



Local AIDS Service Organizations

Leading the Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Canada

Local AIDS service organizations (ASOs) across Canada have led the response to the Canadian HIV/AIDS epidemic since its early days in the 1980s. Assisting individuals and communities to cope with the economic and social effects of HIV, ASOs collaborate with community organizations and municipal, provincial, federal and territorial governments to deliver prevention and education programs to populations at risk and to offer treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Canadian community-based HIV movement plays a key role in helping people living with HIV/AIDS to come to terms with their diagnosis and in seeking community services to ease the day-to-day challenges of living with HIV. Whether they refer clients to valuable health care, legal or financial support services or provide direct counseling and bereavement services, ASOs are serving people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, friends and caregivers throughout the progression of the disease.

ASOs provide a wide variety of services, including, but not limited to:

- housing/emergency shelter/drop-in centres;
- counselling and support services for PLWHIV/AIDS and families;
- emergency financial assistance;
- prevention programs, including harm reduction services;
- medical and treatment related services and referrals;
- palliative care services;
- community-based research;
- resource centres and information;
- recreational, social and peer programs;
- legal clinic and referrals;
- public policy development;
- bereavement and loss services;
- international HIV/AIDS twinning programs.

Partners in building strong, healthy communities, AIDS service organizations are at the forefront of stemming and responding to the HIV epidemic in Canada.

Canadians can help support the community-based AIDS movement by making a donation to an AIDS service organization in their community, by volunteering, or simply by learning more about HIV/AIDS and the work of their local ASO. To find an AIDS service organization in your area, visit: www.cdnaids.ca/cdnasos.

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