



AVI Health and Community Services
where harm reduction works

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

71,712

of condoms distributed

679

of peer and group education sessions

9643

of one-on-one harm reduction education discussions

658,806

of used needles returned across Vancouver Island

511,121

of new needles distributed across Vancouver Island

388

of clients registered in our Positive Wellness Program

6176

of people trained in Take Home Naloxone

789

of testing referrals

8488

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

1116

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

381

of people provided Opioid Agonist Therapy

114

of men we assisted to access PrEP

10,954

of volunteer hours



AVI Health and Community Services
where harm reduction works



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The opportunity to pause and reflect is key to sustainability in any struggle. In those moments my mind fills with more than 20 years of faces. Many of those faces are of course from people who are no longer with us. Clients, family members, staff, volunteers, board members, community partners, funders and an incredible tapestry of people who have influenced me and impacted the work of our organization in profound ways. So on reflecting back on the last year, I feel very proud and honored to be part of AVI and how our work has been shaped by the many people connected to us. For me, at the heart of AVI is this ability to build connections and relationships.

Over the last year we worked to prevent drug poisoning deaths while also ensuring that we supported those who live HIV and hepatitis C. Balancing these is not easy and the real and present impact of the drug poisoning crisis often takes centre stage. But through our dedicated staff, peers and community partners we have assisted with the efforts to expand access to PrEP, a highly effective tool that may be the final push we need to get to zero HIV

infections on Vancouver Island. We continue to work to support people with hepatitis C to access treatment working toward the elimination targets. And until these goals have been met, we continue our prevention work to ensure those communities at risk have access the tools and resources they need to prevent infections.

I also feel tremendously privileged to work alongside our Board Chair, Chad Dickie who leads a wonderfully diverse Board of Directors, our dedicated and committed staff, our generous volunteers, donors and funders, and the many amazing community partners across Vancouver Island. For those who come to us seeking our service, I make a commitment to keep working towards a just society where that support is no longer needed.

Yours in health,

Katrina Jensen
Katrina Jensen



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

2019 is an significant year for AVI Health and Community Services Society. We officially changed our name from AIDS Vancouver Island – AVI - to better reflect the services and supports we provide to Vancouver Island residents.

Our new logo has five blood drops representing our five seeds - Wayne Cook, Don MacIvor, Roy Salonin, John Spencer, Grant Sullivan – five gay men who founded AIDS Vancouver Island around a kitchen table in 1985. That was the start. “AVI” forever honours them.

The five red-and-yellow ribbons represent AVI’s five locations – Campbell River, Courtney/Comox, Nanaimo, Westshore and Victoria – providing HIV, hepatitis C and harm reduction services and supports, and programs such as the Men’s Positive Wellness Program and Community Outreach. Thank you to our funders, particularly the Island Health Authority, for your resource supports and collaboration.

AVI has been a leader in HIV, safer sex and harm reduction education over the last 34-years. The opioid crisis clearly shows how AVI’s nimble and conscientious response saves lives. Still, there are many British Columbians dying before their time due to unsafe drugs supply.

And there is still much work to be done to counter HIV discrimination and stigma, including continuing advocacy to decriminalize the transmission of HIV. HIV is not longer a death sentence: it is now a chronic manageable condition. AVI is here to help.

Transitioning that to future is important. And with the vision, energy, and heart that is AVI, we are moving forward to ensure people living with HIV, hep C, men who have sex with men, person who use substances, and those most in-need get person-centred, coordinated, wrap-around support they need across Vancouver Island.

Chad Dickie

“AVI’s course and facilitation increased the group’s self-esteem and self-worth. It started conversations and strengthened the peer knowledge base. People are scared to ask questions to clinicians- AVI helped bridge that gap.”

The Men's Health & Wellness Program
at AIDS Vancouver Island proudly presents

MEN'SCAPES

Navigating Access

MEN'S WELLNESS PROJECT

The Men's Wellness Program's primary focus is to reduce HIV, STIs and stigma on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands amongst men that engage sexually with other men. Our community includes gay, bisexual, trans, Two Spirit, queer, GBMSM, men who enjoy having sex with men and more. Some of this year's activities and accomplishments included:

- Offered a total of 57 testing events via our monthly GBMSM clinics in Victoria, Nanaimo, and Westshore, as well as through outreach to local cruising areas
- MWP staff and AVI Board members attended The Summit, the Community-Based Research Centre's annual two day knowledge exchange and capacity building conference on gay, bi, trans, Two-Spirit, and queer (GBT2Q) health
- Offered Queer Eye for the Service Provider sessions to increase service providers' comfort with and knowledge

of the LGBTQ2+ community and related concepts

- Attended the Reimagining Masculinities conference
- Facilitated two peer leadership training series for gay, bi, queer, pan, two-spirit or other men who have sex with men, one in partnership with Peers. Peer Leaders and Peer Educators participate in focus groups to provide insight and feedback on MWP initiatives, and use the skills and knowledge they glean from the training to give back to the community, which can include participating in Screw Crew outings delivering safer sex supplies, writing material for our Men's Briefs publication, co-facilitating educational workshops, or working together as a group on a keystone project.
- In partnership with the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, hosted a workshop on Intimate Partner Violence in the Queer Community for service providers in the CRD

- Hosted our 6th annual Mens'capes conference, which included a livestream of the event online for the first time. This year's topic was Navigating Access and sessions included:
 - » HIV/AIDS and Vision Impairment: Advocacy, Accessibility and Inclusive Design
 - » Access to Health and Personal Care Services of Your Choice When You Cannot Speak for Yourself
 - » Building Consent, Creating Safer Spaces, and Accessibility in the Kink Community
 - » Round robin event where participants took part in activities MWP created throughout the year, such as Sexual Health Jenga, Queer Histories Timeline game, and Building The Acronym



"The facilitators did an amazing job at creating a safe space for participants to be open and vulnerable."

"Really good workshop! Keep bringing these issues to the front!"



HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

Harm reduction philosophy and practice underscores all the work we do. In all offices, we offer education and supplies to support people in safer drug use and safer sex, as well as a range of harm reduction services to the communities we serve.

In the South Island, our mobile harm reduction van offers deliveries and used syringe pickup from Sidney to Sooke for people who aren't able to access supplies and support due to a lack of mobility, proximity or stigma.

Our overdose prevention spaces in Victoria, Courtenay, and Campbell River are open 365 days a year and offer safe, clean spaces for people to use drugs in a non-judgmental environment.

Our new outreach teams in Courtenay and Campbell River provide many valuable communi-

ty services including 'house calls' for witnessed consumption, supporting people during evening hours when many other services are closed, harm reduction supply delivery and recovery, transporting clients to medical services, including doctor's appointments and urgent care, and visiting clients in hospital to provide support and liaise with hospital staff regarding meeting the needs of PWUD (person/or people who use drugs) in an acute care setting.

This year we developed and piloted a Harm Reduction Worker Training program in response to the pressure the overdose epidemic has placed on frontline staff and organizations providing services to people who use drugs. The workshops explore the principles and values that underpin harm reduction and provide a firm foundation in the

trade craft of service provision and care for those criminalized through their drug use. The training helps to inform and support new or experienced harm reduction workers (both without and without lived experience), but also aims to build organizations' capacity to support staff with lived experience of not only drug use but also of the associated criminalization, stigma, internalized shame, and other intersectional experiences of oppression.

In Victoria, we partnered with the Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project and hosted a free and confidential drug checking service in our office. Technicians from the program performed chemical analysis on small drug samples to detect signs of fentanyl, as well as any fillers or cutting agents.

"Thanks to all of you at AVI I am still here to enjoy life. Made you a little something to show appreciation and hope it helps someone else. Narcan doesn't do much without someone caring at AVI. Thanks to all staff."



HEALTH CENTRES

Our health centres in Nanaimo and Westshore provided free, low barrier Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) to a total of 381 patients. Our clinics also offer:

- STI testing and treatment, including Men's Wellness drop-in clinics that offer PrEP access
- Education, treatment, and support for clients living with HIV and HCV (as with all our services, offered with a harm reduction focus that includes

information on safer drug use and safer sex)

- Naloxone training
- Blood tests, pap smears, immunizations, and wound care for patients using OAT and/or living with HIV
- In Nanaimo, a weekly HIV Primary Care clinic
- In Westshore, weekly support groups for people who use(d) drugs and for those who have been impacted by a loved one's drug use

"This clinic saved my life without it I honestly feel I would not be alive today!!!"

"The presenters were engaging and honest. It was obvious how passionate they are about the work they do."



SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND/OR HEP C

Our Positive Wellness Program operates in our Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, and Victoria offices and serves 388 people who are living with HIV and/or hepatitis C. We provide clients with advocacy and support with systems navigation (including income assistance, health care services, employment, housing, disability status applications, and legal matters), HIV and/or hepatitis C treatment. Each week we offer a medical clinic in Nanaimo and Victoria, an onsite nurse practitioner in

Campbell River and Courtenay, and a nurse clinician, public health nurse, and community health nurse in Courtenay. In Victoria, we also offer a confidential drop-in lunch program where peers can spend time together while enjoying a nutritious hot meal.

For people living with hepatitis C, our Campbell River office offers a support group and in Courtenay our Community Kitchen program allows people to come together to prepare and enjoy meals together, as well as learning

about ways to cook and eat that support liver health. In Victoria, a monthly support group serves as a point of engagement for people who have lived experience of Hepatitis C, and as a time to meet to discuss Hep C-related information, event planning, and peer support, and peer leadership training programs provide the education and support to help people become peer educators in AVI's programming and in their own communities.

"I can't say enough good things about my experience here. I think it has changed my life for the better. More than I thought possible a year ago when I started coming here...Thanks."



VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers who contributed an incredible 10,954 hours to AVI this year. Volunteers assembled harm reduction and safer sex packs, answered phones and greeted clients at our reception desks,

provided education and resources at events, helped with food prep and clean-up, and much more. Volunteers past and present: thank you so much for your support – we truly couldn't do it without you!



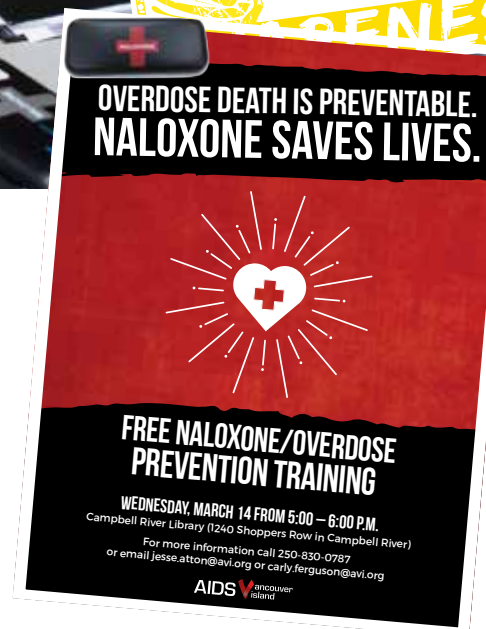
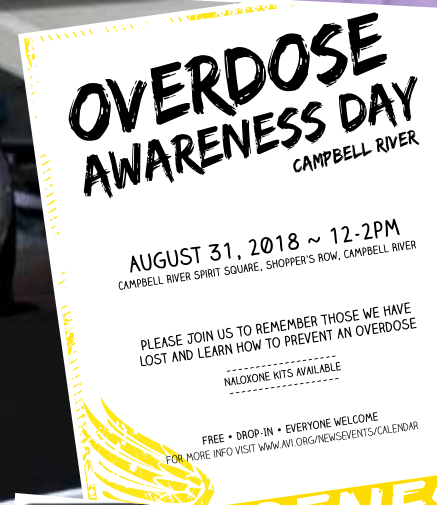
HEALTH PROMOTION

This year our amazing health promotion team facilitated 86 service provider trainings, 404 group education sessions, 275 peer education sessions, and 6 peer leadership training series to at-risk youth, one of which ended with the youth creating and hosting a queer sexual health symposium for other youth. We provided education and support around HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, safer drug use, sexual health, and overdose education and response and are proud to offer services

island-wide. Besides trainings and events at our offices we visited correctional facilities, high schools, detox and stabilization, partner organizations, and many small and/or isolated communities.



"This was truly a wonderful experience! I enjoyed all the discussions and the different topics discussed! I am happy to say that I'm much more informed about many important topics." – Peer Leadership participant



OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND RESPONSE

This year we trained a total of 6176 people in Take Home Naloxone. Besides offering training to clients in all of our offices, we trained people from organizations such as the Royal Canadian Navy, John Howard Society's Bladerunners Group, students at VIU, Sprott-Shaw College, Discovery College, and Camosun College, Village of Cumberland staff, Amethyst Recovery House, Ministry of Children and Family Development, NIL/TU,O Child and Family Services, Peers, BC Ferries, Sooke Fire Hall, attendees at Kokisilah, Cumberland Wild, and other festivals, and many other groups

and organizations around Vancouver Island.

All of our offices took part in International Overdose Awareness Day activities to remember those loved and lost while advocating for decriminalization, dignified health care, and a safe supply. Our staff joined with people with lived experience, community members and service providers to form community action teams (CATs) in Victoria, Nanaimo and Campbell River. These teams are tasked with developing community based responses to the overdose crisis

This year we created a powerful project called We Are Human:

Lived Experiences of People Who Use Drugs, a photography and storyboard exhibit featuring the stories of people who have experienced an overdose themselves or who have loved ones who have overdosed. The storyboards were exhibited in the Greater Victoria Public Library, Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Stimulus Conference in Edmonton, and in AVI offices.

"The quality of the overdose response workshops that AVI delivers are far better than any training I've done before" (security guard in Sooke)



HIV/AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

- AVI Courtenay and Campbell River participated in the Red Scarf Campaign to combat stigma and raise awareness of advances in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. Staff and volunteers made scarves and hung them in public spaces in downtown Courtenay and Campbell River to help people learn more and join the campaign.
- Our Courtenay and Campbell River offices offered testing events for World AIDS Day
- We visited the Cape Mudge Reserve to present a game of HIV Bingo during their Aboriginal AIDS Week Luncheon with Elders and families
- Nanaimo staff took part in Snuneymuxw First Nation AIDS Walk and offered an info table following event
- We Are Here storyboards went up in local libraries around the island
- In Victoria, we partnered with the Royal BC Museum for a special event including showing of Strong Medicine (a short film made by Indigenous people living with HIV) and Resistance Rising Choir performance, followed by a walk to the front steps of the BC Legislature to light our annual red ribbon memorial candle display



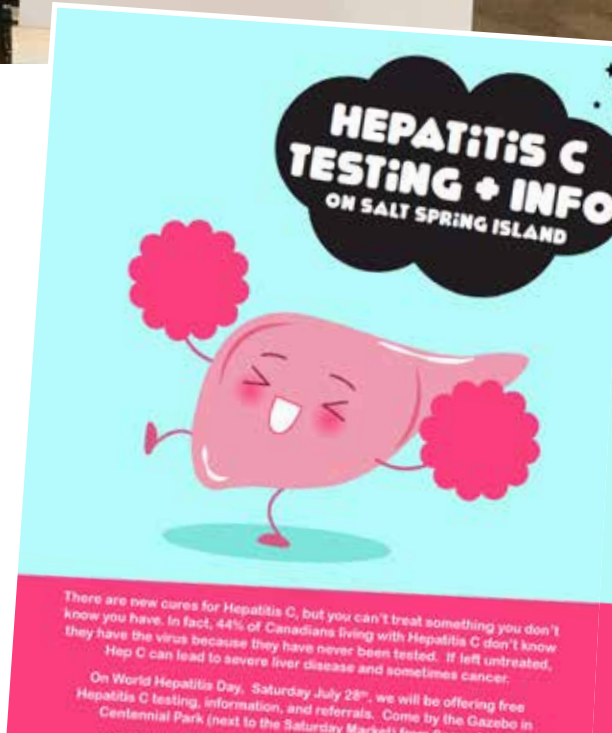
"I love AVI! You guys just really care, ya know?"

"Thank you so much for the honest conversations and great workshop!
Really appreciate what you do to create safe spaces."



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

- In Nanaimo, we presented workshops on Hepatitis A, B, and C for Street School and students from Discovery Community College and offered hepatitis C testing at our health centre
- Our Courtenay and Campbell River offices offered testing events
- In Victoria, staff and Peer Educators hosted an info table at the library and HCV rapid testing and info in Bastion Square (in partnership with PerCuro clinic)
- Hosted a hugely successful testing event on Salt Spring Island (also in partnership with PerCuro), which had 46 people stopping by for testing and many more people provided with education



"I found the series very informative and easy to learn because of the interesting way it was presented."



PRIDE FESTIVALS

AVI staff, volunteers, and peer educators celebrated, marched, tabled, offered Naloxone trainings and provided education and safer sex and drug use supplies at Pride events in Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Campbell River, and Salt Spring Island this year. As always, the events were filled with an energy of celebration

and excitement. For the third year in a row AVI staff and volunteers in Victoria also participated in Alt Pride, an event that aims to be an accessible, affordable, political, and all-ages alternative to mainstream pride on the ancestral homelands of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples.



"Thank you so much for doing such a kick ass workshop yesterday. You carve out and hold space so intentionally and inclusively...with humour, humility and honesty. You are great presenters. I cannot thank you enough for showing up the way you do and making your training be so impactful."



Thank you..



A thank you to the many organizations, 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, 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, Clahoose 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

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 University, MAC Cosmetics, Tillicum Lelum Health Centre, Harris House Health Centre, Island

Health Positive Health / Communicable Disease, Beaufort Clinic, Nanaimo Correctional Centre, Nanaimo Pride, SPAN (Sex Professionals Alliance of Nanaimo)

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, Island Health MHSU, Island Health Public Health, Sooke Region Community Health Network, Indigenous Harm Reduction Team (I-HRT)

Thank you to our funders



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

And many thanks to the following for project specific funds:



United Way
Central and Northern
Vancouver Island



United Way
OF GREATER VICTORIA



Victoria, Nanaimo and
Campbell River Community Action
Teams (OERC, MMHA): Overdose
Emergency Response Centre
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions



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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2019

Assets	
Cash	661,660
Accounts Receivable	108,603
Fixed Assets, Net	1,377,568
Other Assets	3,378
Total Assets	2,151,209
Liabilities and Net Assets	
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	263,667
Mortgages and Lines of Credit	47,669
Advances and Deferred	1,630,575
Total Liabilities	1,941,911
<i>Net Assets</i>	
Unrestricted	201,795
Restricted	7,503
Total Net Assets	209,298
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,151,209

Statement of Activities April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

Support and Revenue	
Island Health	2,475,976
Federal Government	301,408
United Way	115,500
MAC AIDS Fund	37,914
Regional Correctional Centre	7,190
Gaming Commission	125,000
Health Clinic	662,304
Donations and Corporate Sponsors	22,519
Minor and pilot project grants	65,918
Interest and other income	5,200
Total Support and Revenue	4,008,246
Expenses	
Salaries and Benefits	2,837,301
Rent and Office Expenses	425,383
Program Materials	204,964
Meetings, Honoraria and Travel	115,401
Amortization	25,833
Other	421,093
Total Expenses	4,029,975
Excess of revenue over expenses	-(21,729)



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, 2019, 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.

Qualified opinion

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, 2019, 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 accountants

OUR BOARD + VALUES

Board Members 2018-2019

- Chad Dickie, Chair
- Alexander Stirling, Treasurer
- Brent Weberg, Secretary
- Mitch Hawes, Executive member
- Darius Cuevas, Member-at-Large
- Lily Mignault, Member-at-Large
- Ngozi Joe-Ikechebel, Member-at-Large

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

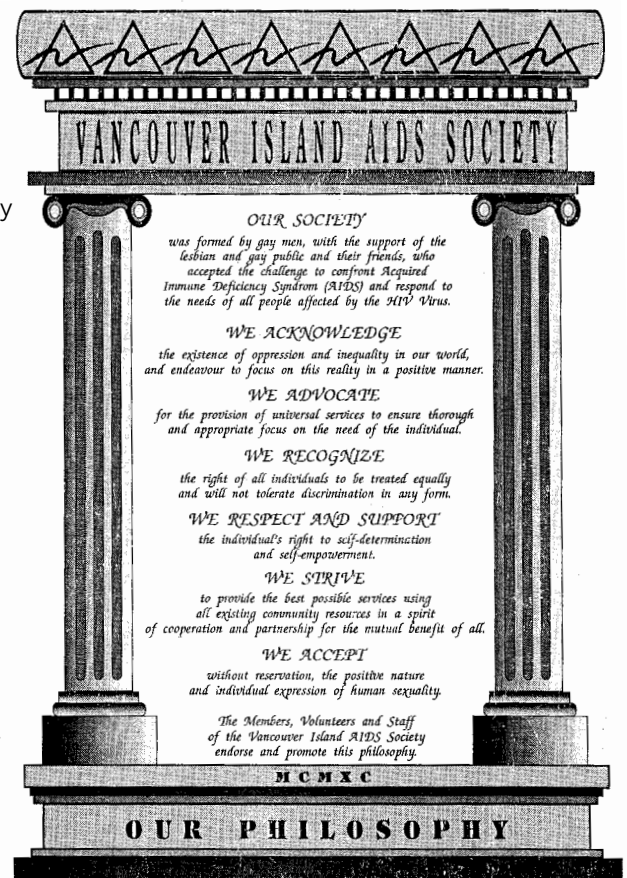
WE RECOGNIZE the right of all individuals to be treated equally and will not tolerate discrimination in any form

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



Contact Us

Campbell River

1371 c. Cedar Street, BC, Campbell River
Phone: 250-830-0787 | Fax: 250-830-0784
Toll free Infoline: 1-877-650-8787

Courtenay/Comox

355 6th St., Courtenay, BC, V9N 1M2
Phone: 250-338-7400 | Fax: 250-334-8224
Toll free Infoline: 1-877-311-7400

Nanaimo

AVI Health Centre
102-55 Victoria Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9R-5N9
Phone: 250-754-9111 | Fax: 250-753-4595
Toll free: 1-888-530-AIDS (2437)

Westshore/Langford

111-2787 Jacklin Rd. Langford BC V9B 3X7
Phone 250-940-3605 Fax 250-940-3611
Toll Free / Infoline 1-800-665-2437

Victoria

3rd Floor - Access Health Centre
713 Johnson St, Victoria
Phone: 250-384-2366 | Fax: 250-380-9411
Toll free Infoline: 1-800-665-2437

Harm Reduction Staff, 3-10pm daily,
250-889-0268

Mobile Harm Reduction Services
250-896-AVIX (2849)

Email: info@avi.org



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

