



MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation Newsletter

SPRING 2017

A Year of Celebration

The celebrations began in May 2017 with the acknowledgement of the 30th anniversary of the founding of PWA. 2017 also marks the 30th Anniversary of long-time PWA supporters, The Imperial Court of Toronto (TICOT), Canada's 150 anniversary, and in 2018, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Friends For Life Bike Rally.



Thirty years ago on May 11th, 1987, the Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations granted PWA status as an incorporated charitable organization. James St. James, Raymond Barnard and Russell Almond filed the application of incorporation and are listed as PWA's first directors on the letters patent granting incorporation.

To mark this moment, on May 11, we began our year-long celebration and remembrance of our 30 years as an organization. Throughout the year, we will celebrate and remember PWA's 30 years by including anniversary activities in our yearly community events, Pride, Bike Rally, AGM, World AIDS Day, and also through the creation of specific 30th anniversary events. This planning and coordination is

being overseen by a 30th anniversary committee made up of staff, clients, volunteers and donors.

The committee has chosen the following values to guide our planning and coordination throughout the year:

- Celebration & remembrance,
- Community & friendship,
- Knowledge & awareness,
- Inclusivity & meaningful engagement,
- Strength & resilience.

In recognition and celebration of PWA's 30 years, the above logo will be used throughout the year, acknowledging PWA's resilience and longevity. +

"I still remember my first time in PWA, Sept. 2nd, 2005 I had first been diagnosed. I didn't even know that the ACT building was known as "the AIDS" building till that day I tested positive. From day 1 you guys have been a pillar of hope, support and love."

30 YEAR TIMELINE

1987 – PWA incorporates as a not-for-profit May 11 as the Toronto People With Aids Foundation.

AZT, the first anti-HIV drug is approved in the US and Canada.

1988 – First full-time benefits and assistance counsellor supports PHAs to get social assistance.

Casey House Hospice opens and Fife House Foundation forms to provide supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS.

1989 – PWA receives core funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Montreal Manifesto, an international bill of rights for people with HIV/AIDS, is published.

1990 – PWA and all ASO's in Ontario, led by AIDS ACTION NOW! oppose attempts to classify HIV/AIDS as "virulent" and subject to quarantine orders.

The federal Health Minister announces the first National AIDS strategy.

1991 – New Treatment Resource Centre provides information on Living with AIDS and produces easy to understand treatment information. 1st Canadian AIDS Awareness Week.

1992 – PWA establishes a Foodbank specifically for people living with HIV/AIDS. PWA supports Voices of Positive Women and administers funds.

Ontario's Ministry of Health establishes anonymous HIV testing sites.

1993 – PWA and ACT move to 399 Church St. PWA receives the first grant to a Canadian HIV/AIDS organization from MAC AIDS Fund.

The AIDS Memorial in Cawthra Park opens.

1994 – PWA participates in education of U of T Medical Students in and receives award. PWA supports and administers funds for Positive Youth Outreach.

After years of pressure the Ontario government announces that a catastrophic drug program will be implemented in 1995.

1995 – The HIV and AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) is established in partnership with the ACT and PWA.

1996 Cont. – Dr. Charles Roy publishes his ground-breaking research Living and Serving: Persons with HIV in the Canadian AIDS Movement.

1996 – Sutherland Chan partners with PWA to provide the first student massage clinic for PHAs.

New family of anti-retroviral drugs called protease inhibitors is approved in the US. Ontario begins Viral Load testing.

1997 – Series of pamphlets and sessions on treatment issues along is produced.

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network forms.

1998 – PWA begins only needle exchange specifically for PHAs.

Naturopathic Clinic partnership begins with the College of Naturopathic Medicine.

HIV/AIDS diagnosis is added to ODSP after efforts by PWA and other groups in Ontario.

1999 – 1st Friends For Life Bike Rally is held and raises \$44,498. PWA adopts provocative position to support medicinal marijuana.

HIV treatment effective in reducing mother to child transmission during pregnancy.

2000 – PWA develops a new strategic plan.

1st Canadian National Conference of Women and HIV/AIDS is held. More than 40 million people worldwide are estimated to have HIV/AIDS, half are women and nearly 25 million have died.

2001 – PWA offers workshops on HIV/AIDS medications, nutrition, alternative therapies and other topics.

The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV (GIPA) Principle is endorsed by 189 United Nations member countries as part of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

2002 – PWA launches the Food For Life (Wakeford's Wagons) meal delivery partnership program.

HIV becomes the leading cause of death worldwide in people aged 15-59.

2003 – PWA partners with CAAT to help PHA immigrants access medication.

InSite, North America's first supervised injection site, opens for drug users in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

2004 – Amalgamation discussions help to identify PWA and ACT partnership opportunities and to clarify PWA's work as a separate agency.

Estimated HIV prevalence in Ontario is 20,260.

2005 – PWA becomes Trustee and host of the Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN).

Estimated 57,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

2006 – The 16th International AIDS Conference is held in Toronto. AIDS deaths fall but serious health complications emerge.

2007 – PWA's 20th Anniversary.

PWA provides early leadership in Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law + HIV exposure. Criminalization of HIV becomes a growing concern.

2008 – The 10th Friends For Life Bike Rally raises \$1,214,627, the 10 year total passes \$5,000,000 with over than 300 cyclists and 100 crew.

PWA is the honoured group at pride.

Estimated 65,000 persons in Canada infected with HIV.

2009 – Poz Prevention resource materials, developed in partnership with the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance -recognized nationally and internationally as ground breaking.

Opening Doors, an annual forum for PHAs and service providers is re-initiated in Toronto.

2010 – The Food Bank transforms to an Essentials Market.

18th International AIDS Conference in Vienna bases drug policies on evidence and supports harm reduction.

2011 – Engaging, Building Capacity, Empowering Dreams: PWA's 2011-2016 Strategic Plan.

Communities, including LGBT and HIV/AIDS groups, organize to protect vital services during the City of Toronto Core Service Review.

2012 – Volunteer led Community Garden program supports PWA Food Programs.

PWA marks its 25th Anniversary – honours the community that responded to HIV/AIDS and built PWA.

The Supreme Court of Canada makes a new, very disappointing ruling on criminalization of HIV non-disclosure.

2013 – Friends for Life Bike Rally celebrates 15 years; 4176 participants and \$12 million raised to-date

PWA provides 221,500 services to 7,800 individuals this year!

2014 – The Melbourne Declaration: Nobody Left Behind is launched at the 20th International AIDS Conference

New study reports first direct evidence of HIV treatment reducing risk of HIV transmission

2015 – Volunteers provided 58,400 hours supporting programming and activities.

2016 – Friends For Life Bike Rally launches a 1-day 110 km ride fundraiser.

2017 – PWA celebrates 30 years of service to PHAs.

PWA endorses the U=U consensus statement.

“Congratulations on the 30 years. PWA has been a life saver for me and many people I know. PWA is the best advocate and support for our community...I've been a client since 1999, Poz since 1993 and probably wouldn't be here today without you. Thanks you to all staff and volunteers.”

Mission Statement

We engage people living with HIV/AIDS in enhancing their health and well-being through practical and therapeutic support services and broader social change, and we inspire them to live into their dreams and discoveries.

Our Vision

We live in affirming, sustaining communities where we find inspiration and support for our dreams, health, well-being and meaningful contributions.

Our Board

President/Chair - Brian Fior

Vice President/

Vice Chair - Francisco Remolino

Treasurer - Michael Shreve

Board Secretary - Nancy Pryce

Members at Large

Shae Byer

Carol Grandison

Bruce Mayhew

David McIntosh

Kelly O'Brien

Rodney Rousseau

Privacy Statement

At PWA we do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing list. We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find it informative. However, if at any time you wish to be removed from this list or any other mailing, simply contact us by phone at 416.506.1400 ext. 240 or by email at donate@pwatoronto.org. Please allow 2 weeks to update our records.