



Strengthening BC's response to HIV/AIDS,
viral hepatitis and harm reduction

April 21, 2026

Ms. Elizabeth May, M.P.

elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

Re: Support for continued federal funding for community-based STBBI programs (the Community Action Fund) in Budget 2027

Dear Ms. May:

On behalf of PAN and our members, and as a constituent in your riding, I am writing to call on you to ensure that Canada does not lose ground in meeting our national commitments in addressing HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs). The HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund (CAF) invests \$26.4 million annually to support projects across Canada to address STBBIs. The CAF program is a cost-effective, high-impact tool for preventing expensive health crises, reducing strain on hospitals, and safeguarding the health and futures of all Canadians.

PAN is a network organization that works collaboratively with over 40 community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout British Columbia to strengthen collective action on HIV, viral hepatitis, and health equity. We center the voices of people with lived experience as we provide workplace training, leadership development, community-based research and evaluation initiatives, and support a collective impact network to reach all regions in the province, including smaller urban, rural, and remote communities.

Canada is experiencing sharp increases in STBBIs, including syphilis and HIV. These infections are not just individual health issues; they increase overall healthcare costs through long-term treatments, hospitalizations, and lost productivity. For example, each case of HIV costs \$1.44 million per patient over a lifetime [Institute of Health Economics, 2025. <https://ihe.ca/lifetime-cost-hiv/>].

While provincial and territorial healthcare systems focus on treatment and care, they are not as well equipped to prevent or respond to public health crises concentrated in specific populations across the country. The CAF represents an important commitment from the federal government to plan and invest to meet the prevention needs of hard-to-reach populations who continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, hepatitis C and other STBBIs. The concentration of these epidemics in marginalized communities highlights the importance of federal public health strategies and resources to ensure good health can be attained by all Canadians, regardless of where they live or to which community they belong.

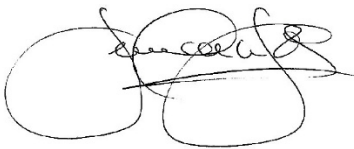
The CAF program must be sustained, particularly now as STBBI rates are on the rise. Here in BC, PAN and the other the CAF funded organizations listed below* work with some of the most vulnerable members of our society to mobilize communities, reduce stigma, and orchestrate solutions that are flexible, timely, cost-effective and evidence based. The loss of CAF funding would pose significant organizational or programmatic sustainability concerns, compromising essential community-level and front-line services at risk and placing an additional burden on emergency and primary health care.

As a provincial network with staff and services located across BC, PAN is a grateful recipient of CAF funding, for both our regional capacity building project and the national Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) Community Alliance project. CAF funding supports capacity building and sustainability for PAN member organizations, including front-line service providers, as well as leadership training for people living with HIV.

The Community Action Fund is critical in linking key populations to HIV and viral hepatitis prevention, testing, and treatment pathways. It is a fiscally responsible investment that delivers measurable health, economic and social returns. Now is not the time for Canada to reduce our investment. As the process of setting federal health priorities and budgeting is underway, I urge you to do all that you can to ensure that the CAF is sustained so that we can continue to do this vital work.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the sustainability of the federal Community Action Fund further.

Sincerely,



J. Evin Jones, Juris Doctor (JD), Executive Director, PAN

*LIST OF CAF FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS IN BC

[H.I.M. Health Initiative for Men](#)

[Positive Living North: No kyēhoh t'sih'en't'sehena](#)

[AVI Health & Community Services](#)

[The University of British Columbia \(UBC\) - The Canadian Collaboration for Prison Health and Education](#)

[Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion \(BACI\);](#)

[posAbilities Association of British Columbia;](#)

[Kinsight Community](#)

[Peers Victoria Resources](#)

[OneSky Community Resources](#)

[Phoenix Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education](#)

[Afro-Canadian Positive Network of BC \(ACPNNet\)](#)

[PAN](#)

CC: Ms. Nancy Hamzawi, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada