

Cancel the Cuts Campaign



BC Health Ministry marked World AIDS Day 2009 by delivering phase one of three phases of severe funding cuts to HIV/AIDS service directed Community Based Health Organizations (CBHO's). The BC Government advised the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, who manages a majority of the HIV/AIDS CBHO's contracts in the lower mainland, to balance their \$2.9 billion dollar budget and recoup their \$90 million deficit.



AIDS Vancouver has been one of the hardest hit in this first round of funding cuts with close to \$250,000 being stripped from their budget. In response to these three phases of funding cuts AIDS Vancouver has joined together with BC Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA), Positive Women's Network, Youthco, Dr Peter's Centre, Health Initiative for Men, Vancouver Native Health and Rain City Housing to formulate the Cancel The Cuts Campaign.

"AIDS Vancouver has been one of the hardest hit in this first round of funding cuts with close to \$250,000 being stripped from their budget."

This campaign is a public opposition campaign focusing on letter writing to Premier Gordon Campbell and MLA's around the province demanding that they cancel the cuts and reinstate funding to 2008/2009 levels. On December 18th 2009 Stephen Herbert, West End MLA, and Ken Buchanan, Vice Chair of BCPWA, spoke to a large crowd dressed in red at the Vancouver Art Gallery, about the devastating impacts these cuts will have on HIV and public health in the province. Volunteers from Youthco formed a giant human AIDS ribbon to highlight these severe issues.

If you are upset about these funding cuts visit www.cancelthecuts.org and send an email to Premier Campbell demanding that he Cancel The Cuts!

Fleur Cooper 
Development/Communications Manager



VOLUNTEER BULLETIN

The Woodward's Development not AIDS Vancouver new address

World AIDS Day 2009 marked the first round of a three phased funding cut being orchestrated by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to recoup their \$90 million deficit. AIDS Vancouver sustained a \$263,000 funding cut from the Health Authority on December 1st. The next two funding cuts are due to take effect April 1st 2010 and then in the fall of the same year.

"We are very happy to share the Seymour office with one of our strongest partners, BCPWA."


AIDS Vancouver won't be moving to the new Woodward's building in 2010. "Unfortunately, due to our vulnerable funding position, we have decided it would be financially irresponsible to move to the Woodward's building" stated David Swan, Executive Director AIDS Vancouver. "It is disappointing that



AIDS Vancouver is unable to take advantage of the great opportunity that the Woodward's development provides, but in these times of economic instability our number one priority is to preserve our programs and sustain our excellent level of service delivery to our clients"

In an effort to manage the impact of the first phase of funding cuts AIDS Vancouver has decided to move their administrative staff from our Helmcken Office to the Seymour site. The move will start at the beginning of 2010. We are very happy to share the Seymour office with one of our strongest partners, BCPWA.

AIDS Vancouver thanks all of our supporters and looks forward to coming out of these three phased funding cuts stronger than ever.

David Swan 
Executive Director

A Merry Thank YOU!

On December 15th, Reception, Support Programs and Administrative volunteers got together for some festive cheer and recognition. There were delectable door prizes, an amusing game about 'the worst gift you have ever been given' and lots of yummy pasta. A big thank you to all our volunteers who continue to give so generously of their time, talents and energy. Your on-going support is our greatest gift!

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FEBRUARY 2010

Volunteer Opportunities

If you or anyone you know are interested in volunteering with AIDS Vancouver, please visit our website www.aidsvancouver.org for a list of current volunteering opportunities, as well as our application process. If you don't have web access you can call our Information line at: 604-696-4626

Submission Deadline: May 2, 2010

AIDS Vancouver Volunteer Resources Program Philosophy:

Volunteer Resources strives to build organizational commitment and competency by providing meaningful and relevant volunteer opportunities that support and enhance the mission of AIDS Vancouver. Paid and unpaid staff work together to alleviate vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS.

Production of this resource has been made possible through a financial contribution from the AIDS Community Action Program, the Public Health Agency of Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

It All Started Behind the Scenes - Annual AIDS Vancouver Holiday Grocery

Behind the scenes, so much transpired from August 6th, 2009, when Fleur Cooper (AV's Development / Communications Manager) and I met to put together a 30 point action plan (yes 30) for this year's event. Now that the dust has settled and it is January, I can reflect on what a wonderfully fulfilling experience it was to coordinate such an event.

This process touched lots of people and departments within the agency, Volunteer Resources – Kasandra, Website – Rachel, Case Management – Heather and her team, Finance and Donor Relations – Cliff, Management – Justine and David, and the Board – Richard and Lloyd. It also reached out to our partner agencies: Positive Women's Network, A Loving Spoonful, Vancouver Native Health, and the Portland Hotel Society.

This year was a difficult year to look for donor support. The world economic crisis and the fact that each one of us faced donor fatigue made it especially difficult. I put forth some lofty aspirations as to what I wanted to provide and unfortunately had to settle for an offering considerably less but certainly plentiful enough.

“What did happen was that we received tremendous support from a number of sources.”



What did happen was that we received tremendous support from a number of sources. Whole Foods / Capers Markets really stepped up to the plate and supported us with their “Bags for Hunger” program. All four Vancouver store locations participated and I am deeply humbled and truly grateful for their contributions.

The Westender came to support our cause with some free advertising around our event. Our grocery suppliers HY Louie and Van-Whole Produce came through with discounts and donations that were truly appreciated. Also, our Direct Mail campaign provided the topper as we did manage to reach a decent donation dollar amount.

The DAY. . . I showed up at 7:30 (was awake at 4:30 and couldn't stop thinking about the pending event so I got up) and there were already 2 people waiting at the front door. We were fortunate to have Starbucks offer up some coffee and we set a station up in the new “R” Centre. The line started to build and by the time we opened the agency doors at 9:00 there were about 60 clients in line. Heidi moved into the hallway just outside the R Centre door and entertained those in line with her



we were able to move everyone through with very little delay and really experienced no line-ups from about 10:00 AM on.

We had over 30 volunteers for the day and the mood was great and the energy high for the entire day! I offer my most sincere thanks to all who participated. We could not put on an event like this without your ongoing support!

guitar prowess. Our process was to have the clients move through the front doors, into the R Centre and through to the rear door which opens up to the back hallway. Then some short steps to the grocery window where they would check-in like normal, through grocery to the rear hallway and into the training room from there. Next, continue through the training room and the final stop at a table in the back hallway before exiting via the Case Management hallway and out the front door. A big circle through the agency where the only place clients would meet one another would be at the front door where they were either entering or leaving. We positioned volunteers at all the stations and opened the grocery window just prior to our 9:30 published start. Apart from the early rush,

All in all, with our partner agencies, we were able to serve 724 clients during our one-day event. Although it culminates in a one-day event, with the recognition and thank you process, we are now at the six month mark for Holiday Grocery 2009. The really good part about the thoroughness of the process, we have a nice template going forward. I have received many comments about how smoothly the day proceeded, also about the good quality of the offering. I humbly accept the praise on behalf of everyone who participated. Again, nothing like this happens because of one individual, it is entirely a team effort.

Yours Truly,
Mike Fraser
Grocery Coordinator

