

August 19, 2026

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca

Civil Society Organizations Urge Ongoing Support for the Community Action Fund and the Harm Reduction Fund

Dear Minister Michel,

We are writing today on behalf of 96 civil society and community-based service organizations to urge the Government of Canada to maintain the Community Action Fund (CAF) and Harm Reduction Fund (HRF) and to sustain these avenues of funding for health and human rights organizations who are working on critical issues related to HIV, hepatitis C, and harm reduction.

Canada has committed to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of eliminating the HIV epidemic by 2030 and to the World Health Organization (WHO) goal of ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. However, according to recent estimates available from the Public Health Agency of Canada, new HIV transmissions increased by 35.2% between 2022 and 2023. In recent years, Canada has seen an overall rise in sexually-transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI), including HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C (HCV), and progress in reducing them has been stagnant at best.

We are off-track with respect to our global health commitments, and any reductions to the Community Action Fund and the Harm Reduction Fund will only exacerbate this reality.

The work required to achieve Canada's commitments related to HIV and other STBBIs is complex and necessitates a strong and well-resourced community-based sector. Namely, community programming and services provided by civil society organizations play a key role in efforts to end new transmissions of HIV, HCV, and other STBBIs. Not only do they improve access to testing and treatment for populations disproportionately impacted by STBBIs, but they also increase engagement with health services, particularly for rural, remote or northern communities, and provide ongoing support for communities facing intersecting forms of stigma. These essential programs and services are only possible with the maintenance and strengthening of the CAF and HRF.

The CAF and the HRF are a lifeline for a rights-based and effective HIV response, as well as the response to HCV and other STBBIs. The CAF invests \$26.4 million annually to support projects addressing STBBIs; the HRF invests \$7 million annually to uphold community-based harm reduction efforts that are crucial for HIV and HCV prevention. The CAF and HRF as funding

streams dedicated *specifically* to the fight against HIV, HCV, and other STBBIs are particularly critical for effective treatment and prevention. Our organizations and the communities we serve depend on the continuation of these funds, and **it would be remiss to roll them back *in any way* at a time where vulnerable populations facing barriers to care need them the most.**

We have four years to meet Canada's 2030 elimination targets. If we are to be at all successful in achieving them, the maintenance and strengthening of the CAF and HRF in Canada's next funding cycle will be essential.

We urge you to protect these funds and to recognize their importance to the lives of so many people in Canada.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HIV Legal Network

Toronto, ON

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Ottawa, ON

Action Hepatitis Canada

Toronto, ON

Action Positive: VIH - SIDA

Toronto, ON

Afro-Canadian Positive Network of BC

Burnaby, BC

AIDS Activist History Project

Ottawa, ON

AIDS Committee Newfoundland and Labrador

St. John's, NL

AIDS Committee of Durham Region

Oshawa, ON

AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area

North Bay, ON

AIDS Committee of Ottawa

Ottawa, ON

AIDS Community Care Montreal

Montreal, QC

AIDS New Brunswick

Fredericton, NB

All Nations Hope Network

Regina, SK

Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

Toronto, ON

Asian Community AIDS Services

Toronto, ON

Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network on Social and Behaviour Aspects of HIV and HCV (AIRN)

Halifax, NS

Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc.

Saint John, NB

AVI Health and Community Services Society

Victoria, BC

Blood Ties Four Directions Centre

Whitehorse, YT

Bruce House

Ottawa, ON

Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network)

Toronto, ON

CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks

Hagersville, ON (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation)

Canadian AIDS Society

Toronto, ON

Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)

Toronto, ON

Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)

Ottawa, ON

Canadian Public Health Association

Ottawa, ON

Casey House

Toronto, ON

CAYR Community Connections

Newmarket, ON

Centre Action Solidarité Montreal

Montreal, QC

Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C (CAPAHC)

Montreal, QC

Centre des R.O.S.É.S. de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Abitibi-Témiscamingue, QC

Centre d'intervention le Rond-Point

Sept-Îles, QC

Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples

Toronto, ON

Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA)

Montréal, QC

Community Alliance for Accessible Treatment
Toronto, ON

Community-Based Research Centre
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Peter Centre
Vancouver, BC

Elevate NWO
Thunder Bay, ON

Fife House Foundation
Toronto, ON

GAP-VIES
Montreal, QC

Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance
Toronto, ON

Geipsi
Montreal, QC

Head & Hands
Montreal, QC

Healing Our Nations
Dartmouth, NS

Health Equity Alliance of Nova Scotia (HEAL NS)
Halifax, NS

Health Initiative for Men (HIM)
Vancouver, BC

High Level Native Friendship Centre Society
High Level, AB

HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario

Toronto, ON

IRIS Estrie

Sherbrooke, QC

JusticeTrans

Montreal, QC

La Réplique Estrie

Sherbrooke, QC

L'Anonyme U.I.M.

Montreal, QC

Le Dispensaire

Saint-Jérôme, QC

LGBT YouthLine

Toronto, ON

Maison Plein Coeur

Montreal, QC

Maison Re-Né Inc.

Trois-Rivières, QC

Manitoba HIV-STBBI Collective Impact Network

Winnipeg, MB

McLaren Housing Society of BC

Vancouver, BC

MIELS-Québec

Québec, QC

Moyo Health & Community Services

Brampton, ON

New Dawn Enterprises
Sydney, NS

Ontario AIDS Network
Toronto, ON

OPTIONS HIV West Yellowhead
Hinton, AB

Ottawa Inner City Health
Ottawa, ON

PACE Society
Vancouver, BC

Pacific AIDS Network
Vancouver, BC

PEERS Alliance
Charlottetown, PEI

Peterborough AIDS Resource Network (PARN)
Peterborough, ON

Pivot Legal Society
Vancouver, BC

Positive Health Network
Hamilton, ON

Positive Living Niagara
St. Catharines, ON

Prince George New Hope Society
Prince George, BC

Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Action Support Network (PASAN)
Toronto, ON

Qu'appelle Valley Friendship Centre

Fort Qu'appelle, SK

Quebec HIV/AIDS Portal Inc.

Montreal, QC

Realize Canada

Toronto, ON

REACH Nexus at St. Michael's Hospital

Toronto, ON

Réseau de la santé sexuelle des sourds du Québec

Montreal, QC

RÉZO

Montreal, QC

Ribbon Community

Vancouver, BC

SafeLink Alberta

Calgary & Medicine Hat, AB

Sex Information & Education Council of Canada

Toronto, ON

Shining Mountains Living Community Services

Red Deer, AB

SIDALYS

Montreal, QC

SIP-DDR

Roberval, QC

Sphère - santé sexuelle globale

Laval, QC

SWAN Vancouver

Vancouver, BC

Table des organismes communautaires Montrealais de lutte contre le sida

Montreal, QC

Tandem Mauricie

Trois-Rivières, QC

The Ally Centre of Cape Breton

Sydney, NS

The Gilbert Centre for Social & Support Services

Barrie, ON

The Native Clan Organization

Winnipeg, MB

Thrive HIV Prevention and Support

Kitchener, ON

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

Toronto, ON

Toxic-Actions

Dolbeau-Mistassini, QC

Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative

Toronto, ON