

Stories from the Front Line

*A Roadmap for Change: Charting the Future of HIV
Criminalization Advocacy*

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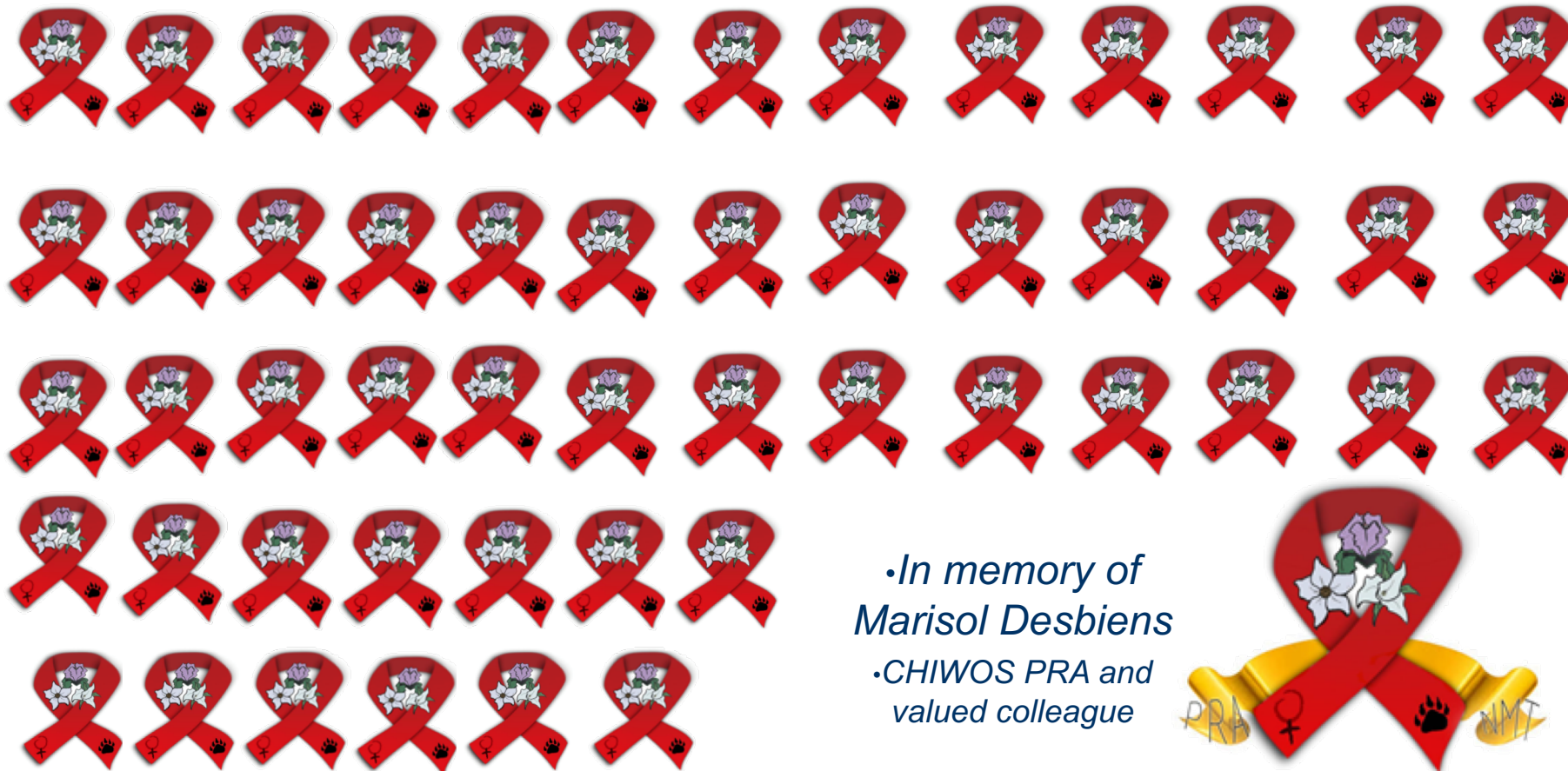
In **BC**: Oak Tree Clinic at BC Women's Hospital, AIDS Vancouver Island, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Cool Aid Community Health Centre, Downtown Community Health Clinic, Keys Housing and Health Solutions (Positive Haven), Living Positive Resource Centre, Positive Living Fraser Valley, Positive Women's Network (closed), Positive Living North, and Vancouver Island Persons with AIDS Society.

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Remembering

We honour and remember the 57 women living with HIV who participated in CHIWOS from across Canada who have passed away.



*•In memory of
Marisol Desbiens*

*•CHIWOS PRA and
valued colleague*



“If I wanted to kill you, it wouldn’t be through sex”



How does the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure affect women living with HIV?

- Beyond the number of charges against women, the *threat* of prosecution can impact women's lives
- Gendered barriers to and challenges of disclosure
 - violence and stigma
 - Who will you +ell?
 - We hide within or from ourselves
- Women are less likely than men to meet the legal criteria for non-disclosure
- Cone of silence
- 50 shades of criminalization



Confusion & Seeking Clarity about the Law

“What about the ones that are out there that are not even educated, can’t read, and they’re sick and they don’t even know?”

What is “low viral load”?

“What happens if the condom breaks, and you’ve told whoever you’re with that you are HIV? And the condom breaks and they contract the virus, then what happens?”



“If a person consents to having sex with me, knowing my status, have you committed a crime?”

“Is there a statute of limitations on disclosure?”

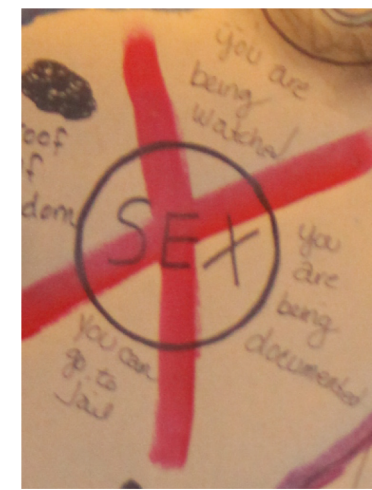
“Do you become known as a sex offender and be put on the sex offender list?”

Disclosure, Safety & Violence Against Women

“What if I’m being attacked – do I have to disclose to my attacker?”

“What happens if you’re raped and you don’t disclose to your rapist – Oh, I’m HIV, by the way?”

“Could a person actually pull a dirty one on us people with HIV? You know, could they turn around and even if you’re honest and told them, then they thought...they lied and said, ‘Well, I caught it from her,’ or him. And they go to the police and get them charged, just out to be spiteful and mean.”



Criminalization changes our

LIES	L	LISTEN
INSECURE	I	INVOLVE
VIOLENCE	V	VOICES
EMOTIONAL	E	EDUCATION
SEX OFFENDER	S	SAFE CHOICES



Implications

- Value of Indigenous teachings and ceremonies for all women – Indigenous & non-Indigenous, researchers and participants.
- For women: to enhance knowledge of the law, and available supports across Canada.
- For organizations: to make program, policy and law reform recommendations.
- For research: to understand how Body Mapping can be used as a research tool while creating an opportunity for self-discovery, healing, and connection among women.



WE ARE NOT A
PROBLEM
BUT
PART OF THE
SOLUTION"

Do You Know?
The LAW

THINK!

I
Am
NOT
A
POTENTIAL
SEX
OFFENDER!

NO SHAME
BEING HIV+

BEING HIV+ IS NOT
A CRIME

Concerns
me
HIV +ve PEOPLE
HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS
TOO!!!

Positive, Beautiful
Not A Crime

No Fear!!!



Community Action

- Prison Outreach Program, Positive Living Society BC
- CHIWOS
- WATCH
- The Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization
- YouthCo



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watchHIV.ca

