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Ms. Jennifer Evin Jones
Executive Director
Pacific AIDS Network
PO Box 3102
Vancouver BC V6B 3X6

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2009, regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the importance of the Pacific AIDS Network and the 41 community based member organizations that you represent in addressing it. I apologize for the delayed response.

As you have articulated in your letter and attached discussion paper, HIV/AIDS is a serious issue. It is clear that the Pacific AIDS Network and other community based organizations are an important part of the prevention, care, treatment, support continuum. The province is committed to working with community through the province's six health authorities to continue to address the epidemic.

The efforts of communities have greatly contributed to health system successes such as the initiation of harm reduction programs like Insite. Additionally, communities will be an important partner in future initiatives with great promise, such as the Premier's announcement to pilot expanded HIV care and treatment to vulnerable populations in Prince George and Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

I appreciate your ongoing commitment to work with those living with HIV/AIDS, regional health authorities, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and the Ministry of Health Services to address this important issue.

I look forward to hearing about future innovations that are the result of work completed by the Pacific AIDS Network and its community members,

Sincerely,

Kevin Falcon
Minister

pc: Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport