

# Annual Report 2020/2021



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



**AVI Health and  
Community Services**  
where harm reduction works



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Board Executive	1
Our Board and Values	4
Our History	5
This Year in Numbers	7
Financial Statements	9
Thank You	11
Get in Touch	15

# A Message from Board Executive

**Since its inception,** AVI Health and Community Services has been a beacon to so many people in the communities we serve – Campbell River, Courtney/Comox, Nanaimo, Westshore, and Victoria. Each day the staff work tirelessly to deliver on AVI’s Mission 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. We are so humbled and grateful for all the work you do, despite what can sometimes seem like insurmountable challenges. Thank you!

AVI continues to be a leader amongst the many community agencies operating on Vancouver Island. The organization challenges the status quo, tackling often tough and unpopular issues with positive results, such as expanding access to safe supply. Staff work to deliver pragmatic solutions that focus on restoring health, dignity, and well-being for clients and bringing attention to important issues affecting the communities we serve. Our message this year is to remind us of the important work AVI accomplishes across the Island and how it remains a respected and trusted community ally.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed AVI to shift its operating and service delivery model, almost overnight. Our management team was instrumental in leading the agency to a remote working model and quickly identifying how AVI could continue to operate and provide critical services to all AVI’s clients with a focus on reaching the most vulnerable as quickly as possible. With the incredible work of our staff, AVI was able to pivot very quickly and adapt to the ever-changing rules, regulations, and limitations that seemed to be updated almost daily. Staff hit the streets, parks, met clients at home, created opportunities for socially distanced visits, and did a ton of outreach in person, virtually, or any other way they could to ensure our clients needs were met and they felt supported. Without the work of all the staff and volunteers at AVI, many more might have fallen through the cracks. While COVID-19 infections climbed, the drug poisoning crisis intensified taking many more lives, sadly and needlessly, including many people close to our agency. We continue to do everything we can to save lives through both frontline services and advocacy for a public health approach.

In addition to navigating those challenging issues presented by COVID and the drug poisoning crisis, we have continued to seek opportunities to address the gaps in services experienced by the people impacted by HIV, HCV and substance use. The staff in Courtney and Campbell River worked to improve accessibility of health service including the ER and to combat the shame and stigma associated with substance use through the Walk with Me project. In Nanaimo, the team worked to expand access to services for GBTSQ+, created

an all-genders wellness program and provided outreach to test and treat people living with HCV. In Victoria, the staff ran Overdose Prevention Services (OPS) in parks and hotels, worked to create more inclusive programming for trans, non-binary and gender diverse people and ensured those living with HIV and HCV had healthy food and supports.

Over the last year we have also worked to strengthen our efforts towards decolonisation and acknowledging the historical and ongoing harms towards indigenous peoples. Essential to this is responding to the racism in the health care system and holding ourselves and others accountable for addressing this. This includes efforts to build better relationships with indigenous people and communities. We are also working to improve training and orientation for staff on Indigenous history, relations, and perspectives to better serve Indigenous staff and clients. We are committed to this work as an ongoing process.

AVI’s Board has also seen some significant shifts this past year. During the pandemic, our board was focused on increasing its membership. The team of Directors put a lot of time and energy into recruitment of new members with a focus on diversity of experience and voices. We are so pleased to share that our hard work has paid off and we have added five new Directors to the board for a total of 11. We have members with lived experience, fund development capability, research expertise, law practice, as well as public and private sector experience. Looking forward, our newly minted team is driven, ambitious, and passionate about the work AVI does and eager to get to work. We are already beginning to make changes that we hope will have positive impacts to the organization. The most significant changes underway include adding three sub committees: Governance, Finance, and Advancement with the intention of providing strategic governance that is productive, efficient, and engaged across multiple areas.

In closing, on behalf of the Board we really want to thank all our supporters, funders, staff and volunteers for your continued contributions to our agency.

**We couldn’t do it without you all!**

Yours in health,

Brent Weberg – Board Chair

Alexander Stirling – Treasurer

Mitch Hawes – Secretary

Katrina Jensen – Executive Director

# Our Board and Values

## BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21

- Brent Weberg, CHAIR
- Alexander Stirling, TREASURER
- Mitch Hawes, SECRETARY
- Ngozi Joe-Ikechebel, MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- Andrew Barrett, MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- Douglas Laird, MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- Kristie Hornett, MEMBER-AT-LARGE



Brent Weberg, Board Chair at AVI'S Courtenay office

### 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.

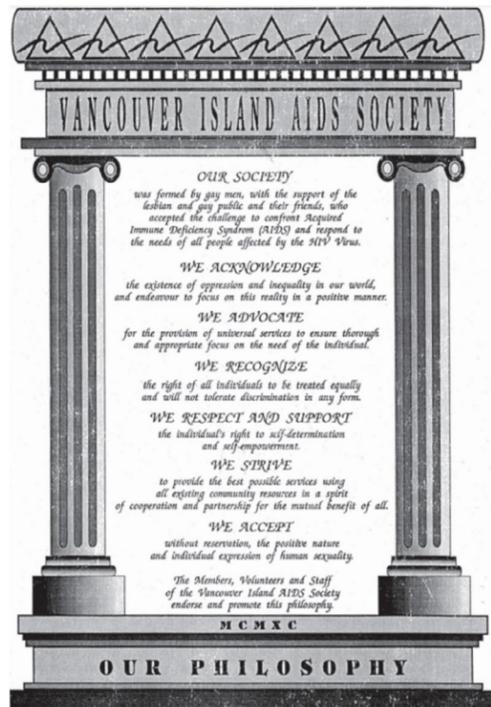
### Vision

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.



Katrina Jensen, Executive Director

# 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

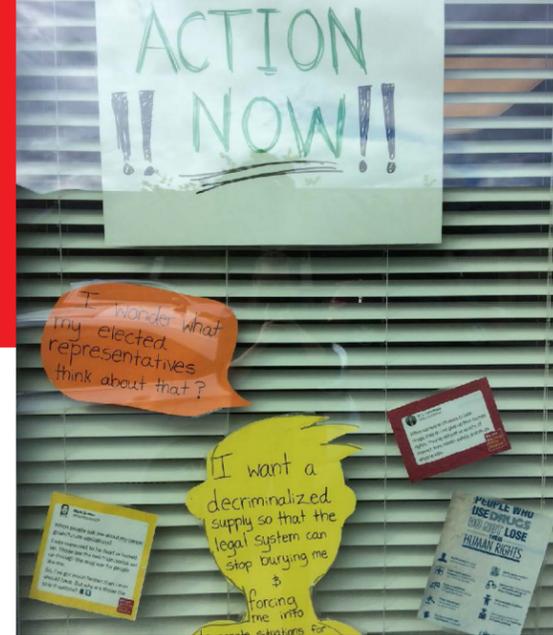
**WE RECOGNIZE** the right of all individuals to be treated equally and will not tolerate discrimination in any form

**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 of the Vancouver Island AIDS Society endorse, and promote this philosophy.



**560,474**

new needles distributed  
across Vancouver Island

**2,452**

people trained in  
Take Home Naloxone

**324**

QGBT2S+ people provided  
with STBBI services

**100**

service provider trainings

**49,930**

safer inhalation kits distributed

**387**

group education sessions

**THIS YEAR  
IN NUMBERS...**

**14,954**

visits to overdose prevention sites

**653**

testing referrals

**180**

people provided  
with safe supply

**426**

people provided with  
Opioid Agonist Therapy

**347**

clients registered in our  
Positive Wellness Program

**7,656**

one-on-one harm reduction  
education discussions

**45,648**

condoms distributed

**88**

people accessed  
gender diverse programming

**6,972**

meals served to people  
living with HIV and/or HCV

**1,741**

risk reduction  
counselling sessions  
for people living with  
HIV and/or HCV

# Financial Statements



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

We have audited the financial statements of AVI Health & Community Services Society ("the Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AVI Health & Community Services Society as at March 31, 2021, and its 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 Professional Accountants

## Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2021

<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
Cash	903,358	Payables + Accruals	701,951
Receivables	346,637	Line of Credit	35,291
Due (joint venture partner)	55,614	Deferred Revenue	485,717
Prepays	786	Deferred Capital Contribution	1,099,936
Capital Assets	1,222,027		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,528,422</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,322,895</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
		Invested in Capital Assets	121,584
		Restricted	7,503
		General Operating Fund	76,440
		<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$205,527</b>
		<b>Total Liabilities + Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,528,422</b>

## Statement of Operations

March 31, 2021

<b>Revenue + Support</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Island Health	3,042,200	Salaries + Benefits	3,970,880
Health Canada	976,277	Rent + Office Expenses	612,591
Public Health Agency Canada	579,771	Program Materials	389,024
Community Action Initiative	160,940	Meetings, Honoraria, + Travel	103,483
United Way	142,727	Contract Services + Evaluation	1,033,674
V.I. Regional Correctional Centre	5,246	Licences, Fees + Dues	52,401
Victoria Foundation	45,200	Promotion + Advertising	10,699
M.A.C. AIDS Fund	25,000	Amortization	17,469
Donations	28,651	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,190,221</b>
Gaming Commission	129,500	<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenue</b>	<b>(\$5,035)</b>
Health Clinic	724,083		
Minor + Pilot Project Grants	199,128		
Provincial Government	113,164		
Interest + Other Income	13,299		
<b>Total Revenue + Support</b>	<b>\$6,185,186</b>		

# THANK YOU

*A heartfelt thank you to our many community partners who have contributed to our agency throughout the past year.*

## South Island

Cool Aid, Vancouver Island PWA, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Greater Victoria Public Library, ICMT, SOLID, Peers, Our Place, Umbrella Society, Island Health Street Nurses, Cool Aid, Pacifica Housing, Victoria Youth Clinic, Island Health HR Coordinator, Victoria Pride, Island Health Detox and Stabilization, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, Percuro, Alt Pride, HIM, CATIE, Royal BC Museum, Mustard Seed, First Nations Health Authority, BC Centre for Disease Control, Pacific AIDS Network, ANKORS, Soupa Café, Crust Bakery, Moms Stop the Harm, SICORN, Island Health MHSU, Island Health Public Health, Sooke Region Community Health Network, Sooke Shelter Society, Doctors of the World, UVic Anti-Violence Project, Victoria High School, Belmont High School, Vancouver Island Regional Corrections Centre, The Foundry Victoria, Saanich Peninsula Youth Health Clinic, IHRT, Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society, Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC), HerWay Home, Drug User Liberation Front (DULF), Community Apothecary, SAFER Vancouver (PHS/VCH), BC Overdose Emergency

Response Centre, National Safer Supply Community of Practice, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition



## 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, Nanaimo Division of Family Practice, Vancouver Island University, MAC Cosmetics, Tillicum Lelum Health Centre, Island Health Positive Health / Communicable Disease, Beaufort Clinic, Nanaimo Correctional Centre, Nanaimo Pride, SPAN (Sex Professionals Alliance of Nanaimo), Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, PUNK, Nanaimo CAT, Nanaimo Youth Wellness Centre, Island Health MHSU Community Teams, NRGH Addictions Team, CMHA Wesley St. Community, and Nexus Primary Care Clinic



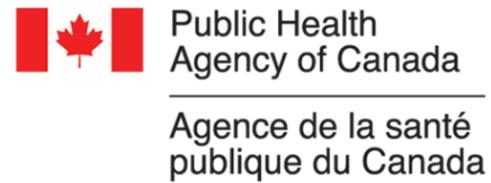
## North Island

Island Health Mental Health, Public Health and CD Programs, 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, KDC (Campbell River, Cape Mudge and Quinsam Reserves), Rose Harbour, Family Services, Discovery College (Nursing and Community Service Worker programs), North Island College (Nursing program), North Island Medical clinic, Island Health Public Health, Island Health MHSU, City of Campbell River Health and Safety Committee, Women's Centre, MCFD, Safety Net Security, RCMP Victim Services, Tidemark Theatre, Salvation Army, Quadra Island Medical Centre, Cortes Island Medical Centre, Klahooshe Reserve, Quadra Island Fire Department, North Island Recovery Centre, BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction – Community Integration Specialist, First Nations Health Authority,

Laichwiltach Family Life Society, St John the Devine Anglican Church, Courtenay Farmer's Market, Bladerunners, Youth Media Project, Nala'atsi Alternate School, Robron Centre, Glacier View, Vanier Secondary School, Phoenix Middle School, Vancouver Island Music Festival, Comox Valley Pride, Denman Island Community School, Highland, North Island College, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Wachaiy Friendship Centre, Health Connections Clinic, Amethyst House, Lili House, Connect Warming Centre, the Junction, the Station, Indigenous Women's Sharing Society, Comox Valley CAT, Comox Valley Drug Strategy Committee, Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, Dawn-to-Dawn Action on Homelessness Society, LUSH Valley, the Care-a-Van, the K'omoks First Nation, the Salvation Army, St. George's United Church, the Village of Cumberland, MOUHSS – Mobile Outreach, Health and Safety Services, Robron Center – Campbell River School District, Campbell River Bylaw Enforcement, RCMP Community Liaison, PAN PHN – Pacific Hepatitis Network, Campbell River CAT leadership, Sobering Centre, VIMHS, Rosebridge Housing, Campbell River City Yard, and the City of Courtenay



# Thank You to Our Funders



Many thanks to the following for project-specific funds:



VICTORIA FOUNDATION  
*Rapid Relief Fund*

VICTORIA FOUNDATION  
*Community Recovery Program 2020*



The AVI Nanaimo Counselling and Peer Support Program is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and Nanaimo Foundation.



The Victoria Safer Alternative For Emergency Response (SAFER) Initiative is supported by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program.



NANAIMO Community Action Team

VICTORIA Community Action Team



# Get in Touch

## CAMPBELL RIVER

*Our Campbell River office is located on the lands of the We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum people.*

1371 c. Cedar Street, Campbell River, BC  
V9W 2W6

Phone: 250-830-0787 | Fax: 250-830-0784  
Toll Free Infoline: 1-877-650-8787

## COMOX VALLEY

*Our Comox Valley office is located on the lands of the K'ómoks First Nations.*

355 6th St., Courtenay, BC  
V9N 1M2

Phone: 250-338-7400 | Fax: 250-334-8224  
Toll Free Infoline: 1-877-311-7400

## NANAIMO

*Our Nanaimo office is located on Snuneymuxw territory.*

102-55 Victoria Road, Nanaimo, BC  
V9R-5N9

Phone: 250-754-9111 | Fax: 250-753-4595  
Toll Free Infoline: 1-888-530-2437

## WESTSHORE/LANGFORD

*The Westshore AVI clinic is located on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples; the Esquimalt (Xwsepsum) and Songhees nations. We also provide outreach services on the unceded territories of the Sc'ianew, T'Sou-ke, and Pacheedaht nations.*

111-2787 Jacklin Rd., Langford, BC  
V9B 3X7

Phone 250-940-3605 | Fax 250-940-3611  
Toll Free Infoline: 1-800-665-2437

## VICTORIA

*AVI's 'Victoria' office is located on the territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt nations.*

3rd Floor - Access Health Centre  
713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC  
V8W 1M8

Phone: 250-384-2366 | Fax: 250-380-9411  
Toll Free Infoline: 1-800-665-2437

[info@avi.org](mailto:info@avi.org)

