



Positive Action Canada HIV/AIDS Innovation Program 2010

The ViiV Healthcare - Shire Canada **Positive Action Canada HIV/AIDS Innovation Program** promotes innovative projects that use multi-dimensional approaches to optimize the health and well-being of people living long-term with HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral therapy. The Program has granted \$1,585,000 to more than one hundred and seventy-nine projects over the past fifteen years. Eleven community-based AIDS organizations across Canada shared the \$125,000 available in 2010.

This year's Program recipients, and the amounts of their grants, are as follows:

AIDS Committee of London – *Women's Health & Wellness Project*. \$12,000. Provide programming specific to the needs of HIV+ women addressing the links between HIV and social determinants of health, to improve quality of life, reduce isolation and help clients make informed choices for themselves and their families.

AIDS Committee of Toronto – *Enhancing the health and well-being of gay men living long-term with HIV/AIDS*. \$12,000. Develop, implement and evaluate a group-based psycho-educational intervention for gay men in Toronto living long-term with HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral therapy, which improves mental, physical and social health and wellbeing.

AIDS Saskatoon – *'The Needle Exchange': a crafty conversation around treatment*. \$7,500. (*) Engage street-involved aboriginal persons living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs) through a series of facilitated group activities centred on teaching knitting and crochet while empowering clients through conversations about HIV and holistic approaches to health, including treatment as a long-term goal.

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention – *'Rize up!: Positive Youth Group*. \$12,000. Initiate a bi-weekly discussion group of workshops and peer support for HIV+ black youth as they transition into the adult health care system.

Catholic Community Services – *Positive Family*. \$14,000. In partnership with GAP-VIES, Native Women's Shelter of Montréal, and Stella, launch a one-week family camp for people living with HIV (PHAs), primarily single mothers, and their immediate family.

Centre for Spanish Speaking People – *Radio Arco Iris*. \$12,000. In collaboration with Latino PHAs, develop and deliver internet-based community radio programming to provide information, support, empowerment, and community development while reducing the impact of stigma and social determinants of health.



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Deaf Outreach Program – Ontario Association of the Deaf – *HIV/AIDS terminology development in American Sign Language (ASL)*. \$12,000. Create and disseminate American Sign Language (ASL) signs for new and evolving medical terminology related to HIV treatment and care, in order to facilitate clear communication of medical information between healthcare providers and Deaf PHAs via interpreters.

Maison Plein Coeur – *Peer-to-Peer Volunteer Project*. \$12,000. Develop a peer-to-peer volunteer-driven program in Montréal for people living long-term with HIV/AIDS to facilitate mentorship and knowledge transfer to younger PHAs thereby building leadership through empowerment, and reducing isolation.

Red Roads HIV/AIDS Network – *‘Moving Towards Healing’ Workshop Series*. \$9,000. Build and deliver one-day workshops for BC First Nations people living with both the effects of the residential school era and an HIV diagnosis, to address their complex issues in a culturally meaningful manner.

Vancouver Friends for Life Society – *HIV/AIDS New Pathways to Wellness Project*. \$9,500. Provide supportive peer-based nutritional counselling/cooking classes and smoking cessation sessions focused on habit change, to gay men living long-term with HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral treatment.

Vancouver Native Health Society – *The Dude’s Club*. \$13,000. (*) Offer extra-curricular and drop-in activities through a community-based pilot project to build networks, improve the health knowledge and optimize the well-being of men living with HIV/AIDS in the Downtown Eastside.

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