

hepc.bull

Canada's Hepatitis C News Bulletin

www.hepcbc.ca

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY BC EVENTS

BC EVENTS:

Below are the World Hepatitis Day events in BC which we know about:

Abbotsford

When: July 28th 12-3 pm

Where: Jubilee Park

Contact: Kindra Breau

support@plfv.org

Positive Living Fraser Valley is hosting its World Hepatitis Awareness BBQ on Tuesday July 28th from 12-3 at Jubilee Park, downtown Abbotsford. Come on down to enjoy complimentary hot dogs, face painting and music, while learning about hepatitis C prevention and treatment. Confidential testing will be provided by trained Fraser Health Blood Borne Pathogens nurses. Positive Living staff and other community service providers will be available with information on services available to those at risk or affected by hepatitis C.

Agassiz

When: July 28th

Where: Check with local community centre

Contact: Lisa Walberg

lisawalberg@seabirdisland.ca

Cranbrook

When and Where: July 28th

11:00-12:00 – Hand out cupcakes @ downtown Cranbrook.

12:00-1:30 – Brown Bag lunch – Screening of 'Deal With It' @ Street Angels

2:00-5:00 – Information tables, cupcakes @ Rotary Park

Contact: Michelle Shewell

ankorshcv@gmail.com

World Hepatitis Day – Cranbrook, will kick off with an invitation to attend a Brown-Bag Lunch. Prior to the lunch, volunteers will hand out cupcakes in



(Continued on page 3)

BC LIGHTS UP LEGISLATURE, SCIENCE WORLD & BC PLACE FOR WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2015!

You and your friends and families are invited to watch the beautiful **BC provincial legislature buildings in Victoria** get lit up for the very first time in the hepatitis C colours red and yellow to commemorate World Hepatitis Day! Come to the front of the buildings around 8:30 pm on July 28th to meet with others watching the first lights illuminate the building; the lights will be on between 9 pm and 1 am the next morning. Pictures of this event will be shown along with other "hepatitis light-ups" planned throughout Canada including Niagara Falls — **and both Science World and BC Place in Vancouver**. Please come join HepCBC and AIDS Vancouver Island at this lovely and historic event which has been made possible because some people in power are starting to listen to HCV+ voices, and acknowledging HCV as a dangerous but treatable public health problem. Bring your camera and send your photos over FB and Twitter, or simply send them to info@hepcbc.ca. Hashtags: **#lightupforhcv** and **#BCLeg** (for BC Legislature). See you!



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HEPCBC PRESENTATION TO CDN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK

On June 19th, HepCBC's volunteer Cheryl Reitz was in Toronto presenting about hepatitis C advocacy efforts in British Columbia at the AGM of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. She was happy to share the podium with hepatitis C advocates Zoë Dodd of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre in Ontario and Tahir Amin, co-founder of

(Continued on page 3)

ORDER OR DONATION FORM

NOTE: Ordering (or donating) via Credit Card or PayPal is available online at www.hepcbc.ca/hepcbc-order-form/ OR...

Fill out form below with a cheque made out to "HepCBC" - Send to our Victoria Office

HepCBC
#20-1139 Yates Street
Victoria, BC V8V 3N2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ PC _____

Home () _____ Work () _____

Email: _____

☐ Monthly bulletin** through email....FREE*

☐ Membership with voting privileges...FREE*

☐ Bulletin through mail, Subscribe 1 year. \$10.00

☐ Peppermint Patti's FAQs through mail...\$20.00

☐ Donation enclosed.....\$ _____
(You will receive an annual charitable tax receipt)

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

*Only name and email address required for emailed bulletin.

Membership also requires a postal address.

We will mail you a member package with pamphlets, yellow and red ribbon pins, information about volunteering opportunities, and how to participate in our annual general meeting, plus other ways to make your voice heard.

(Note: Nothing mailed to you from HepCBC will have ANY reference to hepatitis on the envelope.)

Registered Canadian charitable organization since 2001. No. 86800-4979-RR00001.

**Download the hepc.bull free (since 2001) at www.hepcbc.ca/hepc-bull-monthly-newsletter/

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline for any contributions to the hepc.bull® is the 15th of each month. Please contact the editors at jking2005@shaw.ca, (250) 595-3892. The editors reserve the right to edit and cut articles in the interest of space.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The hepc.bull welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. When writing to us, please let us know if you *do not* want your letter and/or name to appear in the bulletin.

BC TRANSIT ADS URGE EVERYONE TO GET TESTED

HepCBC had the first hepatitis C bus ad campaign in Canada in 1996 (urging everyone to GET TESTED for hepatitis C!), and a couple more bus ad campaigns in the years that followed. This year is our largest bus ad campaign ever – it will last the entire month of July and involve bus ads – both inside and outside the buses – in 7 British Columbia cities: Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria. We are doing outreach to the City Councils and Mayors of these seven cities, urging them to proclaim July 28th as World Hepatitis Day in their city, to take photos with the bus ads (see below), and for as many as possible to get PUBLICLY TESTED for hepatitis C – see article about this in this issue.

We are urging people who see these ads to take a photo of them – or of the bus, or a selfie with the ad, or a friend with the ad – and forward as high a resolution photo as possible to your FB or Twitter, to our FB (hepcbc), our Twitter (@hepcbc) or by email to info@hepcbc.ca. Be sure to let us know in which city it was taken Use this Twitter Hashtag for the bus ad campaign: **#HepCBusAd**.



Nanaimo Mayor Bill McKay holds our bus ad.

Nanaimo City Councillor Wendy Pratt holds our bus ad.



Victoria City Council holds our bus ad (Mayor Lisa Helps in centre)

STAFF CHANGES AT OUR VICTORIA OFFICE

This month HepCBC will lose two of our Victoria Office contract staff, and we are still searching for a replacement.

Since 2006, Ana Maria Medina has been a big part of HepCBC, though generally working behind the scenes with our bookkeeper, with volunteers getting out the monthly bulletin, with our insurance company getting extra coverage for our info tables, with our Board organizing monthly meetings and the AGM, and so on. She also has helped translate the FAQs into Spanish, spearheaded our participation in the Victoria Day Parade, and managed/picked up HepCBC donation cans at grocery stores all over south Vancouver Island. We've even had the pleasure of watching her daughter grow up. At the end of July, Ana Maria and her family are heading back to their home country, Colombia, for an extended visit. We'll miss her enthusiasm and big smile!

Bronwen Black joined HepCBC as a part-time Community Projects Manager in our Victoria office in December, 2014 but will be leaving us at the end of June. High points of her time with HepCBC include a major effort to educate MPs, MLAs, and City Councillors/Mayors about hepatitis C and to offer them opportunities to take a public hepatitis C test. She also worked very hard on recruiting, training, and managing several great new volunteers while continuing to keep the older volunteers busy. She updated our contact database, organized a bus ad campaign in 7 cities and several public showings of "Deal with It", and has also set up several info table opportunities for us in Vancouver Island shopping malls, flea market, etc. She will enter the U of Victoria's Law School in September and we wish her all the best as she takes on this very big project!

We decided to combine these two contract positions as "Community Projects Manager/Office Manager." We are still accepting applications for this 3/4 time position which will start ASAP. Applicants should live in Victoria, have experience with non-profits, be familiar with hepatitis C, write at university graduate level or better, be comfortable with public speaking, and be an enthusiastic self-starter with excellent references. Lived experience is a plus. Send CVs detailing education, experience, and references to info@hepcbc.ca.

Next issue we will introduce the people who help man our Vancouver Outreach Office.

(HIV Presentation-Continued from page 1)

Initiatives for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge (I-MAK), an international leader in patient treatment access and pricing issues (<http://www.i-mak.org>). Cheryl talked first about how HIV/HCV co-infected people, due to the success of HAART therapies for chronic HIV, are now dying less often from AIDS and more often from HCV-related causes, and in need of increased HCV treatment and support. Then she presented current prevalence statistics (from the Canadian Communicable Disease Report CCDR: Volume 40-19, December 18, 2014) which HepCBC uses in educational presentations about who has hepatitis C in Canada, what their needs are, and how to reach those who don't know they have it.

The CCDR report presents a more complete picture of the HCV epidemic among users of IV drugs; their research divided these people into current users and former users (including even one-time users.) While the incidence of new infections is now driven primarily by current IV drug users, the people who have hepatitis C in Canada (prevalence of the disease) are not primarily current IV drug users. The 220,000 or more people with HCV in Canada are made up of 35% people born outside Canada who generally contracted the disease through the medical system in their home countries, 23% who once used IV drugs but no longer do, 20% current users of IV drugs, and 15% born in Canada who never used IV drugs.

The needs of the approximately 80% of HCV+ Canadians who no longer use, or never used, IV drugs are very different from those of the IV drug users who are still transmitting and contracting this disease. The first, generally older, group requires a (one-time) screen-treat-cure strategy, while the second, generally younger, group is primarily in need of prevention strategies such as harm reduction and regular surveillance, plus intensive services to combat related issues of homelessness, joblessness, hunger, and addiction. Cheryl's invitation to the AIDS service organizations and others in attendance to cooperate with HepCBC in addressing (speaking with one voice about) HCV and HIV-related issues was warmly received by the participants.

THANKS!!

HepCBC thanks the following institutions and individuals for their generosity: The late John Crooks, Allison Crowe, Billie Wood and Adrian, Victoria Positive Living Centre, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, the Victoria Foundation, Dr. C. D. Mazoff, Judith Fry, and the newsletter team: Beverly Atlas, Diana Ludgate, Alp, Cheryl, Anamaria, and S.J.

Please patronize these businesses that have helped us: Top Shelf Bookkeeping, Merck Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche Canada, Vertex, Gilead, Janssen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, AbbVie, Rx&D, VanCity, Country Grocer, and Thrifty Foods.

(WHD BC EVENTS —Continued from page 1)

downtown Cranbrook, with the WHD logo on them, to community members to inform them of the screening. The Brown Bag Lunch will include a screening of the 'Deal With It' video. After the screening, a brief discussion of the movie will be provided, in order to inform individuals of treatments that are different from those described in the movie. Popcorn will be provided at the Brown Bag Lunch. An evaluation will be completed for this event. After the movie, an awareness display will be held in the highly populated Rotary Park. This awareness display will include a table with information packages, cupcakes with the World Hepatitis Day Logo, on-site testing and WHD swag. There will also be a game that will include prizes (Hepatitis C Spinner).

Kamloops

When: July 28th 2015

Where: ASK Wellness Centre, 433 Tranquille Road

Contact: Kira Haug

kira@askwellness.ca

World HCV Day

Feed the people campaign

Proudly supported by the Kamloops Food Bank and ASK Wellness Society.

Chili and burgers, music and entertainment for all!

In-site confidential testing by Interior Health Authority.

Kitimat

When: July 28th 2015

Where: Kitimat Public Health

Contact: Darlene Schmid

darlene.schmid@northernhealth.ca

Did you know we now have treatment for Hepatitis C? Hepatitis C affects everyone whether you have the disease or it is just in your community. We are holding a drop in event July 28th, 2015 at the Kitimat Health Unit to share information and provide testing for hepatitis C. Early testing means increased chance of cure for hepatitis C. We invite everyone to come to our event and see what is new on this disease.

Surrey

When: July 28th 12-3 p.m.

Where: Lookout Emergency Aid Society

Contact: Susan Bhatti

surrey.hascoord@lookoutsociety.ca

Vancouver

When: Tuesday, July 28th, 2015,

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Creekside Community Recreation Centre

1 Athlete's Way, Vancouver, BC V5Y 0B1

Contact: Sandi Mitchell

sandi.mitchell@bccdc.ca

Victoria (TWO EVENTS!)

When: July 28th 2015

Where: Centennial Square: 1:30 pm. Walk to Legislature. Rally at legislature: 2:00 pm

Contact: Hermione Jefferis

hermione.jefferis@avi.org

AIDS Vancouver Island and our valued partners will once again be bringing attention to World Hepatitis Day by hosting an event in downtown Victoria. Special guest speakers, music, information about transmission, testing and treatment, and other surprises! Everyone welcome.

When: July 28th 8:30 PM - 9:15 PM

Where: Legislature Buildings, Light-Up Event (see page 1) sponsored by HepCBC

More events Canada-wide can be found at: <http://whdcanada.org/events/>

For events in other countries, see the website of the World Hepatitis Alliance (www.worldhepatitisday.org/). Participating in an event in your community is a good way to support organizations that provide services and advocate for treatment access for everyone with hepatitis C.



In Toronto June 19, 2015 at Annual General Meeting of Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. L>R: Richard Elliott, Executive Director; Andrew Beckerman, Vice Chair; Dr. Mark Tyndall of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (speaker) and Cheryl Reitz of HepCBC (speaker).



Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAY 26 2015

Ms. Rosemary Plummer
President
Hep C BC
20-1139 Yates Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 3N2

Dear Ms. Plummer:

I am pleased to respond to your letter concerning hepatitis C screening guidelines, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Murray Rankin, Member of Parliament for Victoria.

As you are aware, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends screening for individuals with risk behaviour and potential exposures to hepatitis C. The Agency is aware of calls to add one-time screening for specific birth cohorts, and has determined that further analysis is required before proposing changes to the current guidance. This additional analysis will include a review by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care, an independent body of primary care and prevention experts. The Task Force's review is expected to be made public in spring 2016.

In the meantime, the Agency is working with the provinces and territories to increase awareness and promote screening among those at an increased risk for the hepatitis C virus.

The federal government is committed to continuing to work with provincial and territorial partners to address the burden of hepatitis C through the Hepatitis C Prevention, Support, and Research Program. The program funds community-based projects aimed at preventing the spread of viral hepatitis and improving the lives of those infected with the virus.

I hope that this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.

c.c. Mr. Murray Rankin, Q.C., M.P.

Canada

RE: MINISTER'S REPLY

About Federal Minister of Health
Ambrose's Reply to HepCBC

In February, 2015, HepCBC sent a letter to federal Minister of Health, Hon. Rona Ambrose, inquiring about the release date of the new hepatitis C Testing Guidelines which would presumably include one-time, age-cohort-based (sometimes called "Baby Boomer") testing in addition to the current risk-based testing. These new guidelines were widely expected to be released late 2014 or early 2015. The Minister replied that the Guidelines' release has been postponed until spring 2016 because "further analysis is required before changing current Guidelines." The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (<http://www.canadiantaskforce.ca>) has been charged with this task. At present hepatitis C is not listed as a pending project on their website.

HepCBC is greatly dismayed by this delay, during which more Canadians will be dying unnecessarily of undiagnosed HCV, while a redundant and unnecessary statistical analysis double-checks figures already published in a Canadian peer-reviewed journal, the Canadian Medical Association Journal of January 12, 2015 which shows that testing the cohort **1950-1970** would be cost-effective by preventing morbidities and mortality in now-undiagnosed Canadians (<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2015/01/12/cmaj.140711.full.pdf>) and echoes a parallel "Baby Boomer Testing" campaign now being promoted in the US by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Preventive Services Task Force, based on the following recommendation of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease and the Infectious Diseases Society of America: "One-time HCV testing is recommended for persons born between **1945 and 1965***, without prior ascertainment of risks *regardless of country of birth." While HepCBC realizes testing Canadians in the 1945-1950 age group may not be as cost-effective as the other years, we have noted many of our members were born in that 5-year period, and are now experiencing morbidity and mortality from severe liver disease. Hence, HepCBC joins the Canadian Liver Association (http://www.liver.ca/landing-page/Hep_C_PR2013.aspx) and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver in recommending one-time testing for the **1945-1975** birth cohort.

(Continued on page 5)

(Re: Minister's Reply—Continued from page 4)

An interesting note: the proposed age-cohort testing would identify most of the still-unknown victims of the Canadian blood scandal, who may be eligible for compensation. HepCBC is aware of recently-diagnosed victims such as one who acquired HCV in 1982 (diagnosis 33 years after infection) from a transfusion she did not know she'd had. Canada's blood safety was not secured as HCV-free until 1992-93. Unless age-cohort testing is implemented, new victims could even be discovered as late as 2025 - or even beyond, particularly as infected children of undiagnosed victims may still contract the disease.

VANCOUVER OFFICE INFORMATION

Please come visit our Vancouver Outreach Office: Room 206A, 938 Howe Street, Vancouver V6Z 1N9. Phone: 604-259-0500. **OFFICE HOURS** are:
MONDAY and THURSDAY
10 am—2 pm.

Lower Mainland **PEER SUPPORT** Line
(7 days/week): 604-259-0501 (NEW!).

MAYOR & COUNCILLORS GET TESTED

Mayors and City Councillors Get Publicly Tested for Hep C!

On Mon. June 22, the mayor and a city councillor in Nanaimo became the first municipal leaders in Canada, to our knowledge, to get publicly tested for hepatitis C. **Nanaimo Mayor Bill McKay** and **Councillor Wendy Pratt** accepted HepCBC's invitation to demonstrate that anyone can have hepatitis C and that everyone, particularly Baby Boomers, should be tested at least once. This sort of courageous leadership is helping normalize and de-stigmatize hepatitis C testing, helping publicize that taking an HCV test is a positive step. They have joined the ranks of these other BC political leaders who have "rolled up their sleeves" for a public hepatitis C test: Official Opposition Health Critic and **MP Murray Rankin** plus **MLAs Ralph Sultan, Naomi Yamamoto, Simon Gibson, Scott Fraser, Carole James, George Heyman, Maurine Karagianis, Lana Popham, Jennifer Rice, Harry Bains, Katrine Conroy, Gary Holman, and Jenny Kwan.** We will be asking mayors and councillors in the other 6 of our bus ad cities to consider



Have you been undetectable for at least 12 weeks after treatment? Give others hope. Add your name! Congratulations to our friends:

1. **GJ** - SVR Dec 1998 - IFN/RBV 52 wks - Dr. Anderson /Natalie Rock, Vancouver, BC.
2. **Jeanie Villeneuve** - Oct 2000 - Schering IFN/RBV
3. **Amberose** - (GT2a/2c) - SVR 2000 - Schering IFN/RBV 24 wks
4. **KG**-Transfused 1987 (treatment naïve GT2A/2C) IFN/RBV 24 wks, 2003-2004, Toronto. SVR confirmed 2014
5. **Darlene Morrow** - (GT1 relapser) - Mar 2004 - Hyperthermia/Induction + pegIFN/RBV.
6. **Kirk Leavesley** - (GT1) - 2004 - Roche
7. **Beverly Atlas** - (GT1a) - 2005/2006 - Albuferon/RBV 44 wks
8. **Steve Farmer** - 2008 (Transplant Vancouver 2005) IFN/RBV 72 weeks.
9. **Gloria Adams†** - (GT1b relapser) - Fall 2009 IFN/RBV/telaprevir 48 wks - Drs. Erb & Yoshida, Vancouver, BC)
10. **Don Crocock** - (GT1 Stage II) - Dec. 2010 IFN/RBV - 48 weeks
11. **Daryl Luster** - (GT1a) - Feb 2011 - IFN/RBV/RO5024048 48 wks.
12. **Donna Krause** - (GT1 partial responder) SVR Nov 2011- Pegasys/Copegus, danoprevir/ritonavir/RO5024048 24 wks. Dr. Erb, Vancouver.
13. **Hermione Jefferis** - (GT 1a) - SVR 2011, PegIFN/RBV, 48 wks, Dr. Partlow, Victoria, BC
14. **Cheryl Reitz** - (GT1b previous partial responder) SVR12 Mar 2013 - asunaprevir/daclatasvir 24 wks - Dr. Ghesquiere, Victoria, BC.
15. **Anita Thompson** - (GT1a treated 3 times) Cirrhosis - Apr 2013 - Pegasys/boceprevir 48 wks. Dr. M. Silverman, Whitby, ON.
16. **Leon Anderson** - (GT2 partial responder) SVR24 May 8, 2013 - GS-7977/RBV 16 weeks - Dr. Alenezi & Dr. Conway- VIDC - Vancouver.

SVR HONOUR ROLL

17. **Joan King** - (GT1b treated 5 times) SVR24 June 2013 - asunaprevir/daclatasvir 24 wks Dr. Ramji, Vancouver, BC
18. **Jackie** - GT1 relapser) - SVR24 June 2013 - IFN/RBV/boceprevir 48 wks. Dr. Keith Bovell, Guelph, ON.
19. **Sandy J.** (GT 1a treatment naïve) Oct 31, 2013 - IFN/RBV/Victrelis 28 wks. Fran Faulkner, RN, Vancouver Island. Now SVR24.
20. **Andrew P.** - (GT 1a many prev treatment attempts over 10+ years, including Incivek Jan 2014.) sofosbuvir/ledipasvir + RBV 24 wks
21. **Peter A Walker** - (GT1a, treatment-naïve) SVR Jan 2014 - PegIFN/RBV+boceprevir (Eprex - for low RBC count from RBV.)
22. **Diane Stoney** - Transfused 3/21/79 (GT 1a treatment naïve) Feb 4 2014 - 12 wks placebo, then 12 wks on ABT-450/r+ABT-267+ABT-33+RBV. Dr. Tam, Vancouver, BC
23. **Coreen Kendrick** - (GT1a treatment naïve) Mar 10, 2014 MK5172/MK8742 12 weeks Dr. Ramji, Vancouver, BC.
24. **Jack Swartz**—(Treated 3 times) Apr 2014 IFN/RBV/Victrelis, Dr. S. Wong, WHSC.
25. **Del Grimstad** July 2014, 12 weeks simeprevir/Sovaldi
26. **Linda May** (GT1b transfused, treatment-naïve) 12 wks asunaprevir/daclatasvir, Dr. Tam, LAIR Centre.
27. **Robin Tomlin** (GT1 treatment-naïve) SVR12 May 4, 2014 --Harvoni 12 weeks-- Dr. Yoshida VGH.
28. **Bob** (GT1a/HIV relapser) SVR24 Nov 2014 pegIFN/RBV/Incivek 24 wks, Dr. Montaner, Salt Spring Island, BC.
29. **Nancy Neel [NEW]** (GT1a previous relapse IFN/RBV 48 wks) SVR 24 Mar 2015 MK-5172/MK 8742 12 wks. Dr. Ramji, Richmond, BC.

Please send your name and info to **Joan at info@hepcbc.ca**

doing this as well. If you can get a political leader to get publicly tested for hepatitis C (this simply means letting someone take a photo while they are getting tested which they agree can be shared publicly), please send us the photo with the date, location, name, and position of the person tested. We'll be delighted to publish it on our website, on social media, and in our next bulletin! Twitter hashtag: **#heptest**.



Nanaimo Mayor Bill McKay rolls up his sleeves!



Nanaimo City Councillor Wendy Pratt rolls up her sleeves! Mayor McKay's and Councillor Pratt's courageous stand will help normalize and de-stigmatize hepatitis C testing.

CONFERENCES

The Viral Hepatitis Congress 2015

10–12 September 2015

Frankfurt, Germany

www.viral-hep.org/

AFEF 76th Meeting 2015 (AFEF 2015)

30 Sep-3 Oct 2015

Toulouse, France

www.afef.asso.fr/congres/afef2015/

[index.phtml](#)

National Hispanic Hepatitis

Awareness Day

15 October 2015

Worldwide

www.hispanichepatitisday.org/

2nd International Hepatitis Cure &

Eradication Meeting

November 11-12, 2015

Vancouver, Canada

[www.virology-education.com/event/](http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/2nd-international-hepatitis-cure-eradication-meeting-2015/)

[upcoming/2nd-international-hepatitis-cure-eradication-meeting-2015/](#)

AASLD - The Liver Meeting

13 - 17 November 2015

San Francisco CA

www.aasld.org

NEW TREATMENT GUIDELINES

New EASL Treatment Guidelines

In July 2015, the EASL (European Association for the Study of the Liver) released its new hepatitis C testing and treatment guidelines. Highlights can be found here: www.natap.org/2015/EASL/EASL_155.htm

The Guidelines can be downloaded from www.easl.eu/clinical-practice-guideline

In Canada, similar guideline updates are released by the Canadian Assn. for the Study of the Liver (CASL) whenever changed conditions, new research or new treatments make this necessary. The most recent CASL guidelines are available at www.hepatology.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/16644_myer.pdf. Just because a treatment regimen is recommended by these professional physician specialist organizations does not mean it is covered by a provincial or territorial pharmacare, however, and often additional exclusionary criteria such as a current requirement of many provinces to produce proof of extensive liver damage (F2 or greater) is imposed on those seeking treatment. HepCBC opposes the imposition of any such restrictions, but particularly those not recommended in current CASL guidelines.

TREATMENT COVERAGE & COMPENSATION THROUGH CLASS ACTION SUITS

Patient support programs for accessing treatments for hepatitis C through the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement

See PDF:

www.hemophilia.ca/files/HT%20March%202015.pdf

People who are approved claimants under the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement may be reimbursed for treatment costs and generally accepted hepatitis C (HCV) medications that are not recoverable under any public or private health care plan.

The patient support programs provided by the pharmaceutical companies are designed to provide a wide range of customized services including reimbursement assistance, education and ongoing disease management support. Part of the support is to help you and your health care provider determine if you qualify for treatment and medication cost reimbursement through the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement. To enroll in one of these programs, speak to your doctor or nurse or go to www.hemophilia.ca/en/hcv-hiv/hcv-treatment-support-for-1986-1990-claimants for more information.

NOTE: There is also a “pre-1986, Post 1990 fund, <http://www.pre86post90settlement.ca>



Cdn Hemophilia Society's Michel Long

Cheryl Reitz of HepCBC recently met with Michel Long (above) at the Montreal office of the Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS), where they discussed upcoming changes to the compensation funds for victims of the tainted blood scandal. CHS has consistently led the effort to gain compensation for all victims of the tainted blood scandal (not only those with hemophilia) for several decades.

HCV MANIFESTO / MANIFESTE-VHC RE-ISSUED IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH

HCV Manifesto re-issued, now in French and English!

The HCV Manifesto was written in response to stigma and discrimination against those with hepatitis C. Based on similar principles developed many years ago by HIV/AIDS advocates, it offers individuals (patients, families, and anyone else) and organizations NGOs, companies, service clubs, labour and business organizations, churches, etc.) an opportunity to sign it online to show their support for people with hepatitis C. It is being translated into several languages which will soon be available online. HepCBC has joined with Quebec's Hep C organization, Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C (CAPAHC), to issue a new printing of both English and French hard copies of this Manifesto. Email HepCBC (info@hepcbc.ca) if you want any of these pamphlets. Online versions can be downloaded at <http://hepcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/HepatitisCManifesto.pdf> (EN) or FRENCH at

http://hepcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ManifesteDeLHepateC_fr1.pdf (FR).



Laurence Mersilian, Executive Director of CAPAHC and Cheryl Reitz of HepCBC discuss HCV Manifesto/Manifeste-VHC in Montreal, June 22, 2015

ABBVIE CARE

With the approval of HOLKIRA™ PAK, AbbVie is launching AbbVie Care, which is a program that will provide best-in-class solutions to improve outcomes for people living with hepatitis C.

Canadians prescribed HOLKIRA PAK will have the opportunity to request to be enrolled in AbbVie Care. The signature care program is designed to provide a wide range of customized services including reimbursement assistance, education and ongoing disease management support. AbbVie Care will not only support health care professionals but people living with genotype 1 hepatitis C throughout their treatment journey to achieve high cure rates in the real world.

For enquiries: 1-844-471-2273.

MERCK CARE™

MerckCare™ is a program to help people who have been prescribed PEGETRON™, VICTRELIS™ or VICTRELIS TRIPLE™. The program provides:

- assistance with reimbursement and/or insurance claims.
- financial assistance for co-pay/deductible for people who qualify.
- 24/7 nursing support by phone.
- multilingual assistance.
- home delivery of medication.

MerckCare™ provides all of these services free of charge.

To enroll in MerckCare™, you can call 1-866-872-5773 or your doctor or nurse can submit an enrollment form for you. Reimbursement specialists are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

IBAVYR™

Pendopharm has established the IBAVYR™ Patient Support Program. The program will assist patients who have been prescribed IBAVYR™ (ribavirin tablets) with reimbursement navigation, financial assistance and pharmacy services. Case managers will support patients with insurance-related matters and assess eligibility for financial support. Pharmacy services include adherence support, medication delivery and counseling.

To enquire or to enroll, you may call 1-844-602-6858 Monday–Friday 7am to 11pm EST.

BIOADVANCE®

JANSSEN's GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program can assist you in many ways during your treatment. This includes compiling and submitting, on your behalf, all the forms and documents required by your insurance company to request coverage of GALEXOS™, and following up with your insurer to get you the best coverage possible. If you don't have private insurance, the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program will investigate public assistance programs that can help pay for your treatment. Whichever type of coverage you have, if your insurance does not fully cover the cost of treatment, the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program can usually coordinate and provide financial assistance to help you get treated. Finally, the program can offer many other types of support and your doctor and members of your healthcare team will work with the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® Program to develop a customized approach to best support you throughout the course of your treatment. Contact: 1-855-512-3740

MOMENTUM™ SUPPORT

To learn more about SOVALDI™ or the Momentum Program™ in Canada, the patient should speak to his/her doctor or nurse or call the Gilead Sciences Canada medical information line at 1-866-207-4267. Eligible patients may receive an integrated offering of support services for patients and healthcare providers throughout the entire treatment journey, including:

- Access to dedicated case managers/reimbursement navigators to help patients and their providers with insurance-related needs, including identifying alternative coverage options through private, federal and provincially-insured programs.
- The SOVALDI™ Co-pay assistance program, which will provide financial assistance for eligible patients who need help paying for out-of-pocket medication costs.
- Medication delivery services.
- Compliance and adherence programs.

PEGASSIST

The PegAssist Reimbursement Assistance Program provides reimbursement coordination assistance for patients who have been prescribed Pegasys or Pegasys RBV. The program will assist in securing funding for patients to ensure that they can start, stay on, and complete their treatment successfully. PegAssist Reimbursement Specialists are available (Monday to Friday, 10 AM - 6 PM EST) by calling: 1-877-PEGASYS or 1-877-734-2797. Patients can also obtain a program enrollment form from their nurse/physician to gain access to the program.

The program provides financial aid to qualified patients, alleviating financial barriers which may prevent patients from starting treatment, i.e., deductibles and/or co-payments. In partnership with CALEA Pharmacy, the program can conveniently deliver the medication directly to patients' homes or to the clinics.

NEUPOGEN

Amgen has a program for patients who have been prescribed Neupogen. Dependent on specific criteria, some patients may be able to obtain Neupogen on a compassionate basis free of charge **as long as it is prescribed and dosed in accordance with the approved product monograph**. This service is accessed through the Victory Program: 1-888-706-4717.

INCIVEK CARE

Vertex's Incivek Care Patient Assistance Program supports patients with the reimbursement process for Incivek (telaprevir) treatment (Incivek, pegIFN, ribavirin). It will give you an efficient assessment of your options and eligibility. You may qualify to receive co-payment and other financial assistance to supplement your private and provincial drug program coverage. The program also provides dispensing and home delivery options, and expert treatment advice. Call the Support Line at 1-877-574-4298. (Select option 2 for English, then 2 for Incivek Care.)

COMPENSATION

Class Action Suit Hotline: 1-800-229-5323 ext. 8296
Health Canada Compensation Line: 1-888-780-1111
Red Cross Compensation pre-86/post-90 Registration: 1-888-840-5764 HepatitisC@kpmg.ca
Ontario Compensation: 1-877-222-4977
Quebec Compensation: 1-888-840-5764

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR 1986-1990

Claimants may be reimbursed for costs of treatments and accepted hepatitis C medications not covered by public or private healthcare plan while they wait for reimbursement from the 1986-1990 plan.

Administrator 1-877- 434-0944
www.hepc8690.com
info@hepc8690.com

Pre-86/Post-90

Administrator 1-866-334-3361
preposthepc@crawco.ca
www.pre86post90settlement.ca

Settlement Agreement:
www.pre86post90settlement.ca/PDFs/SA/

**HOW WILL YOU
CELEBRATE WORLD
HEPATITIS DAY?
(SEND US YOUR PHOTOS-
WE'LL PUBLISH!)**

SUPPORT BC/YUKON

Armstrong HepCURE Phone support 1-888-437-2873

AIDS Vancouver Island The following groups provide info, harm reduction, support, education and more:

• **Campbell River:** Drop in, harm reduction, needle exchange, advocacy. 1371 C - Cedar St.

Contact leanne.wingert@avi.org 250-830-0787

• **Comox Valley** Harm reduction, counseling, advocacy. 355 6th St., Courtenay. Contact Sarah

sarah.sullivan@avi.org 250-338-7400

• **Nanaimo AVI Health Centre.** Counseling, advocacy. **NEW: 102-55** Victoria Rd. Contact Anita for details. 250-753-2437

anital.rosewall@avi.org

• **Port Hardy** (Port McNeil, Alert Bay, Port Hardy, Sayward, Sointula and Woss) Drop-in kitchen. 7070 Shomcliffe Rd. Contact Shane, 250-949-0432 shane.thomas@avi.org

• **Victoria** Access Health Centre, drop in, disability applications, peer training. Support group Tues 12:30 PM, 713 Johnson St., 3rd floor, 250-384-2366 Hemi-one.jeffers@avi.org

ANKORS Hepatitis C Project

Hep C Info, support for prevention, testing, treatment and living well with Hep C.

• **Boundary, Nelson, West Kootenay** Women's gathering monthly. 101 Baker St. Nelson. Contact Laura 1-800-421-2437 250-505-5506 ankorshepc@ankors.bc.ca

• **East Kootenay** 209 16th Ave N, Cranbrook, Contact Michelle 250-426-3383 1-800-421-2437 ankorshepc@gmail.com

Castlegar Contact Robin 250-365-6137 eor@shaw.ca

Chilliwack PCRS Hep C Prevention, harm reduction. 45904 Victoria Avenue, Chilliwack. Contact Kim Lloyd 604-798-1416. lbirdsall@pcrs.ca www.pcrs.ca

Comox Valley Positive Wellness North Island Treatment/Pre & Post-treatment Support Group 2nd & 4th Wed., 615-10th St, Courtenay. Lunch. Contact Cheryl 250-331-8524. Cheryl.taylor@viha.ca

CoolAid Community Health Centre, Victoria. Meetings each Wed 10 AM and Thu 1:30 PM. 713 Johnson St. Support for all stages of treatment (deciding, during, after). Contact Roz rmilne@coolaid.org for treatment or group info.

Courtenay HCV Peer Support and Education. Contact Del 250-703-0231 dggrinstad@shaw.ca

Cowichan Valley HCV Support Contact Leah 250-748-3432 r-lattig@shaw.ca

Haida Gwaii support. Contact Wendy wendy@wendyswellness.ca www.wendyswellness.ca

HepCBC info@hepcbc.ca, www.hepcbc.ca Call for office hours.

• **Victoria Peer Support:** 4th Tues. monthly 7-8:30 PM, Victoria Health Unit, 1947 Cook St. Contact 250-595-3892 Phone support 9AM-10PM.

• **Fraser Valley** Support/Info: 604-576-2022

Kamloops ASK Wellness Centre. Chronic illness health navigation/support.

info@askwellness.ca 250-376-7558 1-800-661-7541 ext 232 or Merritt health housing & counseling 250-315-0098

www.askwellness.ca

Kamloops Hep C support group, 2nd and 4th Wed monthly, 10-1 PM, Interior Indian Friendship Society, 125 Palm St. Kamloops. Contact Cherri 250-376-1296 Fax 250-376-2275

Kelowna Hepkop: Phone support, meeting info.

Contact Lisa 1-866-637-5144 ljmortell@shaw.ca

Nanaimo - Central Island Hepatitis Service: Nurses & doctors available for info, support, treatment. Clinic located in Nanaimo. Doctor or self-referral. Contact 1-855-740-2607, sarah.hughes@viha.ca or shelby.munk@viha.ca

New Westminster Stride with Purpose "HepC" Support Group 1st & 3rd Fri monthly 10:30-11:30. BBP Nursing Team, refreshments/lunch. Contact: Stride Workers 604-526-2522, mail@purposesociety.org

Positive Wellness North Island-North Island Liver Service Info, support, treatment/pre-post treatment groups. Doctor or self-referral. 1-877-215-7005 250-850-2605.

• **Courtenay:** 2nd Fri monthly 1PM, Drop-in, Comox Valley Nursing Centre (nurse)

• **Campbell River:** Treatment/pre&post-treatment support group 1st & 3rd Thu monthly 10-12 noon, Discovery Room, Sunshine Wellness Centre, Campbell River Hospital. Jody Crombie at 850-2620, jody.crombie@viha.ca

Penticton & District Community Resources Society, Harm Reduction Program, Meetings every 2nd Tues, 12:30-1:30 PM. 330 Ellis Street. Contact Melanie: 250-488-1376 or 250-492-5814

Positive Haven Info, harm reduction, support, drop in, clinic. 10697 135A St. Surrey. Contact Monika 604-589-9004.

Positive Living Fraser Valley (Abbotsford) Hep C support, Drop-in centre #108-32883 S. Fraser Way, M-F 10:30 AM-4:30PM. Info, support worker, rides to appointments in surrounding areas. Contact 604-854-1101 or plfvcentre@plfv.org

Powell River Hepatology Service Powell River Community Health, 3rd Floor-5000 Joyce Ave. Contact Melinda 604-485-3310 Melinda.herceg@vch.ca

Prince George Hep C Support Contact Ilse ilse.kuepper@northernhealth.ca

Sunshine Coast-Sechelt Healthy Livers Support Group Information/resources Contact Catriona 604-886-5613 catriona.hardwick@vch.ca or Brent 604-740-9042 brent.fitzsimmons@vch.ca

VANDU The **Vancouver** Area Network of Drug Users. 380 E Hastings St. M-F 10-4 Contact 604-683-6061

vandu@vandu.org www.vandu.org

Vancouver HCV Support Contact Beverly 604-435-3717 batlas@telus.net

Vancouver Hepatitis C Support Group Contact 604-454-1347 or 778-898-7211, or call 604-454-1347 (Terry), to talk or meet for coffee.

Vernon telephone buddy, M-F 10-6 Contact Peter: pvanbo@gmail.com Tel. 250-309-1358.

YouthCO HIV and Hep C Society of BC. Call for appts or drop in M-F 10-6. 205-568 Seymour St,

Vancouver 604-688-1441, 1-855-YOUTHCO Stewart info@youthco.org, www.youthco.org

Whitehorse, Yukon—Blood Ties Four Directions Contact 867-633-2437 1-877-333-2437 admin@bloodties.ca



OTHER PROVINCES

ONTARIO:

Barrie Hepatitis Support Contact Jeanie for info/ appointment

jeanievilleneuve@hotmail.com

Hamilton Hepatitis C Support Group 1st Thurs. monthly, 6-7 PM, Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre, 71 Rebecca St, Hamilton. Contact Maciej Kowalski, Health Promoter 905-522-3233 mkowalski@hucchc.com

Hep C Team, AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area. Education, outreach, treatment, individual & group support, harm reduction, needle exchange. 269 Main St. W, Suite 201, North Bay. Contact 705-497-3560, 1-800-387-3701 or hepccommcoord@gmail.com, www.aidsnorthbay.com

Hepatitis C Network of Windsor & Essex County Last Thurs. monthly, 7 PM, Teen Health Centre-Street Health Program Office, 711 Pelissier St., Suite 4, Windsor. Contact Andrea Monkman 519-967-0490 or hepcnetwork@gmail.com, <http://hepcnetwork.net>

Kingston Hep C Info HIV/AIDS Regional Service. Contact 613-545-3698, 1-800-565-2209 hars@kingston.net www.hars.ca

London Hepatitis Hep C Support 186 King St, London. For those infected as well as affected by Hep C. Contact: 519-434-1601, 1-866-920-1601 www.hivaidconnection.com

Niagara Health System - Hepatitis C Care Clinic (HCCC) Clinics:

New Port Centre-Port Colborne, 4 Adams Street - St Catharines, Niagara Falls Hospital. Education, counseling, individual/group support, treatment, outreach, and harm reduction. Contact 905-378-4647 ext 32554 and HCCC@niagarahealth.on.ca www.niagarahealth.on.ca/services/hepatitis-c-care

Oshawa Community Health Centre Hepatitis C Team Drop-in, lunch provided each Thurs. 12-1 PM, 79 McMillan St. www.ochc.ca Contact 1-855-808-6242

Owen Sound Info, support. Contact Debby Minielly dminielly@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca 1-800-263-3456 Ext. 1257, 519-376-9420 Ext. 1257, www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Peel Region (Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon) 905-799-7700

healthlinepeel@peelregion.ca

St. Catharines Contact Joe 905-682-6194

Toronto CLF 1st Mon. monthly Oct.—June, 7:30 PM, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street. Contact Billie 416-491-3353, ext. 4932.

bpotkonjak@liver.ca www.liver.ca

Thunder Bay Hep C support. Contact Sarah Tycholiz 807-345-1516 (or for 807 area only 1-800-488-5840)

Unified Networkers of Drug Users Nationally undun@sympatico.ca

York Region Hepatitis C Education Group 3rd Wed. monthly, 7:30 PM, York Region Health Services, 4261 Hwy 7 East, B6-9, Unionville. Contact 905-940-1333, 1-800-361-5653 info@hepcyorkregion.org www.hepcyorkregion.org

QUEBEC:

Quebec City Region

Contact Renée Daurio

418-836-2307

reneedaurio@hotmail.com

CAPAHC support group meetings 3rd Thurs. monthly 6-8PM, 5055 Rivard St., Montreal) Contact 514-521-0444 or 1-866-522-0444

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Hepatitis Outreach Society of NS. Info and support line for the entire province. Call 1-800-521-0572, 902-420-1767

Online Peer Support: info@hepnns.ca www.hepnns.ca

PRAIRIE PROVINCES:

Manitoba Hepatitis C phone and email support and outreach. Contact Kirk at info@mbhepc.org. Direct line: 1-204-231-1437

Manitoba CLF each Thu 1:30-3. 375 York Avenue, Suite 210, Winnipeg, Contact Bianca 204-831-6231 bpengelly@liver.ca

Medicine Hat, AB Hep C Support Group 1st & 3rd Wed. monthly, 6:30 PM, HIV/AIDS Network of S.E. AB Assoc, 550 Allowance Ave. Contact 403-527-7099 bettyc2@hivnetwork.ca

To list Canadian groups here, please send details to info@hepcbc.ca by the 15th of the month. It's free!