



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life 2008: Moving from Chaos to Clarity

[Nanaimo, September 16, 2008] – This September 21, residents of Nanaimo are invited to join the movement from chaos to clarity and show their support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in their community by participating in the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life. The Walk will leave from Maffeo Sutton Park at 11am.

According to the most recent statistics available from the Public Health Agency of Canada, approximately 58,000 Canadians are currently living with HIV/AIDS, with AIDS Vancouver Island offering service to 64 HIV positive people in Nanaimo and area. Services offered include a daily drop in with snacks, counselling, hospital visits, advocacy, referrals and education.

This year, developing the theme of the Walk's official artwork, *The Nest*, created by Canadian HIV-positive artist Morgan McConnell, the Walk encourages people to play a role in moving the epidemic from chaos to clarity. "This day is about sharing knowledge and information about HIV to prevent further infections. It's also about providing hope, through our fundraising efforts, to the many Canadians who are currently living with or affected by HIV," says Katrina Jensen, executive director of AIDS Vancouver Island.

All fundraising revenues collected will stay in the community to support the work of AIDS Vancouver Island. Proceeds enable them to continue to offer prevention and education programs, as well as support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Last year, 100 participants helped raise \$8,000 with the help of M.A.C. Cosmetics and others.

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life in Nanaimo is being held in conjunction with Walks in over 50 communities across Canada, which will be taking place the week of September 14-21. Visit www.aidswalkforlife.com for more info.

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About AIDS Vancouver Island

AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) provides education, support, and advocacy for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and other communicable diseases. AVI also works to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C through prevention education programming.

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is a project of the Canadian AIDS Society in partnership with the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society, the AIDS Committee of Toronto, and community-based AIDS organizations across Canada. During the national week-long event, cities and communities from across the country host Walks to raise funds for local services and programming and to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. As Canada's most important HIV/AIDS awareness and fundraising event, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life has now raised close to \$28 million for community-based HIV/AIDS service organizations since 1996 and has attracted over half a million participants.

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