

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020



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

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



# THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

7480

# of one-on-one  
harm reduction  
education discussions

84,960

# of condoms distributed

8162

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

669,517

# of used needles returned

732,421

# of new needles distributed

457

# of people provided  
Opioid Agonist  
Therapy

2153

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

77

# of testing events

382

# of clients  
in our Positive  
Wellness Program

5323

# of people  
trained in Take  
Home Naloxone

35,871

# of safer inhalation kits distributed

10,954

# of volunteer hours



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# MESSAGE FROM AVI LEADERSHIP

Welcome to our annual report for the fiscal year 2019-2020. We invite you to read through to see some examples of the amazing work done by our teams across the island. In 2019, we launched our strategic plan along with our new name and logo. We worked to enhance AVI's profile and engage the community with the breadth of services offered by AVI across the island while ensuring that our historical roots and the ongoing impact of HIV remain critical parts of our organisation. We reviewed our staffing model and the office requirements at each location to strengthen AVI's internal capacities to ensure continued effectiveness.

We continue to be proud to partner by invitation with more than 20 indigenous communities across Vancouver Island to provide access to culturally safe HIV, HCV, and harm reduction services. This includes working with K'ómoks First Nation elder, Barb White on cultural events for people using substances, working with Snuneymuxw First Nation on youth programs, providing outreach on the Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Support Services (MOUHSS pronounced Moose) and developing a HIV Bingo with Homalco First Nations Elders. We also supported a group of staff in Victoria to develop a Cultural Humility working group.

We also focused on strengthening existing program delivery and continuing to be a leader in responding to emerging issues affecting those we serve. We remain focused on our role in the United Nations targets for the End of HIV. We worked to continue to expand access to PrEP in Victoria and Nanaimo, ensuring that this is available to those who need it. We have worked to link this with our popular Men's Testing nights for men who have sex with men, understanding that this community still bears a disproportionate impact of HIV. Our advocacy efforts continue the fight against HIV related stigma and we work to create safe spaces where people living with HIV can have their voices heard.

We are also working on the targets of the Elimination of hepatitis C. Our education and support staff continue the work of improving access to Hep C testing, treatment and support including piloting a successful micro-elimination project at our AVI Health Centre in Nanaimo. We held International Hepatitis Day awareness events across all our locations and worked to engage the broader community in efforts to create supportive environments for people living with and at risk of hepatitis C.

The overdose crisis continues with heartbreaking loss and we continue to do everything we can to prevent people dying. In addition to providing comprehensive harm reduction and overdose prevention services, we have supported efforts locally and nationally to call for a health approach to substance use. We also continued advocacy efforts for access to safer supply and decriminalisation. Our 2 clinics offer low barrier substance use care to more than 500 people. The involvement of people with lived and living experience of HIV, hepatitis C and substance use in our agency remains a vital priority.

These are just some of the many activities of our agency over the last year and for more details please visit our website or social media.







We also want to say a huge thank you to our departing Board Chair, Chad Dickie. Chad was elected to our Board in 2015 and has served for the last 3 years as our Board Chair. We are proud that Chad acknowledged himself as the first indigenous HIV positive chair of AVI. Chad oversaw our agency developing a new mission and vision and changing our name to better reflect the services we are providing. He also played a key role in the development of the AVI Westshore health Centre which since 2017 has provided substance use care and support to more than 300 community members in the Westshore area. Chad understands and helped actualise the importance of linking our services to primary care networks across Vancouver Island. He is a tireless advocate for our services, presenting on AVI to many different tables including the Board of Directors for the Island Health Authority. He involved our agency in many provincial initiatives including the HIV cure. Chad also provided incredible support to our Executive Director, offering thoughtful and compassionate counsel and was a dedicated Board Chair.

Our agency was started by volunteers like Chad and we continue to rely on and are so very grateful for the community members across the Island who want to give back by spending time volunteering at AVI. We would also like to acknowledge our staff who everyday bring tremendous compassion and skill to improving the lives of people across Vancouver Island. We also want to thank our funders and donors. Your belief in our work and your continuing contributions make everything possible. And to the people who use our services it continues to be an honor to serve you. We stand with all across our agency to continue the work to ensure that all people impacted by HIV, hepatitis C and substance use are able to realise health and wellbeing.

Yours in health,

Brent Weberg – Board Chair

Katrina Jensen - Executive Director





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# Thank you

**South Island:** Cool Aid Community Health Centre, 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, Victoria Police Department, Island Health HR Coordinator, Victoria Pride, Island Health Detox and Stabilization, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, Percuro, Alt Pride, HIM, CATIE, and Royal BC Museum, Mustard Seed, 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, 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

**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, Klahoose 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, Na-la'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**



**Public Health  
Agency of Canada**

**Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada**

**And many thanks to the following for project specific funds**









# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2020

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	621,770
Accounts Receivable	205,356
Fixed Assets, Net	1,296,345
Other Assets	100
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,123,571</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	259,652
Mortgages and Lines of Credit	46,557
Advances and Deferred	1,606,800
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,284,847</b>
<i>Net Assets</i>	
Unrestricted	201,795
Restricted	7,503
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>210,562</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>2,123,571</b>

## Statement of Activities April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	
Island Health	2,631,087
Federal Government	466,556
Community Action Initiative	290,979
United Way	88,515
MAC AIDS Fund	20,420
Victoria Foundation	24,706
Gaming Commission	129,500
Health Clinic	772,844
Donations	34,532
Minor and pilot project grants	87,714
Interest and other income	28,135
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>4,574,988</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	3,156,998
Rent and Office Expenses	480,255
Program Materials	233,704
Meetings, Honoraria and Travel	91,845
Amortization	25,833
Other	589,099
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,573,724</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>1,264</b>



## 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, 2020, 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, 2020, 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 2019-2020

- 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

## 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

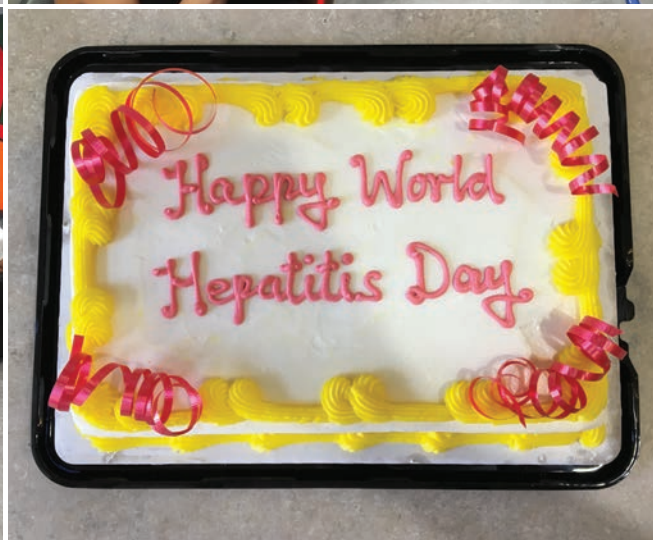
**WE STRIVE** to provide the best possible services using all existing community resources in a spirit of cooperation and partnership for the mutual benefit of all

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



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