



About the Pacific AIDS Network (PAN)

PAN is a provincial network of 41 community-based organizations working to address the care, treatment, support and/or prevention-education needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS, (PHAs), persons who are Hepatitis C (HCV) co-infected or those most “at risk” or vulnerable to infection.

PAN works to **build the capacity of our members** to be as effective as they possibly can. We do this by providing **targeted professional development opportunities** to staff and key volunteers of our member organizations. Members learn culturally appropriate and sustainable skills/strategies and come together to hear about best practices, latest trends and new developments in the field. Some recent/immediate examples of “typical” PAN programming:

- January 2010 – provided workshop on **sustainability planning** for Executive Directors
- January 2010 – provided workshop on **non-profit Fund Development & Diversification**
- January 2010 – arranged for a **community consultation session on “Seek and Treat”** with representatives from the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport (MOHLS)
- March 2010 – will be providing a three-day workshop on **mental health and HIV/AIDS/HCV** issues to 60 front-line and public health workers from across BC
- May 2010 – will be providing **leadership development training for persons living with HIV/AIDS**, an ongoing peer- delivered professional development opportunity that supports individuals to make a greater contribution in their local communities as volunteers or as members of the paid work force. Youth, women, Aboriginal PHAs and people from rural regions of the province are particularly encouraged to access this program.

About Our Members

PAN member agencies are located in every health region. Members work hard to build trust with and provide services for people living with HIV/HCV and those most “at risk” including Aboriginal persons, in particular young Aboriginal women, sex trade workers, injection drug users and men who have sex with men.

While representing very little of each health authorities total expenditure, our member organizations represent significant value for the health care dollar. Community-based organizations play a cost-saving and cost-effective role in addressing the epidemics. Our members rely on volunteers to deliver services and programs representing tremendous value to society. Prevention and education programs help to prevent new infections. Support, care and treatment information services help to improve the quality of life and health prognosis of persons who are infected. This **averts acute health care costs**. Recent cuts in funding for some of our members by the health authorities threaten to negatively impact on this valuable work.

Seek & Treat – An Exciting Opportunity for Partnership

We applaud the Province’s recent announcement with regards to the four-year, \$48 million pilot. Resourcing Seek and Treat is a clear sign of the government’s commitment to prevention as well as access to treatment for all British Columbians. At the same time, we would like to take the opportunity to reiterate that, **in the words of Dr. Montaner himself, this initiative must take place “as part of a comprehensive care and support package”**. In order to best maximize the success of Seek and Treat we encourage the BC Centre for Excellence, the MOHLS and the Ministry of Health Services, and the health authorities to engage and work closely with, community-based AIDS service organizations.

PAN recognizes that Seek and Treat has tremendous potential to avert new infections and provide life-saving treatment to some of the most marginal people in the province and our community-based member organizations are ready to support the program to help ensure its success.

PAN looks forward to the opportunity to partner with the MOHLS, the health authorities, and the BC Centre for Excellence, in supporting the significant investment being made by the province in this pilot project and helping to ensure that the important outcomes identified for Seek and Treat are realized.

For example, we anticipate that an advisory panel or committee may be created to help support the roll out of this important initiative, providing valuable knowledge and feedback from the community as Seek and Treat unfolds. The Pacific AIDS Network, as a representative of 41 community-based member organizations from throughout BC, would be most willing to participate on such an advisory body.