



EXTREME REALITY

2011

Summer

Special points of interest:

- Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life
- HIV Testing in NNS
- Youth Photo Voice Project
- Pride Events

Inside this issue:

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life	1
Hep C Aware Project Update	2
Testing	2
Summer Student	3
Photo Voice	3
Condom Co-op	3
Pride Activities	4
Gay Men's Health	4

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life



The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is hosting a 2011 AIDS Walk in Amherst, New Glasgow, and Truro during the first weekend of October. These walks are part of the nation-wide Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life campaign.

Approximately 65,000 Canadians are living with HIV/AIDS, and around 30% are unaware of their status. There is still no known cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS and social stigma along with inadequate education ensures that HIV continues to spread. The Northern AIDS Connection Society is one of many organizations providing support services such as referrals for anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, a prison outreach program, access to an extensive resource library, and preventative education. However, these programs would not be able to continue without adequate funding, and as the AIDS Walk is the NACS' main fundraiser, it is integral to the success of the organization.

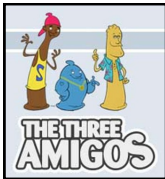
Community members are encouraged to get involved by not only increasing awareness but raising funds. The fundraising goal this year is \$20,000.00, and with the support of the community, the Northern AIDS Connection Society is confident it can achieve this goal. Getting involved is easy; to register and obtain pledge sheets by contacting NACS. Registration can also be done online at www.aidswalkforlife.ca. Find a few friends and register as a team, or register as an individual. Online donations are welcome too, and with Artez involved, it's never been easier or more secure.

The Northern AIDS Connection Society offers an incentive program for teams to create their own fundraising goals; 50% of the money raised by a team will be returned to assist in supporting an HIV/AIDS related program of the team's choice. Teams are required to raise a minimum of \$100.00 to qualify for the 50% return.

On October 1st (Amherst) or 2nd (Truro and New Glasgow) come out to walk and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact the Northern AIDS Connection Society at nacs@eastlink.ca or (902) 895-0931.

Remember, HIV/AIDS truly does affect us all!

**Get involved
IN
NACS
Condom
CO-OP**



Wrap that gator

No Regrets Later



Summer

**Hepatitis C
Aware Project**

If you or someone you know is living with Hepatitis C, have your views heard by contributing to the NACS newsletter

Please contact :
Janet Hepatitis C
Coordinator.
895-0931 or
nacs@eastlink.ca

HIV & STI Testing in Northern NS.

Community Engagement to enhance HIV & STI Testing in Northern Nova Scotia

Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) in collaboration with a number of local community partners including the Central Nova Women's Resource Centre, the NS Agricultural College and the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre wants to engage various communities in finding innovative ways to address unsafe sexual health and needle-sharing behaviours, primarily through safe and accessible testing options for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood borne pathogens (i.e. Hepatitis B and C).

Listening to the communities' ideas will be key; exploring such possibilities as linkage between HIV testing and STI and/or blood borne pathogens (Hepatitis B & C) testing, sexual health check-ups, greater public and physician awareness, outreach through a variety of community settings. Once strategies are agreed to, NAS and its partners will move next to implementation. Information gathered on the broader issue of unsafe behaviours will be shared with community partners.

Hepatitis C Aware Project Update

Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) has been fortunate enough to receive further Hep C funding. This will be the third year that NACS has been able to do Hepatitis C work in the northern region of Nova Scotia.

NACS is gearing up for World Hepatitis Day. The date has been changed to JULY 28th. "In recognition of the birthday of Professor Baruch Blumberg, who won the Nobel Prize for discovering the hepatitis B virus, World Health Organization (WHO) decided that World Hepatitis Day (WHD) will take place on July 28th." (Taken from **The World Hepatitis Alliance, World Hepatitis Day Fact Sheet page 1**)

There will be a Hep Awareness Open House at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro from 1.00pm – 400pm on Monday July 25th to kick off the week of WHD. NACS will be setting up a display and having information available for persons coming into the office. There will be refreshments. There will also be posters placed around northern Nova Scotia and a display at the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library here in Truro. On WHD July 28th NACS will be holding a BBQ in front of Sobeys Fundy Trail Mall on Robie Street from 11.00am to 1:00pm. Please come out and join NACS staff & volunteers at either location.

NACS Summer Student

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is very fortunate, and appreciative, to receive funding through Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) to hire a summer student in the position of Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Coordinator.

Asuka Boehm has been hard at work preparing materials for all three walks in northern Nova Scotia. Walks will be taking place in October, so there is ample time to get schools involved this year.

Call NACS @ 895-0931 for more info.

Volunteering

Volunteers are a big part of any non-profit organization. NACS volunteers serve as board members, assist with fundraising or support services.

If interested in volunteering contact Al at 895-0931

Youth Photo Voice

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is very fortunate, and appreciative, to receive funding to continue the Youth Photo Voice program and will run for 16 weeks starting on July 21, 2011.

This project is a program to help youth, through a photography assignment, to express in a creative way their personal experiences with risk taking behaviors. This puts youth at a higher risk for infection with Sexually Transmitted Infections such as HIV and Hepatitis C. This project is geared to educate youth so that they can make healthier choices and positive decisions when it comes to their sexual health and well being. For more info Call NACS office @ 895-0931.

What gives me the most enthusiasm is still being alive and in very good health after more than 16 years. I'm here to say that it's possible to live with HIV and find a path that allows us to live in a positive way. ~ Jacques, 63

Condom Co-op

**For information on how to get involved
in NACS**

Condom Co-op

Call 895-0931

Email - nacs@eastlink.ca





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Fax: 902-895-3353
E-mail: nacs@eastlink.ca
www.facebook.com/nacsns

EXTREME
REALITY

GMH

Gay Men's
Health

If you identify as a gay man or a man who has sex with men (MSM) and are interested in a social group or need information about gay men's health contact Al at 895-0931.

The mission of the Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is to promote the health and well being of persons living with and those affected by HIV/AIDS. NACS also offers support, services, referrals and education to individuals, families, loved ones, groups and communities throughout **Northern Region**. All services are provided in a safe and confidential environment—free of judgment.

You can find us at www.northernaidsconnectionsociety.ca

OR

Join our new facebook site
www.facebook.com/nacsns

Up Coming Events...

For information on upcoming events contact the NACS office at 895-0931.



Pride Activities in Nova Scotia

- July 11 Flag Raising— Amherst Town Hall
- July 17 Dykes & Divas Softball game
- July 18 Proclamation & Flag raising
- July 19 Queer Acts
- July 20 Halifax Pride song Writing Circle
- July 21 Harbour Cruise Tall Ship Silva
- July 22 Dance Party
- From the Northern AIDS Connection Society Albert McNutt spoke on the history of HIV/AIDS and Human Rights issues that were fought in Atlantic Canada. This activity took place at the public library on Spring garden Rd in Halifax, July 20, 2011.
- Saturday July 23, 2011 Halifax Pride Parade
- Sunday July 24, 2011 Family Picnic, Dartmouth Commons 1-3 pm