later, most Edmontonians hardly give HIV a second thought.

The COVID-19 pandemic stretched us further than ever before. Our community was reeling, with the pandemic doubling the struggle to survive. COVID changed our year and how we did our work, but the need for support remained the same. Our services changed—and we saved lives.



As we continue to reach people, they get more than their basic needs met. They feel truly seen in a world that often pushes them aside.



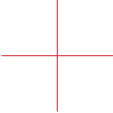
The heart of our work happens face to face. It can be as simple as a quick hello and a few free condoms. Sometimes it's setting individuals up with social supports, housing services, or addiction services—we continue to make hundreds of referrals each year. Often, it's a warm meal shared with familiar friends. Whatever the reason for their visit, clients know that at HIV Edmonton, stigma does not exist. They matter. And they will never feel forgotten.





“HIV EDMONTON REALLY MAKES A MASSIVE DIFFERENCE IN BEING ABLE TO STAY HEALTHY IN ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH. NOT JUST THE EATING PART BUT THE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL PART. YOUR KINDNESS HELPED TO KEEP ME GOING AND ALIVE. Y’ALL ARE ANGELS. YOU KEEP PEOPLE ALIVE”





EVERY CONNECTION MAKES AN IMPACT.

WE GET OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Every year, our events raise much needed awareness and funds. With the impact of COVID-19 on social gatherings, a large shift needed to happen. That is just what we did. In one of the toughest years on record, our supporters said “yes” when asked—and we can’t thank them enough.

Taste for Life is all about getting the community excited about food. They dine out, so our clients can dine in! This too had to shift as we pivoted to a Dine in For Life online experience. It was the first event we had to move online and our supporters really stepped up!

Our annual iconic AIDS Walk that normally takes the city by storm also had to go virtual. The commitment of many to embrace this change was exceptional. We asked folks to walk distanced yet connected in their own communities and many did. We also learned that outside of the usual safety of walking together, the concerns of stigma found our HIV positive supporters fearful of walking alone while visibly showing support. This important reminder of the ongoing stigma still creates isolation and remains pervasive. With incredible drag performances and a special online concert, there was a sense of community and honouring that made it different, but still so impactful.

After our success with previous survivor style fundraisers, we launched a Beer Survivor over the summer and then introduced our re-branded “Wine for Winter” fundraiser in the fall. With a new look came a huge increase in participants. Our online fundraising through our wine and beer survivors is proving to be a hit with the community, allowing folks to participate from home while trying to outlast the other players to win!

Our team has always worked hard to stay current on new developments of STBBIs. This year, we added new online engagement platforms to our education. Building trust and relationships is our strength. This builds capacity and understanding while diminishing stigma. We were able to continue this work by moving our Dynamics and other prevention education online, with new initiatives like the Conversation Cafe’s engagement with the community. Although providing education to the community looked different this year, it was still impactful and connecting!

Our support and outreach also had to pivot. With restrictions, the team took to the community! Deliveries of meals, hygiene items, bus tickets and other items went out every month. We were successful in receiving two grants that allowed us to ensure food security for this challenging year, as well as the amazing gift of tablets that allowed connection virtually to our clients. Connecting with our community was not always easy, but the impact and kinship that was achieved was meaningful and strength giving.

We cannot thank our volunteers and community and partners enough. Throughout the challenge of 2020, they made it all come together.

+ THE
NUMBERS
CAN'T BE
IGNORED.

THIS WAS OUR YEAR.

+ 119 NEW HIV CASES
IN EDMONTON
(7% INCREASE)

+ 1432 CASES OF
INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS
(42% INCREASE)

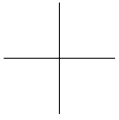
+ 100 COMPUTER
TABLETS DISTRIBUTED

+ 94 COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

+ 121 NEWCOMER
PARTICIPANTS

+ 9 CLIENT DEATHS

+ 12,000 CONDOMS
DISTRIBUTED



PROGRESS, ONE YEAR AT A TIME.

THE POLITICAL IS PERSONAL

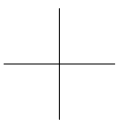
For those who cannot have their voices heard, we are committed to amplifying their stories and continue to press for changes to not only improve but save people's lives. Black Lives Matter and the work of Indigenous reconciliation stood out to all as the work that needs to be done.

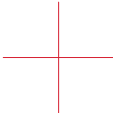
ADDING OUR VOICE

"I can't breathe"... Three words at the end of a life stolen. The death of George Floyd evoked both heartbreaking sadness and visceral anger around the world. The calls for racial justice, and the work to dismantle the white supremacist systems led by Black Lives Matter groups, were heard by HIV Edmonton. Addressing health inequity has always been a part of our work, but we recognize the need to do more. Do better. Work harder. As a result, we're taking action. At the end of 2020, we have hired a consultant to conduct an internal equity audit, begun review of our organizational structure and will initiate interpersonal training addressing racism and inequalities to hold ourselves accountable as we chart a pathway together with our communities.

CONCURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES

Long before COVID-19, we have been battling other major public health crises: opioids, HIV, Hepatitis C and poverty. The addition of COVID-19 led us into an unprecedented time. Sadly, 2020 had us experience exceptional losses. The public health response of COVID-19 led to physical distancing, isolation, absence of many services, and the most grave impact: loneliness. The opioid crisis continues to be a political challenge. And HIV is being lost in public health dialogues due to COVID-19. The challenges are great, but HIV Edmonton is steadfast in our commitment to provide access to harm reduction. Health services cannot be optional—they must be available to all people who need them.





AN UNFORGETTABLE EFFORT

MESSAGE FROM
OUR BOARD CHAIR
+ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another year at HIV Edmonton comes to a close. 2020 was definitely memorable and a year of change! We bid a fond farewell and sent gratitude of thanks to our past Executive Director and welcomed a celebration of energy in our new leader. We witnessed new staff building relationships and experienced team members trying new directions, both approaches changing how we do our work.

As we experienced the additional changes that COVID-19 necessitated, we watched our staff, volunteers, board members, funders, and most definitely our community members, rise up to meet the unexpected challenges. What was demonstrated in the collective response, is the very best of our organization: we are more than just a building, we are more than the sum of our programs, we are an extended family that fills the gaps, that builds the resources needed to ensure we continue towards Zero New Infections, Zero Stigma and Discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related Deaths.

Thank you for a year of challenges accepted and mountains climbed. For understanding that sometimes forecasts and plans will not materialize. We appreciate and are grateful for everyone who contributed to maintaining hope and persevering along with us. Be well.

Lynne Kaiser, Board Chair
+ Catherine Broomfield, Executive Director



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Jose Tovillo Vice Chair
CJ De Jong Treasurer
Morgan Wadams Secretary
David Campbell Director
Luiz Costa Director
Ryan Fung Director
Thomas Kuperus Director
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KEY FUNDERS

Alberta Community Council on HIV
Alberta Health
Alberta Government
The City of Edmonton
ECALA
Edmonton Community Foundation
Gilead
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
Realtors Community Foundation
TD Canada Trust
Union 52



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