



Lately, you may have heard from ACT about funding cuts from the Federal Government and the impacts of those cuts. Cuts that will not only hurt hundreds of people who rely on services at ACT, but also people living with and at risk for HIV across Canada.

Recently, Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos, [announced nearly \\$18 million to expand HIV testing in Canada](#) – with a large portion of the funding directed to purchase at-home HIV testing kits.

All of us at ACT – and we are sure you as well – welcome this new funding announcement with open arms. But a word of caution: the facts are Ottawa, and governments throughout Canada, have made many promises to people living with or at risk for HIV that have gone unfulfilled. As a result, funding for HIV prevention and supports have remained stagnant for 15 years.

It was only 15 years ago that Canada’s federal government committed over \$100 million¹ in global HIV efforts towards vaccine research – [none of this came to fruition](#).

And six years ago, the government committed \$785 million towards AIDS, TB and Malaria – [and yet no increases in federal support to the 62,500 people living with HIV within Canada](#).

As one of the national research partners for at-home HIV testing, and Canada’s largest HIV service provider, ACT has yet to learn how this funding will be distributed by the federal government – or if any of it will make it to community-based organizations like ACT.

So what is ACT doing?:

- ACT is calling on all in our community to urge Minister Duclos and the Public Health Agency of Canada to do more! This includes reversing reckless funding cuts which began this past April,
- Bring HIV funding in Canada to \$100 million annually, up from stagnated 2006 levels, as recommended by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health²,
- We continue to await a meeting with ACT’s local MP, Marci Ien, who assured us she would take this issue to the Minister of Health once elected.

How can you help?:

[Sign our petition today](#) and let Minister Duclos, and Minister Ien, know that people living with and at risk for HIV matter. And that [care and support are not something that Canada should be cutting](#).

Thank you to the hundreds of community members who have already signed!

Visit www.actoronto.org to learn more about our services and how you can help support people living with HIV, and those at risk.

1. <https://www.canada.ca/en/news/archive/2007/02/canada-new-government-gates-foundation-announce-support-hiv-aids-vaccine-research.html>
2. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HESA/Reports/RP10574595/hesarp28/hesarp28-e.pdf>