

The Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

December 22, 2017

Dear Minister Dix,

Thank you for your Ministry's response (from Eric Lun, PharmD, Executive Director, Drug Intelligence & Optimization Branch, Pharmaceutical Services Division), to PAN's October 3 letter urging access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an HIV prevention tool for vulnerable populations, including gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in British Columbia.

PAN in partnership with the CBRC, YouthCO and HIM, would like to take this opportunity to let you know about some exciting advancements on the file that have taken place since we last wrote:

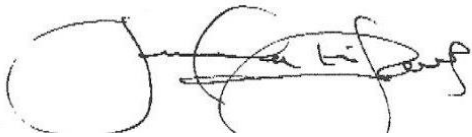
- **PrEP is now less expensive than ever.** Generic versions of PrEP have dramatically lowered the cost, resulting in cheaper access across the board.
- **The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS**, led by Dr. Julio Montaner, has proposed a revenue neutral plan to provide PrEP to gay men in the short term.
- **The Province of Ontario has joined Quebec with a plan to provide PrEP** to those who cannot afford the medication, often those most in need.
- **We have now secured pan-partisan support for PrEP** from members of each party represented in the BC Legislature.

While these advancements are moving us closer to preventing new HIV transmissions in our province, we're still falling behind:

- **Each month that goes by without action from the BC government, approximately 20 more British Columbians become HIV positive.** The vast majority of these people (10 to 15 new infections each month) are gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.
- **Your Ministry has said they aim to have a decision on PrEP by the end of the year,** which is approaching fast.

Minister Dix, we're again urging your government to deliver on this campaign promise by making access to PrEP a reality. We would like nothing more than to celebrate your commitment to our province's leadership in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment by providing access to this critical HIV prevention tool. Now is the time for PrEP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Evin Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

Jennifer Evin Jones
Executive Director

Sarah Chown
Executive Director
YouthCO

Joshua Edward
Program Manager
Health Initiative for Men

Jody Jollimore
Managing Director
Community-Based Research Centre

cc. Mr. Eric Lun, PharmD, Executive Director, Drug Intelligence & Optimization Branch,
Pharmaceutical Services Division, Ministry of Health
Ross Harvey, Executive Director, Positive Living Society of BC
Katrina Pacey, Executive Director, PIVOT