

From: Michael Jones <MJones@liberal.ca>
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 12:21 PM
To: Gary Lacasse <gary.lacasse@cdnaids.ca>
Subject: Canadian AIDS Society Letter

Dear Gary,

Thanks for your note and for all of the effort you and your team do to raise awareness and fight for Canadians on this important file. Our government is deeply committed to addressing HIV and AIDS and supporting Canadians who live with it.

We're investing \$87 million annually to tackle HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood borne illnesses. We launched Canada's new Action Plan on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections in July, which outlines how we'll tackle STBBIs over the next five years, with three big goals – reducing the rates of STBBIs in Canada, improving access to testing, treatment & support and fighting stigma and discrimination.

Under our Liberal Government, Canada was the first country in the world to support the principle that Undetectable = Untransmittable, a significant step for those living with HIV/AIDS. We are also providing \$30 million from the Harm Reduction Fund to prevent and control HIV and hepatitis C and recently announced Canada's largest-ever investment to tackle HIV among gay men. We will continue to work closely with community groups and those with lived experience.

As you rightly note, the opioid crisis is a major challenge in many communities across the country and we are treating it as a medical issue, not a moral one. To date, we have responded by investing over \$425 million in emergency response, much of it in treatment. We are also working on safe supply issues, and Budget 2019 pledges \$30 million to that end, along with additional funds in July.

To help more people access the treatment they need a re-elected Liberal government will invest an additional \$700 million over the next four years to help provinces and territories expand community-based services, build more in-patient rehab beds, and scale up the most effective programs. We will be challenging provinces and territories to step up as well and contribute additional funding, on top of these investments. While this commitment is focused on a holistic approach to addressing the opioids crisis in particular, we will continue to look for ways to partner with the HIV sector and other groups who are on the front-line of public health service delivery in Canada.

Thank you again for your important work and for your advocacy on this file.

Best,

Mike

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