

Looking Back Over the Past Year: A message to ACT's friends, members, and supporters

As we look back at the work accomplished at the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) over this past year, we are reminded of the complexities of HIV/AIDS and the need to continue to mobilize in a responsive and effective manner.

Since ACT was formed in 1983, the AIDS epidemic has changed greatly. And it is far from over. HIV/AIDS increasingly affects vulnerable communities throughout Toronto. Women and men, youth, drug users, recent immigrants, and Aboriginal people all face the reality of HIV/AIDS — whether infected with HIV/AIDS or affected in some other way.

Gay and bisexual men, one of the first communities of people in Toronto impacted by the epidemic, struggle to maintain safer sexual practices and to withstand the impact of years of loss. Non-gay identi-

fied men who have sex with other men contend with risks to themselves and their sexual partners.

Youth marginalized as a result of race, socio-economic status, gender or sexual orientation are placed at risk for infection with HIV. Despite generally high levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, many young people find themselves in situations where they cannot negotiate safer sex and safer drug-using behaviours.

Some people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) who are taking anti-HIV combination drug therapies have found the side effects of these drugs difficult to endure. The continued erosion of the social safety net, and years of cutbacks in health care, have left many PHAs in poverty with inadequate access to supports such as home care. Faced with ever-changing treatment information, many PHAs feel over-

whelmed. And many PHAs continue to experience social isolation as a result of their HIV status.

Faced with these complexities, ACT's programs and services must continually evolve to meet the needs of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. To achieve this, ACT must continue to foster existing partnerships with a wide range of organizations and seek out new ones. At ACT we have seen the benefits that partnerships bring to our service users: this past year ACT saw an 80 percent increase in the number of women accessing our wide range of support services as a result of partnership work with Voices of Positive Women. As we continue to develop innovative HIV prevention and support programming for at-risk communities partnerships will be critical.

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ACT: We're here for you

ACT is the AIDS Committee of Toronto. We've been providing services to people concerned about HIV/AIDS since 1983. We're one of the oldest and the largest community-based AIDS organizations in Canada. And we're committed to respond to the changing needs of men and women, whether you are someone living with HIV/AIDS or someone whose life has been touched in some other way by this epidemic.

I need someone to talk to...

You can make an appointment to talk with a counsellor or you can just walk in to our offices and ask to speak with the 'counsellor on call.' Counsellors can meet you in a coffee shop or they can talk with you on the phone. ACT Counsellors are here for you — whether you are living with HIV/AIDS or your life has been touched in some other way by HIV/AIDS. Our counsellors are men and women from various communities. Some of them are living with HIV/AIDS themselves.

If you are a man or woman living with HIV/AIDS, ACT can connect you with a buddy — a volunteer trained to provide ongoing friendly support.

ACT has lots of different support groups for men and women.

ACT staff and volunteers are out in your community. We want to talk with you and answer your questions about HIV/AIDS, safer sex, and the services in your community that you can hook up to.

I need some practical, concrete help...

If you are living with HIV/AIDS, ACT can help you in many practical ways.

- We provide drives to and from health-related appointments. We can loan you medical equipment that you are unable to afford — a wheelchair or scooter, for example.
- We can help with moves. We can get you good secondhand furniture: beds, tables and chairs, sofas, etc.

- We can connect you with a volunteer who will help you with tasks around the house like laundry, shopping or meals.
- Knowledgeable volunteers can also help you figure out your income tax return and your insurance policy.
- We have a phone at our office that you can use to make local calls.
- We have a computer workstation at our office with all the latest software that you can use to create letters or resumes, for example.



I need information about HIV/AIDS...

ACT has lots of AIDS information for everyone — men, women, youth and transgendered people; lesbian, gay, straight or bisexual; HIV positive or HIV negative. Visit our Access Centre at our offices. Pick up lots of free information. And if you don't see what you want, ask us. We'll connect you with what you need.

ACT's information is out in the community, too — in doctor's offices, other AIDS organizations, hospital clinics, bars and bath houses. We also have an informative and interactive website where you can search for all sorts of information about HIV/AIDS, safer sex, services and HIV-related events listings: <http://www.actoronto.org>

Our library has books, videos, audiotapes, magazines, access to the Internet and lots of other AIDS resources.

We hold workshops and training sessions on a huge variety of subjects related to AIDS: new ways to fight HIV, safer sex, grief and loss, what AIDS means in your workplace, etc.

We develop information materials on HIV/AIDS for specific communities affected by the epidemic. And we distribute these materials around the world.

The ACT Hotline answers your questions about HIV/AIDS. Call us at 416-340-8844.

I want to get involved...

There are lots of ways to get involved with ACT.

Become a member. Participate in ACT events. Volunteer. Make a donation. Advocate for change.

Drop by and see what ACT can do for you.

Just the Facts

For the period 1 April 1998 through 31 March 1999

10,034 PEOPLE visited ACT's Access Centre for information, referrals and other resources

68,168 INCOMING PHONE CALLS were received at our Information desk

ACT counsellors provided 2,438 COUNSELLING SESSIONS to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

424 RIDES to medical appointments were provided to PHAs through the ACT Drives Programme

76 MOVES were provided for PHAs through the ACT Moves Programme

100 PEOPLE were provided with various household goods (sofas, tables etc.) through the ACT Furniture Exchange Programme

ACT outreach staff and volunteers provided free condoms and lubricant to 25,580 MEN in gay bars, baths and parks

20,945 INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES were distributed in bars, bath houses, community centres, doctors offices and other locations throughout Toronto

506 APPOINTMENTS to our Naturopathic Clinic for PHAs were filled

72 MEN AND WOMEN living with HIV/AIDS attended "Camp Jayne", our PHA retreat

ACT Staff are Out There

Some of the places that you will find ACT staff and Board members:

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) Support Services Committee

BookAIDS Canada

Canadian AIDS Society

Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation

City Watch Coalition (re: city budget)

Community Voices of Support (city grants)

G-MEN (Gay Men's Education Network of Toronto)

HALCO (HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic of Ontario)

HOLA

Key Partners Committee

Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Line Advisory Committee

Metro Addictions Treatment Services – Women's

Sub-committee

Mount Sinai Community Advisory Board – Clinic for HIV Related

Concerns

NAVAM (Network of AIDS Volunteer Administrators of the Megacity)

Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS Working Group on Pregnancy

and Testing

Ontario Ministry of Health, AIDS Bureau Community-based Evaluation

Unit Committee

Ontario Ministry of Health, AIDS Bureau HIV Prevention Revitalization

Project

Scarborough HIV/AIDS Network

Self-help Resource Centre

Sexual Health Network

The Gathering (Community partnership network for women's support)

Toronto Disaster Relief Committee

Toronto Health Coalition

VIVER (Portuguese-speaking HIV/AIDS Coalition)

WON (Women's Outreach Network)

Employment Action: A new service for people living with HIV/AIDS who are considering (re)-entering the work force

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, in the face of illness or in order to preserve emotional and physical health, many people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) have retired from the work force. Until recently, most expected that such retirement would be permanent.

Advances made in monitoring viral loads and treating infections, in the last few years, have significantly altered the situation of many PHAs, enabling many to begin considering (re)-entering the work force. In

response to these changes, the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (TPWAF) undertook a comprehensive study called "Back to the Future" which explored the options, possibilities, and barriers for PHAs (re)-entering the work

force. The TPWAF investigated the barriers of (re)-entering the work force, particularly the issue of medical benefits.

ACT is committed to addressing and providing services to meet the changing needs of our service users. The "Back to the Future" study reconfirmed ACT's continuing partnership with TPWAF and led us to seek funding to develop a free, innovative, client-focused employment service open to all individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

As of 7 September 1999, the Employment Action programme will enable all PHAs to safely and confidentially explore the possibilities and options for (re)-entering the work force while minimizing the risks. The Employment Action programme is committed to the empowerment of service users to choose and direct their individual career path and be supported by a skilled and qualified employment team.

The Employment Action programme will respond to each individual's employment goals and help discover what is required for that service user's success.

The Employment Action programme provides:

- Benefits Counselling
- Employment Planning
- Career Exploration
- Career Assessments
- Job Trials
- Employment Skills Development
- Self-employment Development
- Job Placement
- Employment Support Resources

If you want to find out more about this new service for PHAs, please call ACT at 416-340-2437 and say you would like to speak with someone in the Employment Action programme.

EMPLOYMENT ACTION



Photo: Shawn Scallen

The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) held their Annual General Meeting from 7–11 July, 1999 in Hull, Quebec. As part of the festivities, a time capsule was buried containing our collective hopes and dreams for the end of the AIDS epidemic. The time capsule will be exhumed only once a cure for HIV/AIDS is found. Four ACT representatives attended the week of meetings and festivities. From left to right are: Trevor Gray (ACT Board member), Charles Roy (ACT Executive Director), Michael Battista (ACT Board Chair) and Enrico Mandarinio (ACT Board Member).

have hired a staff member to provide direct outreach to women at risk for HIV infection. Our new Portuguese-speaking Men's Outreach Coordinator has begun conducting outreach to Portuguese-speaking men who have sex with men and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS within Portuguese-speaking communities. We have initiated a variety of programs that respond to the social isolation experienced by many PHAs. Our advocacy efforts have ensured that HIV prevention funds provided by the City of Toronto continue to be available, and we continue to work with others to advocate for the home care needs of PHAs.

We are pleased to announce that our Employment Action programme for PHAs who may be contemplating (re)-employment in the work force is now up and running (see the article on the Employment Action programme above).

The AIDS crisis still challenges us to discover innovative and varied responses. In the past months, ACT has continued the work of its mission statement — to confront HIV/AIDS through support, education, and advocacy — in new and diverse ways. The programmes put in place here in the past year mean that we will be able to face the coming year with confidence. None of this could be possible without the involvement of the community: members, volunteers, staff and donors. We depend on your participation to ensure that our services remain relevant and responsive. Historically ACT has relied on the involvement of its communities and this is just as important today, as AIDS issues increase in size and complexity. The invaluable support we have received in the past has brought us this far. With your support, we are convinced that we will continue to meet the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

Michael Battista
Chair, Board of Directors

Charles M. Roy, D.S.W.
Executive Director

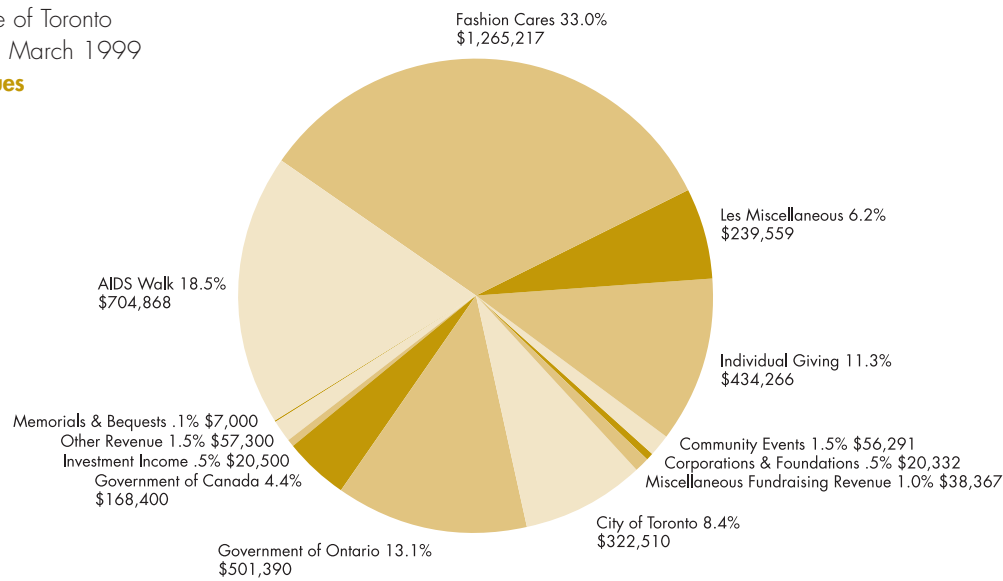
Looking Back

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Midway through our current fiscal year, ACT has already undertaken many new initiatives in response to increasing needs within the diverse communities we serve. We have hired a Youth Community Development Coordinator who is busy meeting with AIDS and youth organizations to determine the most appropriate response to the HIV-prevention needs of young gay and bisexual men and young at-risk women. We

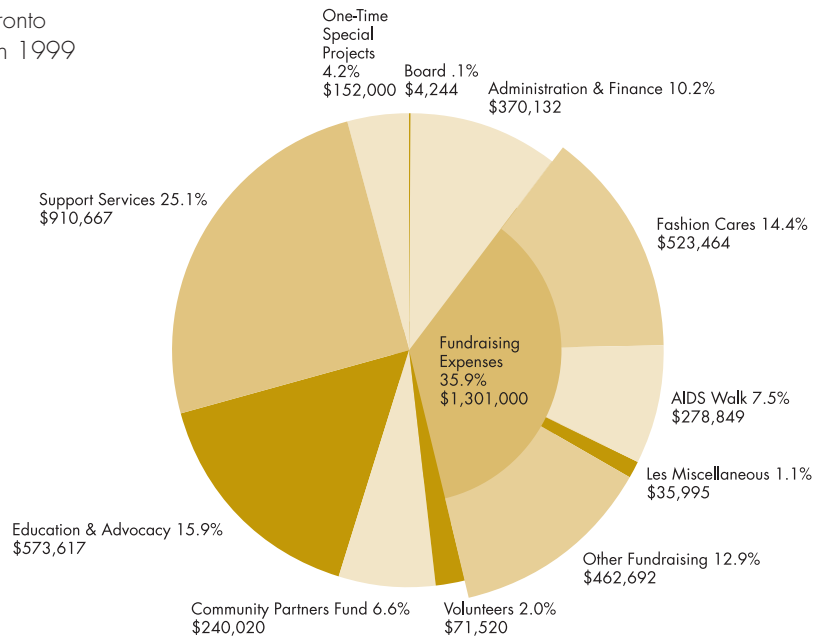
AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 1999

Agency Revenues



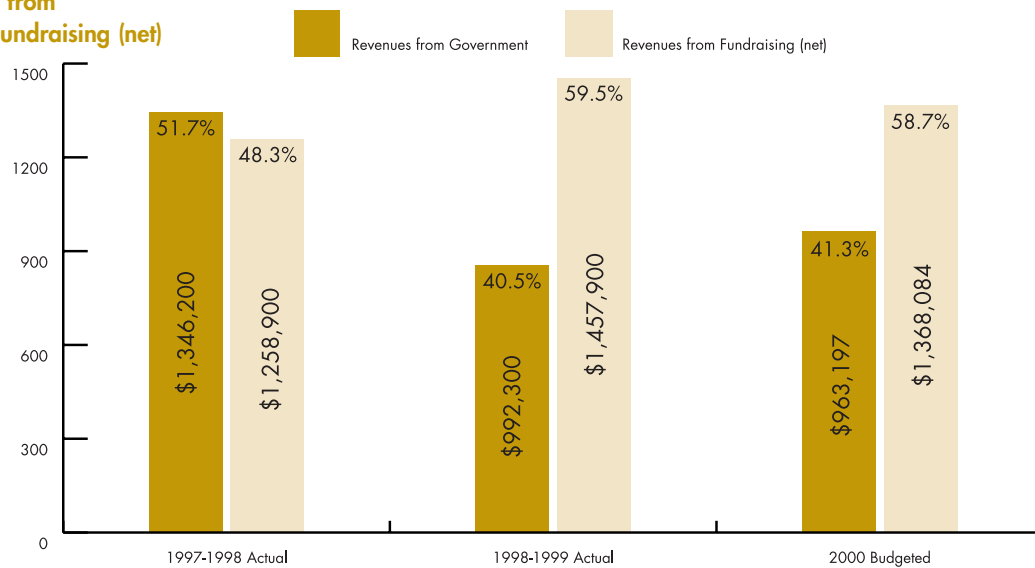
AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 1999

Agency Expenditures



AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 1999

Agency Revenues from Government vs. Fundraising (net)

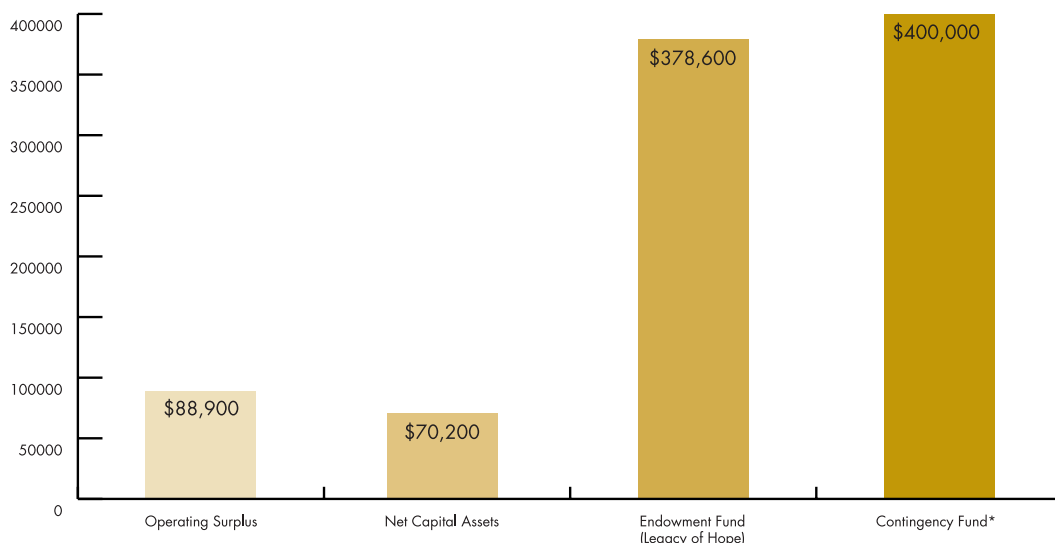


AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 1999

Net Assets

* Due to an alarming trend in federal government funding cuts, the Board has decided to establish a contingency fund to protect the agency against future reductions in government support.

Audited financial statements available on request. Phone 416-340-8484 ext. 227.



Join us at ACT's Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, 19 October, 1999

The 1999 Annual General Meeting of the AIDS Committee of Toronto will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, 19 October, 1999 at the 519 Church Street Community Centre (Church Street just north of Wellesley Street).

To be eligible to vote for this year's Board candidates you must be a member in good standing as of Monday, 19 September, 1999. To check your membership standing call Malcolm Coles at 416-340-8484 ext. 235.



Legacy of Hope Society

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to those individuals who have confirmed a legacy or planned gift to ACT as of August, 1999. These gifts include bequest intentions and gifts of life insurance.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Joan Anderson | Maureen de Sorcy | Michael McKeirhen |
| Brian Keith Bailey | Rufus B. Dickinson | Donald McLeish |
| Michael Battista | Diana M.W. Hancock | Mosh Pearl |
| Sandi Bonini | Karsten Kossmann | Ron Rosenes |
| William J. Brown | Geoff Lawrence | Ann Rosenfield |
| Arnold Burgiss | Bruce Lawson | Charles M. Roy |
| Anthony Cappello | Cylethia Lee | James Shakley |
| Mary Ellen Cassey | Greg Lichti | Joey Shulman |
| Nicola Clayton | Enrico Mandarino | Wendy Storey |
| Mark Deacon | Barrie W. Martin | 20 anonymous donors |

Legacy of Hope Fund Bequests

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Estate of Carle Falle | Estate of Keith John Williams |
| Estate of Edith Burnand | Estate of Timothy Patrick Egan |

Named funds

The following are named funds within ACT's Legacy of Hope fund at the Toronto Community Foundation. The principle of the funds is preserved in perpetuity with accrued interest used to support ACT's programmes.

The Joan M. Anderson Fund

The Leo Murphy and Carle Falle Fund

The John Charles Helliwell Fund

The Ian Findlay Library Fund

The Enrico Mandarino Fund

The Ron Rosenes Health Promotion Fund

The Charles M. Roy Fund

The David Wood Fund

1 anonymous donor

Funds in italics to be established in the future

Making a Difference Through Your Will

Your will is more than a legal document. It can be one of the most powerful tools you have to help the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through a bequest in your will to the AIDS Committee of Toronto, you can leave a legacy of hope.

Such a bequest would help ensure that information needed to avoid HIV infection will continue to be available. Your gift would help to secure the health and social services needed by the gay and lesbian community far into the future.

Your gift could make a difference for many years to come. For more information about leaving a gift for ACT in your will, please contact either Greg Lichti, Development Officer (416-340-8484 ext. 265, glichti@actoronto.org) or Ann Rosenfield, Director of Development (416-340-8484 ext. 268, arosenfield@actoronto.org).



AIDS Bureau –
Ontario Ministry of Health



Health Canada
Santé Canada



macy's west



EATON'S



Louis Vuitton
Catchlight Video / The Edit Sweet
Sisley, Paris
ALU Canada
Big Star / Montana
Aguron Pharmaceuticals
CCI
Famous Players
TD Bank Financial Group
Tribe Magazine
Siga International

Wingson Garments
Mister Produce
Moschino Couture
Pfizer Canada Inc.
MacDonald Faber Warehouse
AG Professional Hair Care
Belshire Ltd.
Grosvenor Park Equities Ltd.
Wathne International
Creed's Dry Cleaning
High Visibility Advertising

Personelle Limousine Ltd.
AstraZeneca
Astro Dairy
Bunches of Flowers
Daniel et Daniel Catering, Inc.
DGA Canada
Hugs for Life
Janssen-Ortho Inc
Klublife Magazine
Ocean Drive Magazine
Pizza Pizza

Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Canada Inc.
Rodney's Oyster House
Signedge Graphics
Ticketmaster
Urban Outdoor Trans Ad
Exclusive Affair Rentals Inc.
Elevator News Network
Trojan Condoms
Loyalty Management Group -AIR MILES
Y M Inc.

Les Mis cellaneous



THANK YOU!
The Marius cast of Les Misérables raised over \$175,000 for ACT during their stay in Toronto through their benefit performance of **Les Mis cellaneous... One Night Only** and memorabilia sales.

Donors of Goods and Services

We especially recognize those companies that have made an extraordinary donation of goods or services

Brett Christen, Filion, Wakely & Thorup
Sandra Dudley, Eckler Partners, Ltd.
O'Connor Gallery
Oulton & Co. Technology Management
Gilberto Prioste
Warren Shepell Consultants

Foundations

The De Boer's Foundation
Eaton Foundation
Gerry & Caren Ruby Family Foundation
Glaxo Wellcome Foundation
Harry & Toby Jordan Foundation
Herbert Green Family Charitable Foundation
M-A-C AIDS Fund
Philip Smith Foundation
Shiff Family Charitable Foundation
The Benjamin Foundation
The David Joseph Daniels Charitable Foundation
The Morris Justein Family Foundation

Employee Group Funds

Air Canada – Campaign For Funds
Bombardier Aerospace Employees Charity Trust
CUPE Local 1328
Canada Trust - Reach Out Employees' Charitable Fund
IBM Employees' Credit Union Ltd. – Charitable Fund
London Life Employees' Charity Trust
Ontario Hydro Employee's Charity Trust
Our People Fund/Bank of Montreal
Royal Bank Employees Charity Trust
Sears Employees' Charitable Fund
Toronto Hydro Employees' Charity Trust & Internal Fund
United Steel Workers Toronto Area Council Women's Committee
United Way of Greater Toronto
United Way of London & Middlesex
United Way of Peel Region
United Way of York Region
Wishing Well-Canada Trust Employee Charitable Fund
Workplace Safety & Insurance Board Staff Ass. Charity Trust

Support ACT by attending



April 29, 2000