



**Regional  
HIV/AIDS  
Connection**

Community Inspired. Courage Driven.

**Regional HIV/AIDS Connection**

30-186 King St.  
London, ON  
N6A 1C7

519 434 1601 or 1866 920 1601  
Fax# 519 434 4318

Our Mandate is to serve the 5 counties surround-  
London and to:

- Improve quality of life for those living with & affected by HIV/AIDS
- Reduce the number of new HIV infections
- Increase community awareness about HIV/AIDS

Our service users include thousands of people: those living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, friends and family, and those who are concerned about HIV/AIDS—anyone at risk for HIV, and anyone who provides services to people with, or at risk for, HIV. All of our services are free and confidential.

We are a registered charitable corporation, #11877 9008 RR0001.

**Contact Us:**

Executive Director- Brian Lester ext. 243

**Client Services:**

- Director of Client Services- Shannon Dougherty (currently on leave)
- Interim Director of Client Services - Sonja Burke ext. 244
- Interim Manager of Client Services- Miriam Rivera ext. 235
- Case Manager- Richard MacDonagh ext. 228
- Peer Support Worker- Rob Newman ext. 253

**Communications and Partnerships:**

Coordinator of Volunteer Services- Natalie Hebert ext. 257

This newsletter is made possible by ...



Community Inspired. Courage Driven.

**SPEAK OUT**  
A Newsletter For and By PLWHA

Fall and Winter 2012

The Supreme Court ruling

OAN Honour Roll	2
Leadership	3
What's happening	4
Act up!!	5
Welcome Sonja	6
Extreme Couch Crew	6
Making a difference together	7
RHAC information	8

**The Supreme Court ruling ...** (an article from the CBC)

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that some people with low levels of HIV who use condoms during sex do not need to disclose their condition to sexual partners. In a 9-0 ruling, the top court updated a landmark 1998 decision that made it a crime if HIV carriers did not reveal their status when there was a significant risk of transmission to a sexual partner. The court ruled Friday that the "realistic possibility of transmission of HIV is negated" provided the carrier of the virus has a low viral load and a condom is used during sexual intercourse. Otherwise, HIV carriers have to disclose their status to their partners. The court also said the new ruling does not preclude the law from adapting to future advances in medical treatment and to circumstances where different risk factors are at play. Under the previous law, HIV-carriers who didn't tell partners they had the virus could be charged with aggravated sexual assault. The maximum penalty is life in jail.

**Appeals from Quebec, Manitoba cases**

The Supreme Court ruled on two separate cases from Quebec and Manitoba in which charges brought against those who failed to disclose their condition were overturned by appeals courts. One of the cases involves Clato Mabor, who has since been deported to South Sudan, who had sex with nine women, including a 12-year-old girl, between 2004 and 2005 after being diagnosed HIV-positive. *Critics of a 1998 Supreme Court ruling on HIV disclosure pointed to evidence suggesting people who take anti-retroviral medication and use condoms have almost no risk of passing on the virus. (Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)* Mabor was sentenced to 14 years in prison after being convicted of aggravated sexual assault in six of nine of the cases, but he was acquitted of the remaining three because the judge ruled that his low level of HIV and the fact he wore a condom negated his duty to inform the women. The Manitoba Court of Appeal later overturned four of his convictions saying not all of the women were exposed to "significant risk."

The Supreme Court said Friday that three of Mabor's convictions should be restored because he did not use a condom, and one acquittal was upheld because he did use a condom in that sexual encounter and had a low viral load. Mabor's lawyer welcomed the ruling. "The court has struck a balance, given that the Crown attorney's position in both jurisdictions as I understood it was that in all circumstances, there was a positive duty to disclose one's HIV status," said Amanda Sansregret. "Quite frankly, that would be such a broad use of the criminal law." The other case involves a woman from Quebec who had unprotected sex with her partner without first informing him that she was HIV-positive. A publication ban prevents naming the woman, who is referred to in Supreme Court documents only as "D.C." The woman was initially found guilty of sexual assault and aggravated assault, but that conviction was later overturned by the Quebec Court of Appeal on the basis that her viral load was undetectable during the period that the charges covered. The Supreme Court upheld the woman's acquittal.



Get involved on a provincial level ...  
Ask about PHA leadership opportunities



Saturday November 17, 2012 a contingent of staff from **Regional HIV/AIDS Connection** travelled to Toronto to support fellow staff member and long term survivor Rob Newman be awarded the Ontario AIDS Network Honour Roll for PHA Leadership. Rob has been affiliated with the agency since 1991 when he first visited as a new client. Over the years Rob has been a client – volunteer – board member and now works as the Peer Support Worker in Client Services.

## Congratulations Rob!!!

**Londoners  
who have been named to  
the Ontario AIDS  
Network Honour Roll**



- Wayne Fitton
- Dr. Ian Mackie
- Dr. Rick Green
- Betty Anne Thomas
- Clarence Crossman
- Alex Berry
- Sam Conti
- Peter Hayes
- Paul Maingot

## Client reminder calls

Want to get more involved in Regional HIV/AIDS Connection? Contact a member of client services staff and ask to have your name added to the client reminder call list and you will be notified by a dedicated volunteer for any and all upcoming events



### Lunch Learn

As we move into the new year we want to hear from you about what kind of lunch and learn topics you would like to take part in ... medications ... skill building opportunities ... employment training ... budgeting ...

**LET US KNOW!!!**



## Activism is the rent we pay for living on this planet. - Alice Walker

Camp may be 8 months away but volunteering to be a staff member is coming out in the new year. If you have been a camper before and want to experience camp as a volunteer staff person ... you will want to watch out for the application announcement. For those of you who have never been to camp before ... it's an experience you will carry with you forever be that as a staff person or a camper.



## Program Planning

Every year the Client Services Department meets and plans the various department activities for the coming year. We want you to be involved in what's happening! Simply speak with one of the client services staff and let them know your thoughts and it will be discussed at the department meeting in January 2013.



## Make a difference

# Welcome Sonja

Sonja Burke is the Client Services Manager at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection. Sonja comes to the agency with a ton of experience in management and certainly has her hands full with the client service staff at the agency. The Client services department has grown over the years and now encapsulates the needle syringe recovery program, hepatitis C support and outreach as well as two case managers and a peer support worker for people living with HIV/AIDS. Sonja joins forces with the Client Services department to continually bring excellence to the table on behalf of the people RHAC serves.



## EXTREME COUCH CREW!!!

Couch Crew Kit Leader Fred will be looking for you to be a part of his Extreme Couch Crew workshop coming in early February. Fred participated in the AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Programs PHA Facilitator training workshops and will be facilitating this afternoon of fun, games, work and pizza. For more information on how you can be involved contact Rob: 519-434-1601/1-866-920-1601 / [rnewman@hivaidsconnection.ca](mailto:rnewman@hivaidsconnection.ca)



## Are you interested in the Ontario AIDS Network PHA Leadership Program?

The Ontario AIDS Network offers a three part leadership program to all PHAs living in the province of Ontario. All three levels are facilitated over a 3 day weekend with all expenses paid and a certificate upon completion of each level. Please see Peer Support Worker; Rob Newman for more information on this exciting leadership opportunity!!

### Level I - "Who am I as a Leader?"

The curriculum objectives for the Leadership Training are for participants to have the opportunity:

- To understand the 5 principles and 10 commitments of leadership
- To realize individual leadership potential
- To participate in building a network of leaders within the PHA community
- To realize the potential and strengths that each individual brings to the network
- To learn about and practice leadership skills in a safe environment
- To inspire others to become leaders
- To encourage participants to take on facilitator and mentoring roles within the community

To expand participants awareness of our community

### Level II - "Bored? Get on Board!"

The primary intent of "Bored? Get on Board!" Training is board governance and will include presentations and discussions on the:

- Voluntary sector in Canada
- Board governance models
- Board accountability/ responsibilities
- Bylaws/policies/procedures
- Understanding committee structures and purpose

### Level III – Communication Skills

The **Communications Skills Training** will explore the following topics through presentations, group work and discussions:

- Conducting Effective Meetings
- Active listening
- Dealing with Difficult Situations
- Effective Feedback
- Decision Making Strategies
- Public Speaking – The Basics
- Developing Effective Presentations



Ontario AIDS Network

Steps to Leadership

# What's happening ...

## SUPPORT GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES @ RHAC

### PHA CAFÉ

Is a support group for people living with HIV/AIDS

It runs every **second** Thursday of each month @ 6:00PM

**Join us for** Discussions, Guest Speakers, Movies And More!

For more info contact Richard at 519 434 1601 Ext. 228 or stop by to say Hi @Regional HIV/AIDS Connection @ 186 King Street, Suite 30

### PHA Women's Group

Is a Support Group for Women Living with HIV

The **Last** Thursday of the month @ **6:00PM**

**Contact Miriam or Keri at 519 434 1601 for more information**

**Come and join us for great discussions, good company, laughs and good food.... just between us, girls!**

### HEP C Peer Social

A chance for people who are either currently living with or have been through Hep C treatment to come out, socialize and meet new people. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

Contact: **Keri Wheatley, Peer Support Worker @**

519-434-1601 x.261

### Winners Circle

Is a support group for long term survivors

For more information please contact Rob Newman, Peer Support Worker

519-434-1601 x.253



### CLIENT LUNCH

With

**Brian Lester**

*Executive Director*

And

**Client Services Staff**

Join us for lunch and share your thoughts with us regarding client services at the...

**REGIONAL HIV/AIDS CONNECTION**

**Friday February 22, 2013**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

30-186 King Street London, ON

For more information or to RSVP for this lunch please call

519-434-1601 / 1-866-920-1601

rnewman@hivaidsconnection.ca

### OPENING DOORS CONFERENCE

**Hilton Hotel Windsor Ontario**

**March 7 – 8 2013**

For more information and to sign up please see Client Services staff

# Uganda about to pass anti gay bill!

Uganda will officially pass the 'Kill The Gays' bill at the end of this year despite international criticism.

Speaker Rebecca Kadaga said the anti-gay bill will become law by December since most Ugandans 'are demanding it'.

Referring to the law as a 'Christmas gift' to the population, she spoke of 'the serious threat' posed by homosexuals.

The law will broaden the criminalization of same-sex relationships by dividing homosexuality into two categories; aggravated homosexuality and the offense of homosexuality.

'Aggravated homosexuality' is defined as gay acts committed by parents or authority figures, HIV-positive people, pedophiles and repeat offenders. If convicted, they will face the death penalty.

The 'offense of homosexuality' includes same-sex sexual acts or being in a gay relationship, and will be prosecuted by life imprisonment.

Originally put to government in 2009, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill had been temporarily shelved because of international criticism.

Several European countries have threatened to cut aid to Uganda if it passes, with the UK government warning Uganda it would face severe reductions in financial help.

US President Barack Obama has described it as 'odious', and Canadian politician John Baird has said it is 'vile, abhorrent, and offends decency' saying all African gay people should be jailed for life.

Gay rights activist David Kato was murdered in Uganda in January 2011 shortly after a local

newspaper published images of him and other gay people under a headline urging readers to 'hang them.'

Despite this, Uganda's LGBT community held a weekend of gay pride events this summer.

According to a 2010 survey by The Pew Research Center, homosexuality is morally unacceptable to 89% of Ugandans.



### KNOWING IS POWER

### Hepatitis C Screening

**Thursdays 1-4PM**

**Regional HIV/AIDS Connection**



**Get Informed!**

**Get tested!**



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