

ANNUAL REPORT



YOUTH LEADING THE HIV & HEP C MOVEMENT

2013

Entering our 20th year, YouthCO reduces the impact of HIV and Hepatitis C on the youth of British Columbia through peer support, education and meaningful community engagement. We strive to foster inclusive communities where youth empower youth to make informed decision about their own well-being and work to end the stigma surrounding HIV and Hep C.



APPROACHES

- Shared Leadership
- Peer Education & Support
- Harm Reduction
- Community Engagement

VALUES

- Youth-Driven
- Sex-positive
- Anti-oppressive
- Inclusive
- Innovative



YouthCO acknowledges the Coast Salish people and unceded territory on which we do our work.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS



Jamie Forrest



Adam Rollins

2012 has been a dynamic year of growth and success for YouthCO and the Board of Directors. In the past year, the Board of Directors has welcomed a number of new dedicated and skilled members. These new members bring added diversity to our team of engaged, committed youth. In an effort to provide greater structure and accountability to the Board, we instituted a new executive committee, consisting of two appointed co-chairs, our administrative champion and our finance champion. We maintain commitment to YouthCO's value of shared leadership as we exercise the responsibilities of this committee to support this valuable organization as best we can.

The Board of Directors is proud of the operational work of YouthCO this past year. We are excited to report that we are in sound fiscal state, having recovered from a deficit the previous year. We also unveiled new branding and online engagement tools that we hope will attract more youth and improve our existing brand recognition. Programming at YouthCO continues to serve diverse youth from many communities throughout BC vulnerable to HIV and Hepatitis C. From Aboriginal youth to high school students to gay, bi and other queer young people, YouthCO maintains its commitment to a youth-driven movement that strives to meet people where they're at.

Jamie Forrest and Adam Rollins



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are so fortunate to live in a place where social and scientific advancements have made HIV and Hepatitis C both treatable and preventable. This makes it easier to advocate for young people living with HIV and Hep C and for all youth to have access to inclusive sexual health and harm reduction education and services. It's an inspiring time to be a youth leader in the HIV and Hep C movement.

Attending the AIDS 2012 conference in Washington, D.C. was an eye-opening experience. Access to medical care, harm-reduction services, and inclusive sexual health education is not a reality for the majority of young people around the world. These factors are crucial if we are ever to achieve an AIDS-free generation. For youth in B.C., this could one day be a reality.

At YouthCO, our youth-driven programs that raise awareness around HIV and Hep C have made us leaders not just locally but internationally, too. This is due to the consistent support of our generous funders and innovative community partners.

In 2013, we'll continue to foster supportive and educated communities of young people and set a global example. We do this so that one day we can fulfill the reality of an AIDS-free generation here and abroad, and remove the stigma associated with living with HIV and/or Hep C. Thank you for helping us in our mission.

A white, handwritten signature of Jesse Brown on a dark blue background. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a long horizontal stroke.

Jesse Brown

OUR TEAM (AS OF MARCH 31 2013)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Arlo Adams** – Member at large
- Cindy Chen** – Health Promotion Champion
- Dave Field** – Administrative Champion
- Livia Danila** – Finance Champion
- Maija Fiorante** – Member at large
- Jamie Forrest** – Co-Chair
- Trevor Loke** – Fund Development Champion
- Ashleigh Rich** – Research Champion
- Adam Rollins** – Co-Chair

STAFF

- Wren Crandall** – Harm Reduction Coordinator
- Brian Futter** – Graphic Designer
- Carly Glanzberg** – Sexual Health Education Coordinator
- Morgan Jones** – *Mpowerment* Coordinator
- Claire O’Gorman** – Peer Education Manager
- Dakota Prince** – *Yúusnewas* Educator
- Michael Reid** – Community Engagement Manager
- Jessica St. Jean** – *Yúusnewas* Manager
- Cameron Wasnea** – *Know on the Go* Coordinator



Thank you to our awesome volunteers!

Our 74 active volunteers contributed over 5500 hours of their time to YouthCO. We wouldn't be able to do our work without your valuable energy and skills.

EDUCATION IS EMPOWERMENT!

2012 saw the launch of *MpowermentYVR*, YouthCO's community-building and HIV awareness-raising project for young gay, bi, and trans men.

Based on the successful evidence-based *Mpowerment* HIV Intervention developed by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the project aims to build a healthier, happier, and stronger gay community.

"We wanted to create an effective and innovative response to the unfortunate fact that gay men make up the majority of new HIV diagnoses in Vancouver," says Michael Reid, Community Engagement Manager. "*MpowermentYVR* is an opportunity for young gay men to get involved, meet new peers, and have meaningful conversations about relationships and sexual health."

Through the creation of engaging events, *Mpowerment* volunteers recruit participants to facilitated discussion nights (called "M-groups") where young gay, bi, and trans men share and explore topics surrounding relationships and HIV in a sex-positive and nonstigmatizing environment.

"Coming to the M-group night, I felt I was finally able to really talk about my experience navigating sex; ask questions about HIV and safer sex; and learn about what other guys are going through too," says *Mpowerment* participant, Blake. "I feel connected to a community now and want to do what I can to support it."

YouthCO is excited for another great year empowering youth to make informed decisions and end the stigma associated with HIV.



For more information about **MpowermentYVR**, visit its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mpowermentyvr

YOUTH-DRIVEN... LITERALLY.

Know on the Go is YouthCO's new mobile HIV and sexual health clinic – the first of its kind in Vancouver. Hitting the streets in a refurbished VW camper van, *Know on the Go* provides youth-friendly sexual health and HIV information and services, all with the aim of increasing visibility and public acceptance of routine HIV testing.

“When we know our HIV status, we’re able to take care of ourselves and others,” says Claire O’Gorman, RN, YouthCO’s Peer Education Manager. “We’re lucky to live at a time when HIV treatment is so effective that it suppresses viral load to undetectable levels with few to no side effects, meaning we can live average life spans and not fear passing the virus to sexual partners or during childbirth.”

Offering services at beaches, festivals, and night clubs, project staff and volunteers use social media and on-line dating sites to engage with potential clients and advertise mobile clinic locations.

“The positive community response has been really rewarding,” says Cameron Wasnea, *Know on the Go’s* Project Coordinator, “*Know on the Go’s* approachable nursing staff and youth outreach team combined with the fun, flashy van make for a great setting where young people feel comfortable accessing sexual health information and services.”



To learn more visit the **Know on the Go** Facebook page: www.facebook.com/knowonthego



TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER

YouthCO is proud to announce our aboriginal youth program's new name, *Yúusnewas* – which means 'taking care of each other' in the Squamish language. This means a lot to YouthCO, as we continue to make an effort to do our work in a respectful way on traditional unceded Squamish territory. We would like to thank Vanessa Campbell and the other Squamish Nation elders for giving us such a beautiful and fitting name.

Yúusnewas is run by and for aboriginal youth and offers free HIV, Hep C, and sexual health workshops throughout the province. "It's important for aboriginal youth to have culturally relevant sexual health and harm reduction information as our communities are disproportionately affected by these illnesses due to colonization and systemic inequality," says Jessica St. Jean, *Yúusnewas*' Program Manager. "We try to make our workshops fun and engaging so that youth can safely explore these difficult issues and ultimately take care of each other and their community."

This year, *Yúusnewas* brought together youth from 14 different communities throughout British Columbia for two separate video-making retreats. The workshops, First Direction, provided youth with HIV and Hep C education and new skills to create videos about HIV, condoms, and getting tested. They can then share their work with their peers.



Check out the videos on YouTube www.youtube.com/youthcovancouver and learn more about **Yúusnewas** by visiting www.facebook.com/yuusnewas.

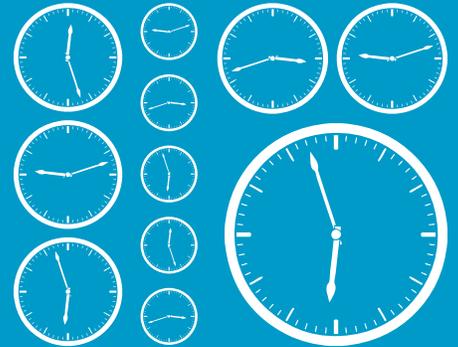
YOUTHCO BY THE NUMBERS

5410

Individual youth received HIV, Hep C, sexual health, and harm reduction education at

Participants received testing, education, and counseling services at 24 Know on the Go clinics over a six month period

132

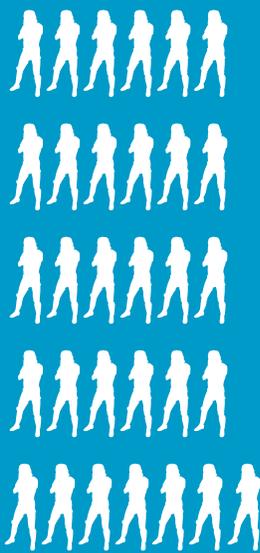


610

Hours of drop-in time held for

222 YOUTHCO WORKSHOPS

31



group meetings held for youth living with HIV and/or Hep C

274

ATTENDEES

97

unique youth living with HIV and/or Hep C



FINANCIALS 2012/2013

These Financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of YouthCO HIV & Hep C Society as at March 31 2013 and the year then ended. Complete statements available upon request.

Year end March 31, 2013

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AS PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT)

	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS		
Total current assets	142,425	118,193
Capital assets	23,824	17,328
Total assets	166,276	135,521
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable & acquired liabilities	10,248	15,934
Deferred revenue	96,898	74,300
Total current liabilities	10,7146	90,234
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	13,271	-
Total Liabilities	120,417	90,234
NET ASSETS (DEFICIENCY)		
Invested in capital assets	31,853	17,328
Unrestricted	14,006	27,959
Total net assets	45,859	45,287
Total	166,276	135,521

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (AS PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT)

	2013 \$	2012 \$
REVENUE		
Vancouver Coastal Health	213,725	182,011
Public Health Agency of Canada	206,905	227,939
BC Community Gaming Grant	23,029	-
Other Grants	112,290	35,540
Donations and fundraising	52,409	26,365
Workshop & resource revenue	8,546	12,498
Interest & other Income	8,423	5,224
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	4,235	-
Amortization of deferred contributions related to intangible assets	-	7,850
Total	629,562	497,427
EXPENSES		
Operations	126,939	112,544
Fund development	9,325	7,263
Human resources	330,530	388,947
Programs	162,196	60,345
Total	628,990	569,099
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	572	(71,672)



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



Producing Stellar Results



Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

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Cody Cottrill

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Matthew Cutler
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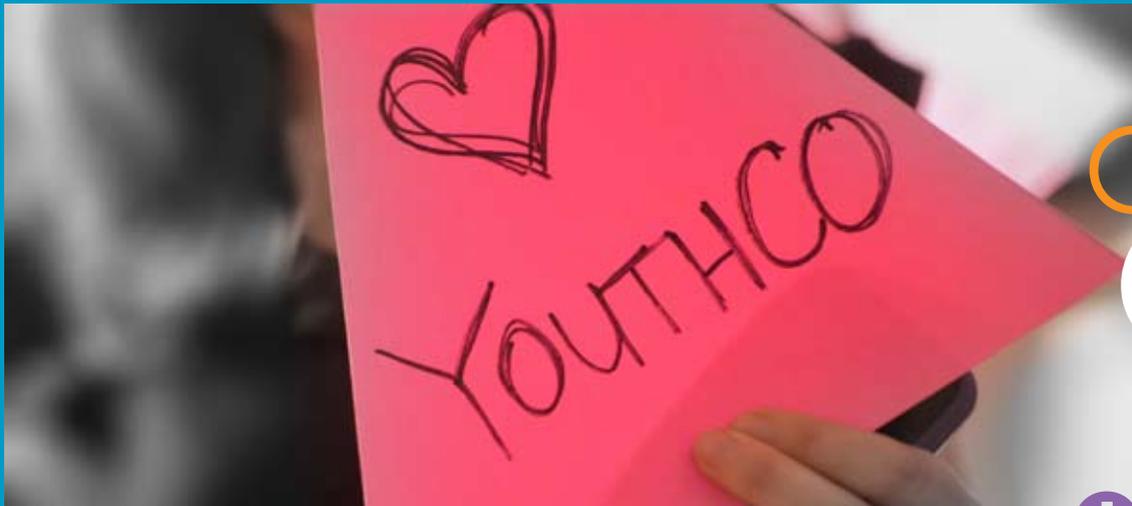
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Youth Leading the HIV & Hep C Movement

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