

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

40 YEARS OF COMPASSION, ADVOCACY, AND COMMUNITY CARE ACROSS VANCOUVER ISLAND

Date

**NOVEMBER 2025** 





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# 40 Years: A letter from the Executive Director

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of founders Grant Sullivan, Wayne Cook, Roy Salonin, Don McIvor and John Spencer. AVI would not be here today if it were not for the discussions and work that began at Grant Sullivan's kitchen table 40 years ago. It was September 17th, 1985 and the initial plan they developed that night was a helpline. Equipped only with two or three brochures someone had brought back from New York and San Francisco, one of the men got a landline with call forwarding installed in his house and each of the men took a turn every night answering calls from people anxious and desperate for information. A test for HIV only became available in November of that year and there was still much doubt about how HIV was and wasn't spread. It's hard to imagine that reality now, in our world with internet and the easy access to information that this brings.

In 1985, there were 279 cases of AIDS in BC of which 126 people were still alive. By 1986 AVI was run out of a small office in the Cook St. Health Unit. There was no infrastructure, early newsletters featured endless pleas for a couch to sit on and office furniture. There were no computers. In one of those newsletters, half a page was taken up with the death cries of an IBM electric typewriter along with a plaintive cry for a replacement, preferably one that came with a typing table. A cassette deck with some tapes was another item on the wish list. There was no regular ongoing funding and then there was a small Federal grant but no provincial health money. There was gratitude for the United Way who took AVI on, to the Belfry Theatre and for other community members and businesses who gave generously.

Wayne Cook, one of the founding members and ongoing Board member reflected back in 1988 about the three years that had passed since the formation of the agency:

"Speaking as a founding member, I must say I am extremely happy with the organisation and the speed at which it has grown and expanded in the three years since its formation. But sadly, the AIDS situation is gradually worsening, as it enters the heterosexual community. There is an increase in the number of women who are being diagnosed".



# 40 Years: A letter from the Executive Director

In 1989 the new Chair of the Board, Larry Frost, wrote about the pride in the agency for operating the street outreach services and the needle exchange, noting that AVI was actually the first community-based AIDS agency to do so.

The first effective treatment for HIV would not be available until 1996. I still remember the almost unbelievable news out of Vancouver that there was a treatment that was not only suppressing the virus but leading to better health. I remember a friend saying that he had better start buying RRSP's again. It was a turning point and suddenly HIV was no longer an absolute death sentence. Dear friends and colleagues living with HIV suddenly had a real chance of a long life even as stigma remained a significant barrier.

Most of our founders and many of our supporters are no longer here today. But their courage and perseverance are reflected in our work across Vancouver Island as we provide support for hundreds of people living with HIV and hepatitis C, and educate thousands about prevention and stigma. Our teams are also on the frontlines of a relentless drug poisoning crisis on track to see almost 2000 deaths in BC again this year.

With everything happening in our community and in the world around us right now, from an increase in stigma and hate and HIV cases, to the cuts to aid around the world that will almost certainly increase deaths from AIDS, it can be hard to keep hope and to feel like any change is possible.

But the lessons of the AIDS movement, of the men who founded AVI, of the people who make up our organisation today is that *community matters*. People stepping up and helping each other is more important than ever. The courage and the willingness to step forward to make a difference is what binds us to the past and what also points the way forward.

In closing, I want to thank all those who have supported our organisation over the last 40 years. I feel so honored to be part of AVI and to work alongside such dedicated staff, volunteers and board members. I especially want to thank our Board Chair, Cherolyn Knapp for her steadfast and compassionate leadership over the last 2 years.





## Letter from the Board Chair

Founded in September of 1985 by five men who saw the urgent need for accurate and up-to-date information and services relating to HIV/AIDS, we enthusiastically mark the 40th anniversary of AVI Health & Community Services! In January 2026, it will be 40 years since AVI became a registered society in BC with those original founders forming the first board of directors.

Forty years on, the diverse individuals who make up AVI's board of directors provide strategic direction and oversight to the organization while dedicated staff provide

the front-line services and manage the operation in four locations on Vancouver Island. The fibrous thread that connects modern day AVI to its original incarnation is the unwavering vision by all of its volunteers and staff of a community where people can experience optimal health and wellness, and be free from stigma, marginalization, and criminalization.

After four years of significant growth, the work of the board of directors and leadership team in 2024–2025 focused on ensuring stability for the organization. One of the primary things that makes AVI special is its ability to adapt to new situations and do things differently. Nonetheless, ensuring the "AVI way" is written down in policies and procedures strengthens us by reducing the amount of effort spent reinventing the wheel, making more time and energy available for supporting the important work with AVI's participants.

To that end, the board of directors undertook a review and renewal of its board policies, so that they support the organization at its current size and complexity. The board has also grappled with striking the balance between engaging in organizational advancement and fund development with only limited staff resources for doing that work.





### Continued

Directors have mightily contributed to these efforts through committee work. They have also made important decisions to ensure the sustainability of a qualified and caring board of directors for years to come.

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AVI's services are needed more than ever. Ensuring access across the island to effective HIV and hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment remains a priority along with supporting people to access support for all Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infection's (STBBI's).

Our mental health response teams are proving to be an essential part of the service continuum. The drug poisoning crisis continues with many lives lost over the last year on Vancouver Island. AVI remains steadfast in our commitment to doing everything we can to prevent death and injury from the toxic drug supply. Our services have made a difference in people's lives, and we hold onto that as a strength to persevere through another health crisis.

## **Thank You!**

We are incredibly grateful to the many people who make up our organization and to those who support it. We are honoured to be of service to the community, but we could not do it without you.

We want to especially acknowledge:

- Our participants and service users, whom we are honoured to support.
- Our staff, whose dedication makes AVI who we are.
- Our funders and donors for their trust in AVI's work.
- Our volunteers who give so generously of their time and compassion.
- Our community partners who work hand in hand with AVI.
- Our board of directors, committed to representing and improving our communities.







## Independent Auditor's Report: Opinion

## To the Members of AVI Health & Community Services Society,

We have audited the financial statements of AVI Health & Community Services Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, 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 the Society as at March 31, 2025, 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







Revenue

\$16.1M



**Expenses** 

\$15.8M



Excess Revenue Over Expenses

\$283.9K

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' FULL REPORT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**MARCH 31, 2025** 

ASSETS	
CASH	\$2,412,574
RECEIVABLES	\$886,998
DUE (JOINT VENTURE PARTNER)	\$57,511
PREPAIDS	\$22,972
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$1,357,222
TERM DEPOSITS	\$6,859,482
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,596,759

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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$10,684,858
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,221,787
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$7,592,231
LINE OF CREDIT	\$21,590
PAYABLES + ACCRUALS	\$1,849,250

#### **NET ASSETS**

TOTAL LIABILITIES + NET ASSETS	\$11,596,759
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$911,901
GENERAL OPERATING FUND	\$241,195
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED OPERATING FUND	\$491,847
RESTRICTED	\$7,503
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	\$171,356

## **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**MARCH 31, 2025

#### **REVENUE + SUPPORT**

HEALTH CANADA	\$4,829,924
VIHA	\$4,682,696
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	\$3,071,705
PROVINCIAL GOV'T - MINISTRY OF H&A	\$1,642,734
MINOR + PILOT PROJECT GRANTS	\$259,959
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA	\$185,133
UNITED WAY	\$146,663
GAMING COMMISSION	\$114,000
COMMUNITY ACTION INITIATIVE	\$48,491
VICTORIA FOUNDATION	\$26,245
INTEREST & OTHER INCOME	\$461,995
HEALTH CLINIC	\$439,645
DONATIONS + FUNDRAISING	\$125,541
AMORTIZATION OF DEFERRED CAPITAL	\$65,499
TOTAL REVENUE + SUPPORT	\$16,100,230

#### **EXPENSES**

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$283,944
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,816,286
PROMOTION + ADVERTISING	\$388
LICENSES, FEES + DUES	\$70,131
AMORTIZATION	\$98,253
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$56,652
MEETINGS, HONORARIA + TRAVEL	\$233,227
PROGRAM MATERIALS	\$346,872
RENT + OFFICE EXPENSES	\$1,234,622
CONTRACT SERVICES + EVALUATION	\$1,480,513
SALARIES + BENEFITS	\$12,295,628



# A year in numbers















# of People Provided Low Barrier
Medical Care



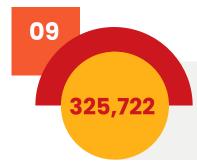
# of People Trained in Drug Poisoning Response



# of People Who Received Mental Health Crisis Care



# of One-on-One Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Education Discussions



# of Harm Reduction Kits Distributed
Across Vancouver Island















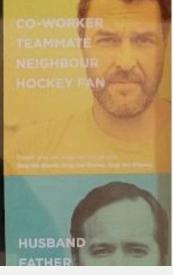






















# 2024-25

# **BOARD COHORT**



Cherolyn Knapp - **Chair** 

Robin Gage - Vice Chair

Gladys Thairu - **Treasurer** 

Tammy Khana -Secretary

Don Gillett

Douglas Laird

Lara McLachlan

Dr. Paul Tenywa

Miguel Strother







# FUNDER RECOGNITION











Health Canada Santé Canada





Working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island



Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada





## **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: 1-800-665-2437

#### **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: 1-800-665-2437

## **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: 1-800-665-2437

## **VICTORIA**

Our Victoria office is located on the territories of the ləkwəŋən 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



