



AIDS Committee of Ottawa/Le comité du sida d'Ottawa

Annual General Report, June 20th, 2007

Our Mission:

The AIDS Committee of Ottawa works to empower people living with HIV/AIDS and the PHA community in Ottawa through promoting the wellbeing and quality of life of persons living with or closely affected by HIV/AIDS. The ACO works to reduce the barriers that foster the transmission of HIV/AIDS and is an active partner in the community wide response to HIV/AIDS.

Our Vision:

Our vision is a healthy community of organized support, advocacy, prevention and research/education empowered by men, women and children living with or closely affected by HIV/AIDS.

Message from the Chair – Kevin Hatt

Greetings Members,

I would like to welcome you all to the AGM of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO).

It has been an empowering year for ACO; I would like to touch on a few highlights in my comments. To read the details on a deeper level I encourage you to read Kathleen's Executive Directors Report.

We have continued to build strong community partnerships with various committees, agencies and funders and are now touching the lives of many new and previously not served members of our community. All this would not be possible without the tireless contributions of many individuals: PHA's, volunteers, dedicated staff and our Executive Director, Kathleen Cummings. Many times I have come to the office only to find a hub of activity by people that should have been at home with their families hours before, thank-you all seems to be such an insufficient sentiment.

Our participation at the XVI International AIDS Conference 2006 held in Toronto was an exceptional and once in a life time experience for most of us. We had the opportunity to network and mentor with over 21,000 people representing 183 countries. Due to a very generous scholarship fund for PHA's, from the Ministry of Health, AIDS Bureau, more than thirty-five of our clients and staff were able to attend and many volunteered at our booth located in The Global Village. The book, Our Way Through was distributed there and was very well received. There are now copies of our book having an impact in all areas of the Globe.

A new project started by ACO this year was the first annual "Snowblower" Health Fair with over 50 events during 30 days, devoted to gay, bi, Trans and 2-Spirited men's health and wellness. Over 650 participants attended a variety of events including workshops targeting multiple age demographics and which featured items on reducing stigma around HIV.

We developed partnerships with community organizations working with women, such as: The Well, Elizabeth Fry and the STEP program which assisted us in reaching women who are at high risk. We also partnered with Somerset West CHC and, with the dedicated support of peers, developed a new African-Caribbean Women's Support Group.

In addition, thanks to the commitment of a peer youth, in partnership with the Youth Services Bureau, we have created a forum for youth to discuss safer sex in a positive environment and develop prevention initiatives targeted to themselves and their peers.

We strive to empower PHA's through the provision of a safe space, practical supports and opportunities for meaningful involvement and active participation in the organization. The support services advisory committee, chaired by our vice-chair Randolph Shannon, meets regularly to ensure each group is fairly represented. Portions of our regular board meeting are devoted to the concerns raised each month from the support services advisory committee. Presently various board committees are working to develop solutions to the most recent issues. Annette Hollas will be expanding on some of them later when she shares with you developments of the Enterprise committee.

When I assumed the role of chair, one thought that came to my mind was, how do we measure “empowerment”? A short year later, I do not know all the answers but I have observed some points that we can use as a measure.

I see a room full of laughing and joking friends who act more like a family than strangers with a common bond of HIV. I see a sparkle and hope in the eyes that I might not have seen some years ago. The colours used in the children’s drawings are bright and lively, revealing the fun and security they feel here. I hear the tones of empowerment and passion in the voices of people, who, until recently, were shy about speaking up.

I believe that the reason why ACO has had such an empowering year is because those who we were attempting to facilitate with empowerment are actually empowering us as individuals and as an agency. Thank you all for empowering us to stay on track with our work in the community.

Kevin Hatt
Chair of the Board of ACO

I do not want to count my days,
..... I want my days to count.

Executive Director's Report

Thank You! To all the amazing people and organizations that made it possible for ACO to continue providing and expanding our services.

Volunteers

Special thanks to the numerous people who so graciously and energetically volunteered their time and efforts with us this year; we couldn't have done it without you. Your enthusiasm and commitment spread quickly to all who are at ACO; staff and program participants alike. Thank you to both our short-term volunteers and to those of you who have been with us for years; your commitment to ACO has enabled us to create and maintain a sense of community and consistency.

Be Proud! In 2006/07, you completed the following number of hours over the year:

1st 6 months: 269 volunteers worked a total of 4,513 hours

2nd 6 months: 184 volunteers worked a total of 3,306 hours

The total number of volunteers above includes special events volunteers, short term volunteers, board members, long term agency volunteers, volunteers who retired and volunteers who are still active. Thank you again to all of you, there is no gift as valuable as giving your time and we really do appreciate it!

As this report will be posted online and widely distributed, volunteers, with the exception of board members, have not been named in print to preserve their confidentiality.

Our Board

Name:	Position
Kevin Hatt	Chair
Randolph Shannon/Leanne Dustan	Vice Chair
Claude Ouellette	Treasurer
Richard Hubley	Secretary
Annette Hollas	Director
Sharon Peake	Director
Keith Sayeau	Director
Brigette Charbonneau	Director
Niva Shrestha	Director
Jennifer George	Director
Tariq Bhanjee	Director
Leslie Gittings	Director

Thank you to Leanne Dustan (past vice chair) for your work on the board during this past year.

Donors and Funders

Government

- AIDS Bureau – Ontario Ministry of Health
- The City of Ottawa
- AIDS Community Action Program – ACAP
- Ottawa Public Health

Foundations

- Community Foundation of Ottawa

Employee Donation Programs

- Bank of Montreal – Fountain of Hope
- IBM – Employees' Charitable Fund
- Shaw Communications Inc.
- Bell Canada – Helping Hands Open Hearts
- United Way – Designated Payroll Contributions

Churches/Schools

- Kanata United Church
- City View United Church Women
- University of Ottawa – Community Service Learning Program
- Ottawa School of Art

Businesses

- Starbucks – at Bank & Slater
- Bridgehead – Elgin Street
- Cafe Supreme – Bank Street
- Goodey Canada
- The Bay-Maiden Form, Blush reps
- MAC Cosmetics
- Coca-Cola
- Courtyard Restaurant
- Studio 231-Hair salon
- Back to Health and Wellness Centre-Acupuncture Services
- Gowling, Lafleur, Henderson LLP
- Arnie's Food Services
- First Choice Hair Cutters
- Rogers Video – Branch at 326 Bank Street
- Famous Players
- Second Cup – Bank & Somerset
- Touché Bar and Restaurant
- Venus Envy
- Hartman's

Community Groups/Organizations

- The Ottawa Food bank
- Ontario AIDS Network
- Kineconcept Massage School
- JumpstART grant from SAW Video
- YMCA-subsidized gym memberships
- The Ottawa Knights – Mr. Leather Event
- Canadian Red Cross – Warm Hands Warm Hearts
- Volunteer Ottawa
- Ottawa Association of Volunteer Resources
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Statistics Canada Choir (concert donations)

Corporate Donors

- Export Development Canada – through the dedication of Scott Shannon
- Church and Dwight Canada - Trojan
- Deloitte – furniture plus employee collection at Christmas
- Cruiseline / squirt.org

Drug Companies

- Abbott Virology
- Hoffman - Laroche

In Memoriam

- Robert Chisholm
- In honour of William Frank Brighton

Private Donations

- Thank you to all who donated to us through the Walk for Life and Pride
- Lyle Borden
- Tara Rajan
- Anne L. Maranta
- Ian Heide
- Murray Nixon
- Glenn Crawford
- Richard Glasser
- Kathleen Price
- R. Grant Price
- Colleen Price
- Lina Farias
- Krzys Chmiel
- Elizabeth Wiggins
- Brenda Alonzo
- Ted Thompson

- Marilyn Richard
- Pierrette Larochelle
- Sarah Little
- Phillip Schwab
- In honour of Gwen, Alan, Kathleen, Carrie, Kate, Harriet, Peter and Liane
- Wayne Robinson (regular on-line contributor)

Collaborations ‘Plus’

These groups contributed in the delivery of specific programs, either by providing facilities/equipment, expertise and/or in-kind prizes.

- Divergence Movie Night
- Steamworks
- Club Ottawa
- Swizzles
- Lookout
- Touché Bar and Grill
- Venus Envy
- 2 Little Homos
- Centretown Pub
- Disorganized
- Club Soda
- Edge Nightclub
- Capital Xtra
- Stella (MTL)
- The Buzz Restaurant
- Blue Oasis
- Invisible Cinema
- Lucas Nault Salon
- After Stonewall

Opening Doors Conference Sponsors

- AIDS Bureau
- AIDS Committee of Ottawa
- Abbott Virology
- Glaxosmithkline in partnership with Shire Biochem
- HIV/AIDS Regional Services

Partnerships, Service Coordination & Affiliations

We would like to thank all our partners. We are very committed to collaborating and expanding partnerships with other community organizations. We must work together as a community to create a sustainable continuum of care and to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of persons living with, or closely affected by, HIV/AIDS. In addition, if

we hope to reduce the barriers that foster the transmission of HIV/AIDS we must work together as active partners to create, implement and sustain a community wide response to HIV/AIDS.

Practicum Students

We would like to thank the amazing students who completed practicums with ACO this year; it was a pleasure working with you:

- Amanda Lee
- Maggie Turgeon
- Scott Baret
- Amanda MacLean
- Katie Collins
- Charles Furlotte
- Julie Allard
- Evan Humphreys
- Emily Quinn
- Corey Wang
- Danny Clavette

Our Staff

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank the incredible team of staff who I have had the privilege of working with. This has been another year of hard work and dedication and I really appreciate all that I have learnt a lot from each of you, cheers.

Position Title	FTE Status
Executive Director - Kathleen Cummings	Full-time
Education / Health Promotion Coordinator - Michelle Ball	Full-time
Volunteer/Program Coordinator - Shannon Willmott	Full-time
Program Coordinator/Support Worker - Khaled Salam	Full-time
Program Coordinator/Support Worker - Heather Money	Full-time
Business Manager - John Sharp	Full-time
Gay Men's Project Coordinator - Adam Graham	Full-time
Community Developer - Gustavo Hannecke	Contract
Gay Men's Outreach Coordinator - Nicholas Little	Full-time
Women's Outreach Coordinator - Sarah McGirr / Heather Money	Part-time
Special Events Coordinator - Danny Clavette, Evan Humphreys	Contract
Living Room casual/on call support worker: Melissa Philpott, Jennifer Clarke, Corey Wang, Amanda Lee and Nadine Abu-Ayyash	On call
Accountant – Suzanne Wert	Contract (ongoing)

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMMING FOR 2006 - 2007

Prevention – Including Positive Prevention/Education/Health Promotion/Outreach/Community Awareness

Priority populations being served include People Living with, and Affected by HIV/AIDS, and those at risk.

- Networked extensively and created and strengthened existing community collaborations through participation on relevant committees and advisory groups , such as: OCHA; Ontario Gay Men’s Prevention Working Group, Gay Men’s Wellness Initiative, IDU Joint Action Team and the Education Committee of OCHA
- Responded to numerous requests for training from a variety of health organizations, community groups and educational institutions
- Participated in major events within the HIV/AIDS community and the GLBTQ community (Pride, Walk for Life, World AIDS Day etc.)
- Increased awareness by providing ongoing sensitivity training to community organizations and educational and religious institutions etc. – training addressed issues related to discrimination/oppression; reducing barriers to HIV testing; promoting sexual health, increasing understanding of treatment information; basic HIV 101 education
- Wherever possible, coordinated programs and services with relevant partners in order to meet needs identified by service users
- Networked with Pharmaceutical Companies and Medical Professionals in order to provide up-to-date health information for PLWHA's and service providers
- Provided telephone and email support and education about HIV on a daily basis
- Provided monthly HIV 101 workshops and training for volunteers
- Created and distributed monthly newsletters
- Recruited, trained, coordinated and supported the Speakers Bureau
- Regular health promotion workshops were held in the Living Room and at other community venues for PLWHA’s - information covered included issues, such as: treatment and duty to disclose
- In partnership with other organizations, organized, coordinated, and presented at, Opening Doors Conference – ACO staff is also the Treasurer for the Opening Doors Eastern Ontario Planning Committee
- In partnership with other members from the HIV Prevention/Education sub-committee of OCHA, assisted in organizing Bi-Annual Train the Trainer workshops to encourage staff of other social agencies to participate in education and prevention – these workshops involved 2 days of in-depth HIV/AIDS training for over 40 social service agencies and community groups
- Facilitated monthly HIV 101 sessions and a number of HIV 201 sessions
- Expanded educational services and programming from a positive prevention/sex positive approach

- Created Ottawa Outreachers' Group – with ACO as “Secretariat” – held information sharing meeting for outreach workers and held a special event, working with the Education Coordinator from Stella (sex workers' collective) in Montreal on sex negotiation skills
- Facilitated education sessions to Anonymous HIV Testers - discussions on “Serving Sexual Minorities in the Community” focusing on Gay Men's Health from an overall wellness perspective
- In partnership with GMWI, organized and hosted “Snowblower”, the first of an Annual Health Fair with over 50 events during 30 days, devoted to gay, bi, trans and 2-Spirit men's health and wellness; engaged over 650 participants; featured workshops targeted to multiple age demographics; featured items on stigma reduction around HIV serostatus
- Developed and introduced “Queer and Questioning Trivia Night”, which ran over period of five months; directly addressed gay men's sexual health in the context of a fun trivia game
- Facilitated Discussions at Divergence Movie Night - queer-focused films shown each month
- Involved/engaged HIV + men in a number of aspects of the development and delivery of prevention programs for gay men and MSM's in Ottawa
- Involved/engaged HIV + women in a number of aspects of the development and delivery of prevention programs for women who are high risk in Ottawa
- Created targeted prevention initiatives to gay men at risk of HIV
- Created targeted prevention initiatives for women at risk of HIV, including women in the sex trade, women who use injection drugs, women with mental health issues and women living in poverty
- Coordinated extensive outreach to sex venues: bars, bathhouses, bookstores, parks
- Coordinated outreach to Gay social groups and activities – including outreach to specific populations of gay men, including older gay men, gay men living on reduced incomes and gay men with physical and mental challenges
- Coordinated and expanded on-line interventions with gay men
- Expanded our needle and pipe distribution through outreach initiatives
- Coordinated the provision of information and harm reduction strategies
- Coordinated the provision of workshops, information sessions and support groups for gay positive and negative men and for positive and negative women
- Successfully advocated for additional resources for target populations
- Expanded sex positive educational programming to include and explore the impact of sex negativism, sexual oppression and how this relates to physical and emotional well being, sexual health and in reducing the number of HIV infections
- Created and distributed a sex positive handout that is inclusive and celebrates sexual diversity
- Coordinated Health Promotion initiatives specific to HIV positive men and to HIV positive women
- Partnered with outreach workers in the community to conduct outreach to women who are high risk

- Created partnerships with community organizations working with women, such as: The Well; St. Joe's; Elizabeth Fry; STEP program
- Built a relationship with health care services at the Ottawa Carlton Detention Centre to create access for ACO to provide education, prevention and harm reduction programs within the institution
- Supported other community organizations doing targeted prevention initiatives for people from countries where HIV is endemic
- Collaborated with YSB to create a forum for youth to discuss safer sex in a positive environment and develop prevention initiatives targeted to themselves and their peers

Support Services & Community Development

ACO's support services include support groups, one on one support and advocacy, outreach, referrals and practical support for people living with, and closely affected by, HIV/AIDS. The Living Room offers practical drop-in services and more structured psychosocial programs for PLWHA's. It provides a place for PLWHA's to come together and build a community within a safe environment.

- Formed and strengthened partnerships to provide HIV specific services and programming to better meet the current needs of more targeted populations and to better ensure a continuum of care. For example: the African-Caribbean Women's Support Group, in partnership with Somerset West CHC; Long-term Survivors Support Group called "Survive & Thrive", in partnership with the ABPO; Peer Youth Group in partnership with YSB
- Worked with Provincial ASO's, such as, PASAN, ABPO, Voices of Positive Women, to mobilize their services to Ottawa and create more accessibility for PLWHA in Ottawa
- One of our support workers has moved into a case management role to respond to the increasing need for that service
- Continued building a large referral network and broadened use of community resources
- Created better access to ACO and TLR through a number of initiatives, such as, extending the hours of operation and expanding targeted programming to meet the needs of different populations accessing our services. Hours of programming have been extended to include weekends and more evenings, which better meets the needs of people who work or attend school during the day and families
- Continued to involve participants in different aspects of the agency and have recruited volunteers, including peers, to address specific programming needs
- There continues to be a significant increase in the number of people accessing our services and in the representation of people from different population groups. While this has been wonderful, it has also presented a number of challenges. These challenges however, presented incredible opportunities for education and sensitivity training in a real and meaningful way. It has been incredible to see people with diverse experiences come together and support each other

- Facilitated increased peer involvement through supporting peer driven groups and programming; peers are currently offering a Co-infection Group, a Long-Term Survivor's Group called Survive and Thrive, and a Youth Group
- Continued to support PHA initiated projects such as "Help us remember our History", a project that started at the end of April
- Expanded the Alternative Therapy programming and provided self care/stress relief workshops for PHA'S
- In partnership with Ottawa Public Health, expanded the needle and safe crack kit exchange program at ACO – these services are offered both on site and through outreach
- Facilitated regular community kitchens – which provide an excellent opportunity to bring people together to build community and to assist people in learning culinary skills to make healthy, nutritious meals on a budget
- Provided extensive ongoing one-on-one structured support with a diverse clientele – this service is provided both on site and through outreach to better accommodate people's comfort levels and concerns regarding confidentiality. The service is also offered at a variety of times to better accommodate people's varying schedules
- Increased outreach visits and accompaniments: home visits, hospital visits, outreach to prisons and accompaniments to medical appointments and ODSP and OW meetings are a few examples of our increased presence
- Created additional family and women specific programming, including a number of creative projects such as: baking groups to make affordable nutritional snacks for children's school lunches, art groups and fun outings and activities
- Provided a number of "in reach" services, including workshops to support people in knowing their rights and responsibilities on important issues, such as: legal information, duty to disclose, tenants rights information and advocacy. In addition, weekly individual legal support is provided through the dedication of our volunteer lawyer
- Empowered PLWHA's through the provision of a safe space, practical supports and opportunities for meaningful involvement and active participation in the organization. The support services advisory committee meet regularly to ensure each group is fairly represented. Meaningful volunteer opportunities have been created and supported for peers; and regular "Chat" meetings were held in the Living Room to create a time and space for participants to give feedback and input regarding the agency and its programming
- Created better access to resources - the Resource Room is open daily and is equipped with three computers with internet access, a printer and a telephone. There is also an abundance of video, audio and printed resources available upon request
- Provided a number of practical programs including: the Community Kitchen; the Food Bank program; complimentary YMCA passes; laundry facilities (free of charge); nutritional meal program and regular Life Skills workshops
- Ran a pilot project for a Maximum Assisted Therapy (MATDOT) Program. This program allowed us to better address the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the PLWHA community – the ones who, arguably, need our

support the most. This service was very successful in other cities, in assisting to address the health, psychosocial and practical needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, who otherwise might not be able to adhere to difficult drug regimes. Unfortunately we did not receive ongoing funding for this project so it was closed, but the amazing staff working on the project ensured that where needed, participants were connected to other supports within the community.

Volunteer Activities

Over the year there has been greater consistency in volunteer engagement. This, we believe, is due to stabilization at ACO, better agency focus, and a welcoming of volunteer capabilities. This is reflected in the number of hours volunteers were able to contribute. Thank you, again, to all our dedicated volunteers.

- Continued to support participant volunteers by creating ongoing meaningful opportunities for them to become involved and by providing the appropriate training and ongoing support
- Supported and maintained our existing and committed volunteers
- Developed new volunteer roles and programs to support new prevention programs/initiatives at ACO and sustain the existing ones
- Supporting volunteers to find ways to continue to be involved in the midst of programming changes
- There are many PLWHA's working as volunteers in the day-to-day operations of the agency which has enabled us to increase the hours of operation in the Living Room and the Resource Room. PLWHA's make up a minimum of half of all volunteers active with ACO. There are currently 160 active volunteers
- Successfully transitioned volunteer cooks to provide nutritional snacks and meals on an extremely reduced budget.
- Volunteer meetings for childcare volunteers and cooks to develop skill sharing and a sense of belonging to a team within the agency
- Regular volunteer training sessions were provided - and new training was supported and developed - including monthly HIV 101 training; anti-racism, anti-oppression training; outreach training
- Volunteer recognition activities were held and were well attended
- Regular newsletters were distributed to volunteers
- Provided opportunities to a number of people in need of supported volunteer roles, i.e. people with mental and physical health challenges, people in recovery programs, high school students and people with mandated volunteer requirements

Volunteer positions available and positions currently held at ACO:

Available positions

- Registered Massage Therapists; Yoga Instructor; Cleaners & Dishwashers; Nutrition Team Members; Naturopaths; Acupuncturists; Childcare; Fundraisers;

Outreach to Bars and Bathhouses; Advocacy Committee; Postering; Internet Technologies Support; Afternoon Food Bank Volunteer .

Current Positions Held

- ACO Receptionist; TLR Receptionist; TLR Floor Worker; Nutrition Teams; Dishwashers; Child Care (on-site with parents in the agency); Registered Massage Therapist; Reflexologist; Chair Massage Students; Reiki Practitioners; Lawyer and Articing Students; Building Maintenance and Movers; Community Economic Developers; Painters; Peer Group Facilitators; Grade School Tutor; Speaker's Bureau and Community Educators; Special Events and Tabling; Food Bank; Bath House Outreach; Bar Outreach; Archivist; Board of Directors.

If you are interested in volunteering with ACO, please contact Shannon, our volunteer coordinator.

Other Activities

- Began work in the area of anti-racism/anti-oppression for ACO – training was provided for the board, staff, volunteers and participants. Policies are in the process being reviewed and amended
- Developed/strengthened alliances with present and potential funding sources
- Continued to find means of reducing operating costs and “smarter” methods of purchasing goods and services while maintaining/improving efficiency
- Increased partnerships with local colleges and universities. We provided student placement opportunities and support to students from a number of different programs, such as: social work, addictions and business management programs from Carleton University, Algonquin College and CDI College. Students received hands on practical experience by being involved in different aspects of the relevant jobs at our agency. Students doing research projects received information and support and were connected with participants in their studies and safe, confidential spaces to conduct interviews with our clients and staff
- Supported and participated in community based research projects. This included recruiting and supporting participants, providing meeting space, assisting in the development of questions and research tools and writing letters of support for funding of projects
- Improved website upkeep and enhanced computer services
- Expanded and reorganized the office layout for optimum use of space/functionality/security
- Conducted numerous interviews with media, including: print, television and radio
- Organized and participated in a number of social actions, including advocating for the continuation of the harm reduction distribution program in Ottawa
- Thanks to the AIDS Bureau and the Ontario AIDS Network, ACO was able to have a strong presence at the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto. Board, staff, volunteers and participants were there in full force and attended a number of social action demonstrations and had a booth representing ACO in the Global Village, where we distributed our book “Our Way Through”

Highlights of New Programs/Services to Respond to Emerging Trends

The programs/services listed below, are in response to the needs identified through emerging or existing trends that we now have the capacity to properly address:

- Started new programs and strengthened partnerships to better respond to the increased demand for services at ACO, such as: Somerset West CHC – to support the African-Caribbean Women’s Support Group; AIDS Bereavement Project of Ontario – to support “Survive & Thrive”; YSB – to support the Peer Youth Group
- Worked with Provincial ASO’s, such as, PASAN, ABPO, Voices of Positive Women, to mobilize their services to Ottawa and create more accessibility
- Moved one of our support workers into a case management role to better respond to the increasing need for that service
- Supported a number of new peer group: Survive and Thrive – a support group for long-term survivors; Youth Group; Choices – a co-infection support group
- Created Ottawa Outreachers’ Group – with ACO as “Secretariat” – a group for outreach workers to share information
- Organized and hosted “Snowblower”, the first of an Annual Health Fair with over 50 events during 30 days, devoted to gay, bi, trans and 2-Spirit men’s health and wellness; engaged over 650 participants; featured workshops targeted to multiple age demographics; featured items on stigma reduction around HIV serostatus
- Developed and Introduced Queer and Questioning Trivia Night which ran over period of five months and directly addressed gay men’s sexual health in the context of a fun trivia game
- Facilitated Discussions at Divergence Movie Night – queer-focused films
- Involved/engaged HIV + men in a number of aspects of the development and delivery of prevention programs for gay men and MSM’s in Ottawa
- Built a relationship with health care services at the Ottawa Carlton Detention Centre to create access for ACO to provide education, prevention and harm reduction programs within the institution
- Created additional family and women specific programming, including a number of creative projects such as: baking groups to make affordable nutritional snacks for children’s school lunches, art groups and fun outings and activities
- Began work in the area of anti-racism/anti-oppression for ACO – training was provided for the board, staff, volunteers and participants

We are extremely committed to responding to the changing needs of our community and we will continue to collaborate and increase partnerships with other community organizations to better address these needs.

Program Planning and Evaluation

As usual program planning this year involved input from many different sources:

- Recommendations from the Support Services Advisory Committee. The support

services advisory committee has representation from PHA's, volunteers, staff and board members. These public meetings serve to monitor our effectiveness and client satisfaction.

- Requests brought forward and discussed at the regular "Chat" meetings. "Chat" meetings are held in the Living Room and provide people with the opportunity to give feedback and input regarding the agency and services on a regular basis
- Responses/evaluations of specific programming activities - trainings, info sessions, speaks or community events conducted by ACO encourage participants to fill out an evaluation survey at its conclusion
- Feedback and recommendations from staff, individual participants, board members - particularly the executive - and from other service providers
- Volunteer feedback. Mechanisms are in place for volunteers to check-in/report back
- Issues identified through the Community Planning Process, OCCA and the GMWI, etc.
- Support groups and workshops are often evaluated through satisfaction evaluations/surveys
- A number of community forums and the quarterly public meetings, which were held in the Living Room

Things we have learnt through Program Planning & Evaluation:

- How to involve people in more meaningful ways
- How to be more innovative with resources
- Current trends and emerging issues we need to have on our radar
- What the gaps in services are
- What people like/don't like
- Duplication of services
- How to better meet the needs of different population groups
- How to involve people in more meaningful ways
- How to be more innovative with resources
- How ACO appears to people in the community who are not connected to us

We are extremely committed to responding to the changing needs of our community. Results from these evaluation efforts provide us with a wealth of qualitative and anecdotal feedback that we then incorporate into our program planning, staffing priorities, creation of resources, redesign of our website and development of partnerships and collaborations with other service providers.

In Ending...

Thank you for the privilege of being part of such an incredible journey with such an amazing team of people.

Cheers, Kathleen

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

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AUDITORS' REPORT

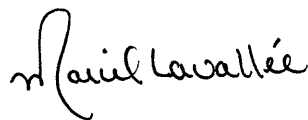
To the Members
The AIDS Committee of Ottawa

We have audited the statement of financial position of The AIDS Committee of Ottawa as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Organization derives revenue from fundraising and donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue from fundraising and donations, excess of revenues over expenses, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of the adjustments, if any, which we may have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the revenue from fundraising and donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario
May 28, 2007

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THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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	2007	2006	2007 Budget (note 3)
INCOME			
Grants and contributions (Schedule A)	\$ 671,894	\$ 577,673	\$ 621,839
Fundraising, donations and other (Schedule B)	51,017	126,850	17,000
Special projects (Schedule C)	19,435	19,757	-
	742,346	724,280	638,839
EXPENSES			
Administrative expenses (Schedule D)	457,029	368,923	495,977
Project expenses (Schedule E)	215,783	192,238	107,399
Cost of fundraising events	13	3,627	-
Special projects (Schedule F)	36,593	36,942	18,463
Amortization of capital assets	2,935	3,792	-
	712,353	605,522	621,839
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 29,993	\$ 118,758	\$ 17,000

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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	The Robert Chisholm Fund - Internally restricted (note 4)	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	2007	2006
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 191,832	\$ 13,508	\$ 43,100	\$ 248,440	\$ 129,682
Excess of revenue over expenses	16,024	(2,935)	16,904	29,993	118,758
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 207,856	\$ 10,573	\$ 60,004	\$ 278,433	\$ 248,440

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2007

4

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 203,197	\$ 381,998
Cashable guaranteed investment certificate, 3.4%	190,000	-
Accounts receivable (note 5)	28,674	15,507
Prepaid expenses	1,854	6,166
	423,725	403,671
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 6)	10,573	13,508
	\$ 434,298	\$ 417,179
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 45,432	\$ 53,200
Deferred revenue and designated funds (note 7)	62,654	71,978
Due to the Ministry of Health	47,779	43,561
	155,865	168,739
NET ASSETS		
The Robert Chisholm Fund - internally restricted (note 4)	207,856	191,832
Invested in Capital Assets	10,573	13,508
Unrestricted	60,004	43,100
	278,433	248,440
	\$ 434,298	\$ 417,179

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____, Director

_____, Director

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

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1. STATUTE AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Organization, incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act, was established to fight AIDS and HIV infection, their causes, and negative consequences through advocacy, education and support services. The AIDS Committee of Ottawa is a registered charitable organization under the Income Tax Act and is tax exempt.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual amounts could differ from these estimates.

Revenue recognition

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for grants and contributions. Under this method, contributions restricted for future period expenses are deferred and are recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. These contributions may be repayable if not utilized within their respective programs. Unrestricted contributions and fundraising, donations and other revenues are recognized as revenue, when received or receivable, provided that the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection reasonably assured.

In-kind donations

In-kind donations are recorded at fair value when they can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and/or services are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations.

The work of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa is dependent on the voluntary service of many members. The value of donated services is not recognized in these statements.

Administrative expenses charged to projects

Administrative expenses are charged to the projects according to management's best estimates of the time spent and the expenses incurred on these projects.

Capital assets

Capital assets are accounted for at cost. Amortization is calculated on their respective estimated useful life using the diminishing balance method at the following annual rates:

	Periods
Computer equipment	30%
Furniture and equipment	20%

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

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3. BUDGET

The budget figures presented in the financial statements have not been audited and consequently we do not express an opinion on these figures.

4. THE ROBERT CHISHOLM FUND

The Organization is the beneficiary of an additional donation in the amount of \$9,615 (2006: \$90,000) from the Estate of Mr. Robert Chisholm. The Fund is internally restricted and was established by the Board of Directors for contingencies in the best interest of the Organization. Only the Board of Directors can approve the use of the Fund.

5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2007	2006
Trade accounts	\$ 16,006	\$ 8,617
Goods and services tax	6,296	6,890
Accrued interest	6,372	-
	\$ 28,674	\$ 15,507

6. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2007	2006
Computer equipment	\$ 21,511	\$ 19,880	\$ 1,631	\$ 2,330
Furniture and equipment	27,231	18,289	8,942	11,178
	\$ 48,742	\$ 38,169	\$ 10,573	\$ 13,508

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

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7. DEFERRED REVENUE AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2007	2006
Deferred revenue:		
Opening Doors	\$ 19,245	\$ 14,492
Public Service Announcement - City of Ottawa	3,265	3,265
The Living Room - City of Ottawa	12,324	17,415
Designated funds:		
The Living Room	15,893	25,850
Shared Realities	8,457	8,457
Train the Trainer	1,991	2,499
Positive Youth Program	1,479	-
	\$ 62,654	\$ 71,978

Deferred revenue represents funding received but not yet expended in the current year. The grants under which some of these funds were received do not require repayment of the unexpended funds, but rather allow the organization to defer these excess funds for use in subsequent fiscal periods.

Designated funds are amounts which have been generated by various sources, including government assistance. These funds have not been recognized as revenue, as they are being deferred for use in specific projects in future years.

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Fair value

The carrying value of cash, cashable guaranteed investment certificate, accounts receivable as well as accounts payable and accrued liabilities and due to the Ministry of Health approximate their fair value given their short-term maturities.

9. COMMITMENTS

The commitments entered into by the Organization under lease agreements total \$130,900. Payments for the next two years are as follows:

2008	\$ 92,400
2009	\$ 38,500

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

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10. OTHER INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENTS

Other indemnification agreements

In the normal course of operations, the Organization signs agreements whereby funds are provided for the execution of projects which are subject to restrictions as to the use of the funds. The sponsors of these projects can execute an audit of the financial records of the organization to ensure compliance with the project requirements. In the event that amounts to be reimbursed to the sponsor of a project are identified, the necessary adjustments will be recognized in the year they are identified.

11. MINISTRY OF HEALTH - REVENUE AND EXPENSES

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, the revenue and expenses financed under the AIDS Bureau are as follows:

	2007	
	Actual	Budget
Revenue		
Ministry of Health		
- Core funding	\$ 499,183	\$ 503,401
- Opening doors	18,739	18,739
	\$ 517,922	\$ 522,140
Expenses		
Salaries, wages and remuneration	\$ 285,536	\$ 289,024
Benefits	60,084	60,814
Rent / Utilities	72,575	72,575
Supplies and other expenses	64,445	64,445
Protected allocation	16,543	16,543
Other / Special line	18,739	18,739
	\$ 517,922	\$ 522,140

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

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12. HEALTH CANADA - ACAP MEN'S PROGRAM

2007

	Actual	Budget
Salaries and benefits	\$ 44,894	\$ 49,170
Travel	361	357
Materials	8,120	3,854
Equipment	808	802
Rent and utilities	7,500	7,500
Other	1,503	1,318
	\$ 63,186	\$ 63,001

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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	2007	2006	2007 Budget
SCHEDULE A - GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS			
Ministry of Health - Core funding (note 11)	\$ 499,183	\$ 452,416	\$ 495,977
Ministry of Health - Opening doors (note 11)	18,739	18,463	18,463
Health Canada - ACAP Men's program (note 12)	63,000	53,000	53,000
City of Ottawa - The Living Room	72,392	50,869	54,399
Ontario Disability Support Program	-	2,925	-
City of Ottawa - Other	17,760	-	-
Ministry of Health - Ontario Hepatitis C Secretariat	820	-	-
	\$ 671,894	\$ 577,673	\$ 621,839

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health core funding is to be used for salaries, rent and operating expenses in accordance with the Ministry's approved budget. Any unspent portion of the funding is repayable to the Ministry. An amount of \$60,108 of the core funding received from the Ministry of Health was used for the Living Room Project.

City of Ottawa

This funding is provided to the Organization for use in the operation of The Living Room project, the Maximum Assisted Therapy project and to prepare a presentation for the World Aids Day.

SCHEDULE B - FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS AND OTHER

AIDS Walk	\$ 12,053	\$ 15,880	\$ 12,000
The Living Room	7,875	5,250	-
Donation from the Estate of Robert Chisholm (note 4)	9,615	90,000	-
Our Way Through (sales)	1,257	3,512	-
Interest	6,409	1,832	-
Other donations	13,808	10,376	5,000
	\$ 51,017	\$ 126,850	\$ 17,000

SCHEDULE C - SPECIAL PROJECTS

Opening Doors	\$ 10,657	\$ 14,126	\$ -
Other	8,778	5,631	-
	\$ 19,435	\$ 19,757	\$ -

THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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	2007	2006	2007 Budget
SCHEDULE D - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 431,190	\$ 338,978	\$ 348,064
Rent and repairs	85,361	89,566	72,575
Advertising	2,914	5,774	3,600
Professional fees	9,226	10,277	9,100
Printing, stationery and office supplies	23,874	14,269	12,830
Project materials	14,612	15,904	6,700
Telecommunications	15,921	14,193	14,800
Volunteer support and Board meetings	3,456	3,609	3,000
Insurance	4,557	4,432	4,700
Postage and courier	1,738	2,825	2,615
Membership	5,308	6,487	3,500
Staff training	15,530	7,027	10,043
Interest and bank charges	1,374	1,415	750
Local travelling expenses	6,658	3,414	2,500
Other	4,419	2,112	1,200
Administrative expenses charged to projects	(169,109)	(151,359)	-
	\$ 457,029	\$ 368,923	\$ 495,977

SCHEDULE E - PROJECT EXPENSES

The Living Room	\$ 151,777	\$ 139,238	\$ 54,399
Health Canada - ACAP Men's program	63,186	53,000	53,000
Ministry of Health - Ontario Hepatitis C Secretariat	820	-	-
	\$ 215,783	\$ 192,238	\$ 107,399

SCHEDULE F - SPECIAL PROJECTS

Opening Doors	\$ 29,969	\$ 32,589	\$ 18,463
Other	6,624	4,353	-
	\$ 36,593	\$ 36,942	\$ 18,463