



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 14, 2021

Canadian AIDS Society

Via email: gary.lacasse@cdnaids.ca

Dear Gary Lacasse,

Thank you for writing to the Liberal Party of Canada regarding this important issue. Due to an overwhelming number of policy inquiries we are unable to respond in full to your questionnaire in time for you to relay our answers to your membership before election day. However, we hope this response and our full platform, which is available at www.liberal.ca/platform, are helpful to your members.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to invest every year more than \$87 million to tackle HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections. In 2020, we launched the HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund and the Harm Reduction Fund, which will invest a combined \$33.4 million annually. This funding supports the work of community-based organizations to reach key populations to decrease the number of people who are unaware of their HIV status, to increase the number of people who are accessing treatment, and to reduce stigma toward populations affected by HIV and other STBBI. Additionally, the Government of Canada authorized the first HIV self-test kit in Canada. The HIV self-test kit was part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's investment of \$6 million over 5 years to support research to investigate the introduction of new HIV and STBBI testing technologies in Canada.

Our government was also the first to officially endorse the Undetectable = Untransmittable campaign to help recognize that people who maintain a suppressed viral load through HIV treatment have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to someone else. These investments and actions are part of Canada's ongoing commitment to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, and to reduce stigma.

Though there has been much progress, there remains a lot of work to be done – especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. To help reach the global goal of ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, governments, stakeholders and affected populations across Canada developed the first ever Pan-Canadian Framework for Action on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections and work is underway to identify specific targets with provinces and territories and indigenous organizations.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to work with people living with HIV and AIDS as well as community and advocacy organizations to create supportive networks that ensure no one is left behind, invest in harm reduction, encourage people to get tested and connect them with treatment.

We will also assess our plan and investments as part of a broader review of public health in Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada once we are through the current crisis.



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On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Liberal Party of Canada