

**avi**.ORG  
AIDS vancouver island

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2017/2018**

# THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS:

**8915**

# of meals served to people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C

**8576**

# of one-on-one harm reduction education discussions

**825**

# of peer and group education sessions

**601,362**

# of new needles distributed across Vancouver Island

**120**

# of service provider trainings

**613,449**

# of used needles returned across Vancouver Island

**640**

# of testing referrals

**468**

# of clients registered in our Positive Wellness Program

**7401**

# of people trained in Take Home Naloxone

**26,693**

Safer crack kits distributed

**275**

# of people provided Opioid Agonist Therapy

**81**

# of Testing events



## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**F**rom Vancouver Island AIDS Society to AVI Health and Community Services.

Looking back and looking forward. There is something about this work that lends itself to doing both at the same time. We were founded at the beginning of the AIDS Crisis and our organisation has undergone many changes since then. And this year, although our name is changing, our work of serving those who are impacted and marginalised by HIV, HCV, gender, sexuality, poverty or drug use is not changing. In the words of one of our founders “We strive to provide the best possible services using all existing community resources in a spirit of cooperation and partnership for the benefit of all”. We will always look back and remember where we have come from and keep that alive in all that we endeavour to accomplish.

I came to AVI twenty years ago this month as an educator. It seems a lifetime ago. It was 1998 and we were in a small office up the road on Johnson St with SOS, as the harm reduction services were known, in an alley down the street. In reflecting over that time I feel a tremendous debt of gratitude to the many people I have known through this work including staff, clients, volunteers and community partners. The faces of people who have shared their stories of survival in the face of heartbreak and trauma will be always in my heart. We continue to persevere through another crisis over this last year. More than 100 British Columbians con-

tinue to lose their lives to overdose every month. The ongoing impact of criminalisation and stigma underpins each one of those deaths. AVI continues to respond to the crisis across the Island, seeking ways to improve the lives and health of people who are using drugs.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our Board Chair, Chad Dickie, Chad brings his lived experience of HIV and a passion for working for collaborative change to his work at AVI. As the first indigenous Chair of the AVI Board, Chad actively seeks opportunities for our agency to strengthen our collaborations with others in the community. Our Board of Directors is a thoughtful, committed group of people whose contributions I value greatly.

I would like to also thank our funders and donors and community partners as their belief in our work and continuing support makes everything possible. We continue to benefit from many volunteers all across the Island, who inspire us with their commitment and generosity. Our staff show kindness and compassion in the face of adversity every single day. And to those who seek our support, it is an honor to be of service to you.

Yours in health,

Katrina Jensen

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

**T**ransformation and Change are recurring themes for me as I look back over my first year as the Board Chair of the A.V.I. Board of Directors. It is also our first year under our new official name of A.V.I. Health & Community Services. We will forever be AIDS Vancouver Island. at the heart and our promise to you - our Members, our clients and staff and our Community Partners - is to maintain, honour and respect the spirit, the legacy and the exemplary work of the Vancouver Island AIDS Society since its incorporation as a Registered Non-Profit January 24, 1986. 32-years, a generation of doing person-centred care.

A.V.I. and its supports and services are fundamental to my recovery, my personal growth and my personal transformation. It supports my health and wellness in ways I didn't expect when I first visited 713 Johnson Street in February 2013. Five years of personal growth, physical change, and, over the past two years, overwhelming premature mortality and preventable deaths. I count 26 members, clients of A.V.I. who are no longer here; that's not right and it's not acceptable.

Wrap-around integrated health services and supports that are inclusive, accessible is at the core of the Right Care, Right Place, Right Time strategy for BC's medical care. You know something, I realize that's what I am privileged to receive at 713 Johnson Street. My wellness, my recovery, my health care options, my integrated health care is already under one roof: my primary care physician is on the ground floor: he supports me and is linked to my HIV specialist. A short elevator up and I'm on the third floor - A.V.I. - where I can have a hot lunch with friends, access programs, education workshops, and get support from advocates and A.V.I. employees I trust. I experience wrap-around care: the Cool Aid Community Health Centre and A.V.I. are my Patient Medical Home.

While change and transformation are happening, one constant remains the same and is killing people in our communities: stigma. It pervades perceptions of our services and supports as enabling when in fact it is supporting public and individual health. Value judgements and "blaming the victim" still surround the words HIV, AIDS, mental health, addictions, drug use, sexuality and gender nonconformity when evidence shows these are not moral failings or simple yes/no social constructs. Education and support from a low-barrier, judgement-free, diversity-accepting lens is paramount to community health and wellness from those lowest on the socioeconomic ladder to those in its upper echelons: We need everyone to be educated about stigma.

I really want to recognize my fellow Board Members for donating their time, energy and expertise in guiding A.V.I. over the past year. Mitch Hawes, Alexander Stirling, Lily Mignault, Bob Clark and Lisa Cowan - I am going to miss you both so much - and contributions by Antonio Marante and Katrina Barber who moved on and upward in their careers. It's been a pleasure working with such a great bunch of committed and dedicated colleagues and friends, as we support the work of our Executive Director Katrina Jensen as she oversees the day-to-day operation of A.V.I. and its five locations in Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River, and Courtney - Comox, and our newest site on the Westshore in Langford, and over 120 employees and volunteers. I am so thankful and grateful for all your wonderful work.

*Chad Dickie*



AVI staff are terrific! You can tell that they truly care!



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## MEN'S WELLNESS PROJECT

The Men's Wellness Project (MWP) provides island-wide education and support to gay, bisexual, trans, Two Spirit, queer, GBMSM, men who enjoy having sex with men, and service providers who serve these populations. Highlights of this year's work included:

- Facilitated 80 workshops and support groups for a total of 748 participants
- Developed and hosted two peer leadership training courses. This new series of workshops allows participants to learn about and discuss topics including sexual health, harm reduction, communication, boundaries, consent, stigma, mental health, and queer history. 11 participants completed the full session and have joined AVI's peer educator team
- Provided early education and support for the BC government's new program to provide people at high risk of contracting HIV with free pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily oral antiretroviral medication that prevents new HIV infection. MWP staff travelled all over the island to work with doctors, service providers, and individuals to ensure that as many people as possible were connected with PrEP
- Provided Queer Eye for the Service Provider (LGBTQ2IAP+ Cultural Safety/Competency) workshops for service providers all over the island, from Port Hardy to Victoria
- Monthly events included the Nanaimo Poz Guys Coffee Group, Gender Variant Support Group, and Queer-abilities (a group for people who live with disabilities and identify as queer), and MSM testing nights in Victoria and Nanaimo



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION CONT.



## THE HEPATITIS C PROJECT

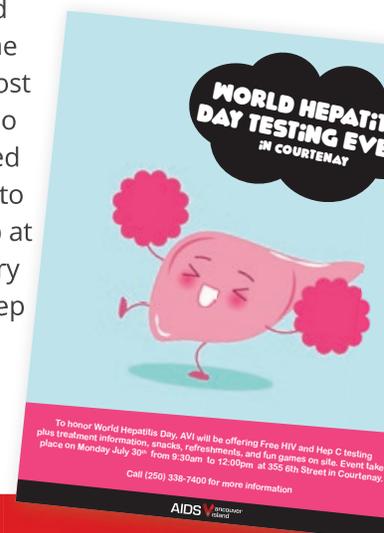
The Hepatitis C Project offers support groups and educational opportunities to people living with or at risk of Hepatitis C infection. We provided 243 workshops, events, and support groups to 3244 participants island-wide as well as special projects such as:

- Partnered with KDC Health Centre to develop a Hep C Bingo game for Aboriginal Hepatitis Awareness month. The game was a great success and was played in the Campbell River KDC Health Centre and at

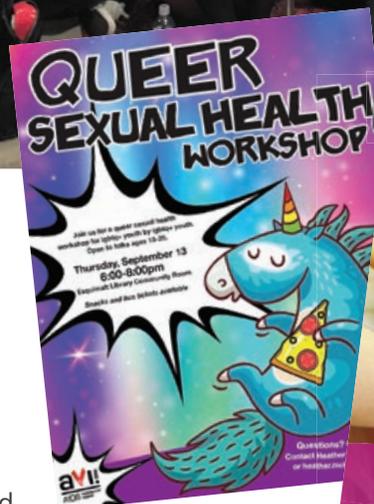
events for elders from Homalco First Nation and K'ómoks First Nation

- In the North Island, our popular Community Kitchen program brings together HCV positive folks to cook, eat, socialize, and learn together. Our peer education staff also assembled a cookbook of Community Kitchen recipes so participants could recreate their favourite dishes at home
- Facilitated a Hepatitis C Peer Leadership series in Victoria

for an engaged and passionate cohort of participants who had a large role in determining the design and focus of the course. Most people who participated were new to leadership at AVI but very keen to step into this role



I have had the opportunity to work with the staff of AVI for several years and the service has been amazing. Wonderful people that have such respect and care for the people they support. I always recommend AVI to other agencies and have full confidence they will receive the same amazing service, training and education that I have.



## YOUTH PROGRAM

Our Youth Programming provides workshops on topics such as overdose prevention, harm reduction, safer partying, and sexual health to youth and their parents and caregivers all over the island. Some of our proudest accomplishments this year were:

- Provided 105 workshops to 3518 youth island-wide, including rural and remote communities
- Provided naloxone training to 741 youth island-wide
- Participants in Queer Peers, a youth support group and workshop series in the South Island, organized several impactful events for queer youth. Face Your Queers was a vibrant event

including an art show, performances, and discussion groups that drew over 90 attendees. More Than The Talk, their queer-focused youth sexual health symposium facilitated comprehensive and holistic discussions on topics on such as consent, sex toy basics, HIV & PrEP, STIs and sexual health, sexual health activism, intimacy and vulnerability, STBBI stigma and healthy relationships, exploring the Ace/Aro spectrum, navigating sex and transitioning, navigating sexualized violence response services when you're Trans, Two-Spirit, or non-binary and more.

- In Courtenay, we hosted *Queers Creating Change*, a youth group for all queer identified youth and allies ages 16-24. We provide a safe, supportive space for people to meet and share and host a variety of social activities including art making, discussions, workshops, HIV education, leadership training and more

All of the staff at AVI are knowledgeable, caring, supportive, and wonderful advocates for their clients and their programs.



## PEER EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

Our peer education and leadership programming creates meaningful engagement opportunities for people who use(d) illicit drugs. These programs operate in a community development model fostering skills in critical engagement, peer support, and advocacy. Programming this year included:

- Our Street College program offered 76 sessions to 515 participants in Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay and Campbell River
- Peer education sessions in the Wilkinson Road Jail in Victoria and the Nanaimo Correctional Centre where participants consistently expressed their enthusiasm for the programming and interest in sharing their new knowledge with others
- Our weekly client education program for service users in Campbell River offered 23 workshops for 115 people. Topics included Hep C treatment, overdose education, foot care, safer sex. Guest presenters included the local MP and MLA and representatives from many different community agencies and services
- In collaboration with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, we offered a peer education series covering topics such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Harm Reduction, and Overdose Prevention and Response. Our focus with this series was centering the knowledge and stories of Indigenous folks with lived experience of these topics

AVI is a place where we can talk to staff and they actually listen. No matter what, we are greeted with a warm smile and people who care (sometimes the only ones that day that do!)



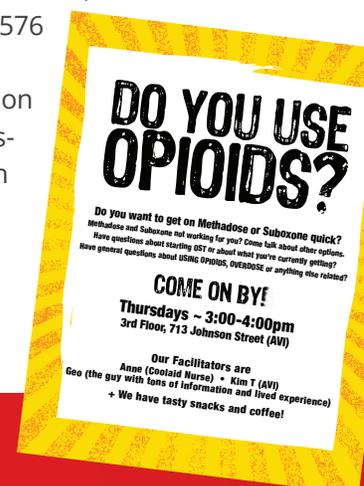
## HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

AVI continued to provide harm reduction supplies, support, and education for people who use illicit drugs island-wide. We offer a supportive, judgement-free space run by caring and compassionate staff, including people with lived experience of drug use. Our harm reduction services include:

- Distributing a wide assortment of harm reduction supplies along with education about safer drug use. We distributed over 600,000 syringes and more than 26,000 crack kits this year
- Overdose prevention rooms (OPRs) in Victoria, Courtenay, and Campbell River for safer drug use and rapid overdose response. Our Courtenay and Campbell River OPRs opened this year and are the only overdose prevention services in both communities. We piloted the service with weekday hours and were able to quickly expand to offer weekend hours for these essential community services
- In Victoria, our mobile services allow us to deliver harm reduction supplies and pick up used syringes for people who are not able to access our office. Our mobile staff distributed 72,475 syringes and collected 85,727 used syringes this year
- In partnership with Island Health, our 713 Outreach Team in Victoria offers case management support to people who

are engaging in a high level of substance use, are having challenges accessing housing or have mental health concerns

- Providing clients with education, a listening ear, and connections to other services. This year we provided 4760 referrals to primary health care, Mental Health & Substance Use, housing, and other community services, and engaged in 8576 one-on-one harm reduction education discussions with clients



AVI is a safe place to be and is full of positive energy.



## COMMUNITY OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND RESPONSE

We continued to train individuals and groups through the BCCDC's Take-Home Naloxone program, and this year trained a total of 7401 people in overdose prevention and response and distributed 3308 naloxone kits

- In partnership with SOLID, our Victoria Overdose Outreach team continued their work providing naloxone trainings for community organizations and groups, building relationships with staff and clients in supported housing facilities, and supporting people living in tent cities and encampments with education, harm reduction supplies, and connections to other services. Our pilot project of an Overdose Outreach team in Campbell River was an immediate success and allowed
- us to expand our services and reach beyond the AVI office. The team distributed large quantities of supplies, hosted public naloxone trainings, and built partnerships with numerous community partners and housing providers
- International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD): In Victoria, AVI worked with SOLID, Moms Stop the Harm, and No More Drug War Victoria to host a mass naloxone training, rally and vigil at Centennial Square. In solidarity with community events across the country, we used the slogan 'We fight for those we love and lost' to call for action and honour those lost to overdose death. Over 250 people were trained in overdose prevention and response

and received naloxone kits, and the event was attended by BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy, among many others. In Courtenay, AVI staff provided naloxone training and education at a community memorial event organized by families affected by overdose. Our Campbell River staff hosted a naloxone training session at the local library to recognize IOAD

- heARTspace: AVI participated in heARTspace, a pop-up art and community space in Victoria that was open throughout October. heARTspace featured the art of people impacted by overdose, including those who died from overdose, those who have sur-

Everyone felt safe and shared stories. We all felt confident we could step in to help until Emergency Services were on scene and save a life.





vived overdose, and friends and family. Organized by Marion Selfridge, the space was volunteer-run and hosted a number of community events including naloxone training, workshops, a night to care for frontline workers, and gatherings for grief and support. AVI staff were honoured to include artwork in the exhibit, help staff the gallery, participate in a number of heART-space gatherings, and spend time in a healing community space

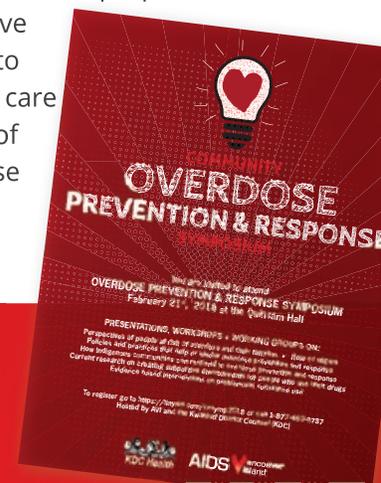
- Community Symposiums  
In partnership with the Community Action Initiative, we hosted community symposiums on Overdose Prevention and Response in both Courtenay and Victoria. These events brought together groups and individuals to learn, hear, and honour the work being done to support and care for our communities. The Victoria event

had over 100 attendees and the Courtenay event saw over 60 people in attendance. Both events hosted a diverse group of people and focused on working to build on the existing strengths in our different sectors and develop actions that are needed to meet the challenge of the overdose crisis.

- In Victoria, AVI and the South Island Community Overdose Response Network (SICORN) hosted a follow-up community event at Victoria City Hall for a dialogue on “Community Priorities for Action on Overdose.” The symposium was supported by the Community Action Initiative and opened by a panel of speakers including Doug Hughes, Deputy Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Dr. Mark Tyndall, Executive Director of the BC Centre for Disease Control, Tara Levis and Nancy Murphy

speaking from personal experience of overdose, and Jack Phillips from SOLID. Attended by approximately 60 people, symposium participants collectively generated priorities for action including expanding overdose prevention services, providing support and building capacity for frontline workers, expanding mental health and wellness supports for individuals and families, addressing structural barriers, expanding access to safer substances and expanding and improving community-based treatment options. The work of SICORN and these identified priorities for action continues to propel AVI’s work to move from crisis to community care in the face of the overdose epidemic.

**Staff are so supportive and honest.  
They never judge and I feel safe talking to them.**





## SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND HEPATITIS C

We offer support, education, and short-term counselling to over 450 people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C through our Positive Wellness Program in Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, and Campbell River. PWP staff offer advocacy and guidance with housing, income assistance, health care services, and employment, as well as education and support for treatment, nutrition, and symptoms. In Victoria, we served 8915 hot, nutritious meals to people living with HIV and/or HCV through our nutrition programming, as well as

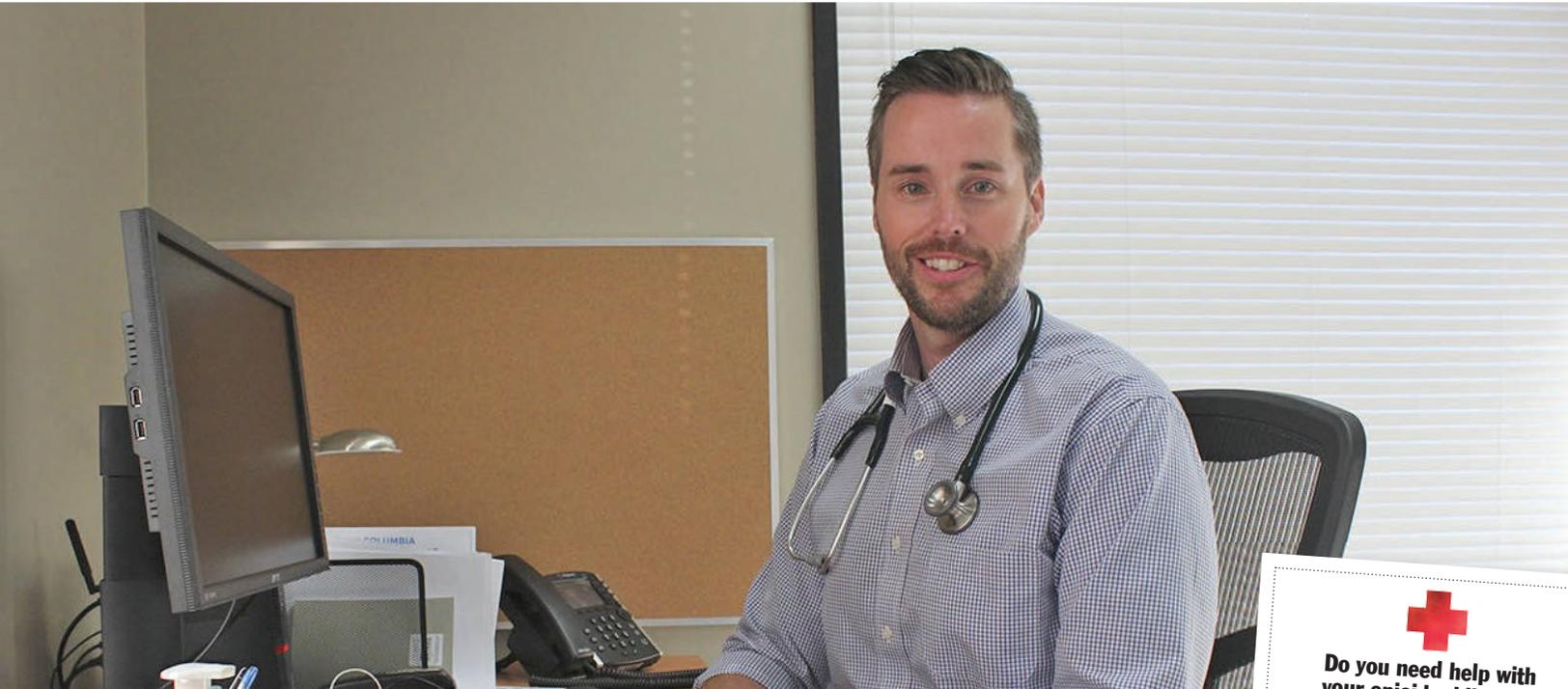
providing registered clients with a safe, calm space to enjoy food and companionship. We also offer weekly support groups (offered in partnership with a nurse from Cool Aid) and physician clinics and host a worker from the Ministry of Social Innovation and Development for several hours each week.

Our AVI Health Centre in Nanaimo combines support and advocacy from Positive Wellness Program staff with primary medical care from our physicians to provide wrap-around

care for people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C.

Our North Island staff work closely with partners in Positive Wellness North Island (PWNI), a collaboration that allows clients to access a monthly HIV primary care clinic, treatment planning and support, access to a mental health and addiction services clinician, HIV education and support for family and friends, and other comprehensive services.

I have witnessed so much love and care between clients and had the opportunity to create really lovely relationships with folks because of the calm and inviting atmosphere of the space. —Harm Reduction Support Worker



## AVI HEALTH CENTRES

Our AVI Health Centres in Nanaimo and Westshore offer low barrier, free opiate agonist therapy (OAT) and support in a caring and respectful environment.

In Nanaimo we provide OAT to 200 patients and primary medical care to 45 people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C. Clients can also access counselling and support through our Positive Wellness Program and nursing supports including vaccinations,

bloodwork, HIV POC & linkages, along with intensive case management.

In September of 2017 in response to the ongoing overdose crisis, we opened our Westshore AVI Health Centre, modeled after the successful Nanaimo service. Within 6 months of opening we had more than 75 patients accessing our OST services. Patients utilizing OST treatment or living with HIV can also access blood

tests, pap smears, immunizations, wound care, and other family practice care. As less than 20% of our patients have family doctors, this extra care is vital. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our services into the western communities and look forward to adding more education and support services as our office continues to expand.

**Do you need help with your opioid addiction?**

We offer opioid substitution services (methadone and suboxone) in a low barrier setting. We also provide support and referrals as needed.

Walk-ins welcome but appointments are preferred.  
Call us at 250-940-3605

Open 9:30am-4:00pm, Tuesday and Thursdays

westshore  
**avi health centre**  
#111-2787 Jacklin Road, Langford, BC, V9B 3X7  
250-940-3605 | westshore@avi.org  
[www.avi.org](http://www.avi.org)

AVI is where I got help to deal with my addiction. I am HCV+ and AVI has helped me to get my life back on track.



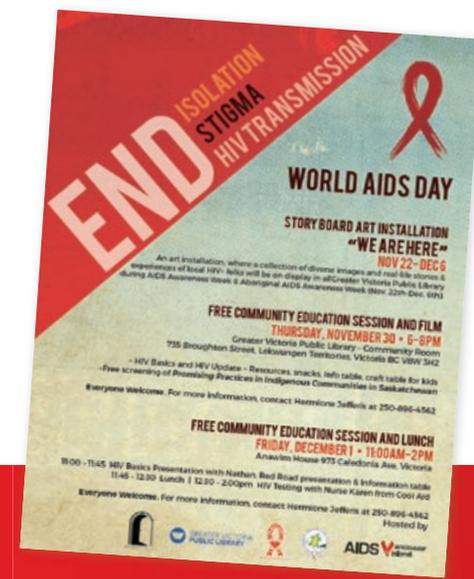


# EVENTS

- Pride:** We joined in celebrations and offered info tables and naloxone training at Pride events in Port Alberni, Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, and Victoria, as well as Alt Pride in Victoria. In Victoria we were able to participate in the parade with the Doctors of the World vehicle, which provided an accessible parade option.
- World Hepatitis Day:** In the North Island, we promoted Hepatitis awareness for the entire month leading up to World Hepatitis Day. Activities included handing out bottles of water with testing dates and Hepatitis infor-

mation at Canada Day events, presentations to John Howard foster parents, Viral Jeopardy for people at the local homeless shelter, and testing events at our offices in Courtenay and Campbell River and information booths at the library in both communities. In Victoria, we hosted an info table at the library and a rally at the BC Legislature Building to raise awareness of Hepatitis C and encourage people to get tested. As well, the Legislature Building was be lit up in red (for the blood which spreads these viruses) and yellow (for the liver which these diseases destroy) during the evening of July 28th.

- Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day:** In Victoria we hosted events for World AIDS Day and the launch of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week at the Victoria Public Library. The event featured the Unity Drummers and Singers, HIV Poz



AVI staff are dedicated and compassionate.

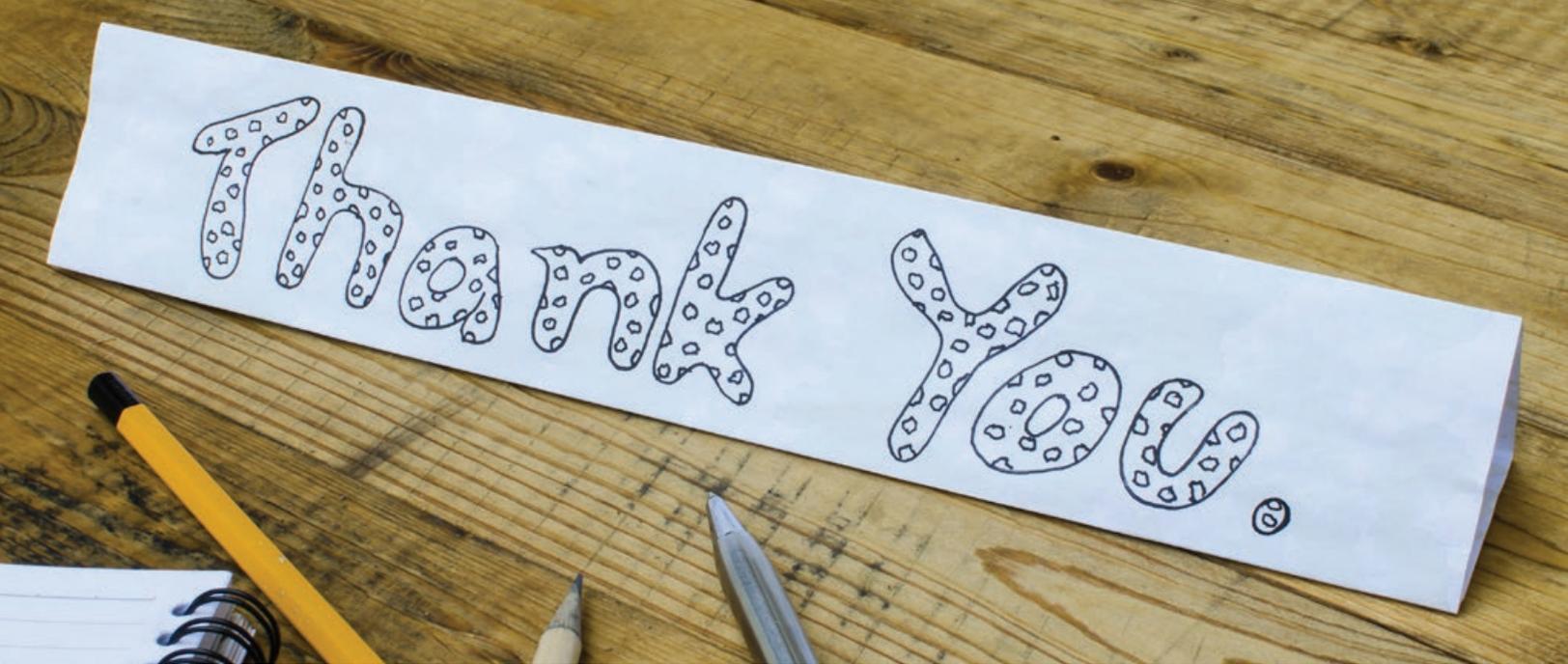
# EVENTS CONT.



speakers, a screening of Promising Practices in Indigenous Communities in Saskatchewan, info tables, and concluded with a walk to the Legislature for the lighting of the red ribbon candle display. To honour World AIDS Day in Courtenay and Campbell River, we hosted an event featuring point of care HIV testing, HIV prevention and treatment education, and HIV Bingo. In Nanaimo, we participated in the AIDS Walk at the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

- We displayed the **We Are Here** storyboards (telling the stories of people living with HIV/AIDS in their own powerful words) in the Campbell River, Comox, Courtenay, and Victoria libraries as well as Homalco and KDC Health Centres through the month of December. In Victoria, our 10th annual Rock Your Awareness Fundraiser at Logan's Pub featured live music, a raffle, and naloxone trainings.
- **Festivals:** We provided harm reduction supplies and education as well as naloxone training at festivals all over the island including Rifflandia, Sunfest, Kokisilah, and Atmosphere Gathering. We offered 1919 one-on-one harm reduction education discussions and 62 group education discussions to festival attendees, as well as providing naloxone training to many festival staff members and volunteers.

Staff are universally helpful, knowledgeable and respectful.  
AVI provides very necessary support services in our community.



Thank You.

A thank you to the many businesses and individuals who contributed to our agency over the last year.

**North Island:** Island Health Mental Health, Public Health and CD Programs, Comox Valley Transition Society, KDC Health, Holmalco First Nation, Comox Valley Recovery Centre, Second Chance Recovery Centre, School District #71, School District #72, North Island John Howard Society, North Island Pride, Comox Valley Nursing Centre, Positive Wellness North Island, Vancouver Island Regional Library, Comox Valley Transition Society, Campbell River and North Island Transition Society

**Central Island:** Snuneymuxw First Nation, Discovery Community College, Sprott Shaw Community College, Vancouver Island University, New Hope Shelter, The Pain Clinic, Nanaimo Women's Centre, RCMP – Nanaimo Bike Unit, Nanaimo Division of Family Practice, Vancouver Island Regional Library (Nanaimo Harbour Front branch), Port Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, St Andrews United Church, MAC Cosmetics, Tillicum Lelum Health Centre, Harris House Health Centre, Island Health Positive Health / Communicable Disease, Beaufort Clinic, Nanaimo Correctional Centre, Nanaimo Pride

**South Island:** Cool Aid Community Health Centre, Vancouver Island PWA, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Greater Victoria Public Library, 713 Outreach, SOLID, PEERS, Salvation Army, Our Place, Umbrella Society, Island Health Street Nurses, Cool Aid, Pacifica Housing, Victoria Youth Clinic, Victoria Police Department, Island Health HR Coordinator, Victoria Pride, Island Health Detox and Stabilization, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, Percuro, Alt Pride, PAN, HIM, CATIE, and Royal BC Museum, Mustard Seed, the First Nations Health Authority, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Pacific AIDS Network, ANKORS, Soupa Café, Crust Bakery, Moms Stop the Harm, SICORN

AVI respectfully acknowledges the territory of the Kwak-waka'wakw, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish Peoples on whose land we live and work

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



I appreciate that AVI makes space for service providers. We need these spaces to come together and re-ground ourselves, especially in the midst of a crisis.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2018

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	471,919
Accounts Receivable	199,033
Fixed Assets, Net	1,449,438
Other Assets	1,677
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,122,067</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	205,437
Mortgages and Lines of Credit	49,293
Advances and Deferred	1,636,310
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,891,040</b>
<i>Net Assets</i>	
Unrestricted	223,524
Restricted	7,503
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>231,027</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>2,122,067</b>

## Statement of Activities April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	
Island Health	2,299,760
Federal Government	291,000
United Way	123,939
MAC AIDS Fund	42,466
Regional Correctional Centre	6,040
Gaming Commission	125,000
Health Clinic	516,129
Donations and Corporate Sponsors	33,587
Minor and pilot project grants	109,097
Interest and other income	10,261
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>3,557,279</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	2,661,810
Rent and Office Expenses	391,826
Program Materials	216,402
Meetings, Honoraria and Travel	77,128
Amortization	18,939
Other	341,465
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,707,570</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>-150,291</b>



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of the AVI Health & Community Services Society,

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of AVI Health & Community Services Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Qualified opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AVI Health & Community Services Society as at March 31, 2018 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Grant Thornton LLP*  
Chartered accountants

# OUR BOARD + VALUES

## BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018

- Chad Dickie, Chair
- Bob Clark, Treasurer
- Lisa Cowan, Secretary
- Alexander Stirling
- Antonio Marante
- Lily Mignault
- Katrina Barber
- Mitch Hawes
- Brent Weberg

## MISSION

AVI's mission is to promote health, dignity, and well-being for all people affected by HIV, HCV, and substance use by delivering sex-positive and harm reduction based education, prevention, and support services.

## VISION

AVI envisions a community where all people affected by HIV, HCV, or substance use have equitable access to the support and services necessary to experience optimal health and well-being.

# OUR HISTORY

**OUR SOCIETY** was formed by gay men, with the support of lesbian and gay public and their friends, who accepted the challenge to confront Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and respond to the needs of all people affected by the HIV virus

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the existence of oppression and inequality in our world, and endeavour to focus on this reality in a positive manner

**WE ADVOCATE** for the provision of universal services to ensure thorough and appropriate focus on the need of the individual

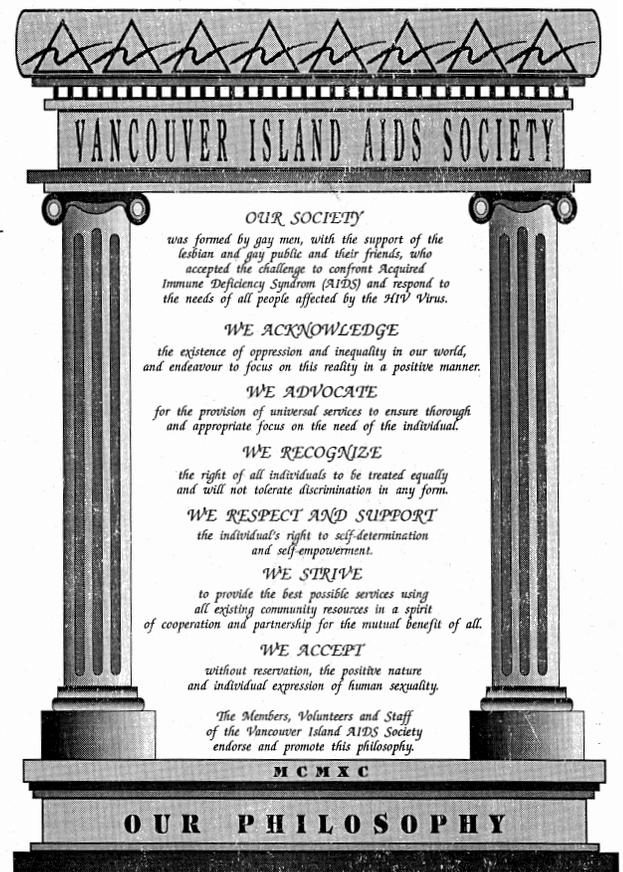
**WE RECOGNIZE** the right of all individuals to be treated equally and will not tolerate discrimination in any form

**WE RESPECT AND SUPPORT** the individual's right to self-determination and self-empowerment

**WE STRIVE** to provide the best possible services using all existing community resources in a spirit of cooperation and partnership for the mutual benefit of all

**WE ACCEPT** without reservation, the positive nature and individual expression of human sexuality

The Members, Volunteers and Staff and the Vancouver Island AIDS Society endorse, and promote this philosophy



We loved the training that AVI provided to our organization. The presenters were engaging, honest, and it was so obvious how passionate they are about the work they do. Thank you!

