

January 8, 2021

Ms. Bobbi Brownrigg
Director of Operations for Clinical Prevention Services
BCCDC
Sent via email to Bobbi.Brownrigg@bccdc.ca

Dear Ms. Brownrigg:

I hope this finds you well. I write on behalf of the Pacific AIDS Network (PAN)ⁱ to express our concerns over the closure of the Bute St. Clinic, formerly co-located with QMUNITY.

As you know, for decades the Bute St. Clinic provided essential, low barrier sexual health testing services. The clinic enjoyed an excellent reputation. It served residents not only of the West End and downtown Vancouver, but people from across the Lower Mainland and beyond in search of queer friendly and non-judgemental health care.

Such confidential, anonymous and queer positive testing services are still the preferred option for many. We are concerned both that the Clinic has been closed since March 2020 (due to COVID-19); and by the recent announcement that this will be a permanent closure.

We urge the PHSA and BCCDC to fund and complete plans for a new home for the Bute St. Clinic as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Evin Jones', is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or stamp.

J. Evin Jones
Executive Director

CC: Dr. Troy Grennan, Physician Lead, Provincial HIV/STI Program, BCCDC
Heather Pederson, Online Sexual Health Manager, Clinical Prevention Services,
BCCDC

ⁱ PAN is a pro-active member-based coalition that provides a network to the abilities and efforts of its 40-member organizations to respond to HIV, hepatitis C and related issues across British Columbia. Our role includes acting as a voice for the community-based response to the HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C epidemics, which are now inextricably entwined with the ongoing overdose crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. See www.pacificaidnetwork.org