

We're Finalists for the Vancity Award!

AIDS Vancouver Island and the Victoria Cool Aid Society have been chosen as one of four finalists for the Vancity Award, a \$1 million grant. The Award will go towards the transformation of 713 Johnson Street into the ACCESS Community Health Centre.

The Vancity Award winner is chosen by their members, who cast their votes online, by phone and in-branch from September 5 - October 13, 2006. Winners are announced in November.

The ACCESS Health Centre will be a "one-stop" facility, with both organizations' major health outreach programs together under one roof. Whether in need of dental work or assistance from a counsellor and a hot meal—clients will be welcomed at 713 Johnson Street. The door will be wide open for HIV+ people, women, the homeless, sex workers, people who use drugs by injection, aboriginal people, LGBTQ people, youth, and all others who find it difficult to access traditional health care services.



Campaigning for votes at the Vancouver Dyke Festival.
From left to right: Andrea Langlois, Kathy Stinson, Daphne Armstrong, and Miki Hansen.

We can win the Vancity Award with **your** help!
Ways you can help are:

1. If you're a Vancity member vote to change lives! Vote for AVI and Cool Aid! Becoming a member can cost as little as \$5...
2. Tell friends and family who are Vancity members about this exciting project and encourage them to vote for us.
3. Volunteer your time to stand outside Vancity locations (in Victoria or the lower mainland) and hand out flyers to members. Call us and attend an orientation session!

For more information on the ACCESS Health Centre and on how to vote for the Vancity Award, visit www.accesshealthcentre.ca or call (250) 384-2366.

AIDS Vancouver Island and Cool Aid Society.
Together we will change lives.



Sept 5–Oct 13,
Vancity members
will vote and
change lives.

**AIDS
VANCOUVER
ISLAND**

**COOL
AID
SOCIETY**

www.accesshealthcentre.ca

Updates from the North Island

Nanaimo

AVI Nanaimo's Health Centre: A Harm Reduction Initiative

The AVI Health Centre offers a methadone treatment program that is regulated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS) of BC. Our staff includes certified methadone prescribing physicians, an experienced addictions counsellor, and support workers.

We offer personalized counselling services and methadone treatment for opioid dependant persons and support, education, and treatment for Hepatitis C. We also offer harm reduction services, such as condoms, information, counselling and support on disease prevention and management, and safer drug use.

We serve as a point of health education and referral to other community services that may benefit our clients. We are open Monday - Thursday 9am to 5pm. Please call (250) 754-9111 for more information.



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250-384-2366 Phone
240-380-9411 Fax

1-800-665-2437 Toll Free
Infoline

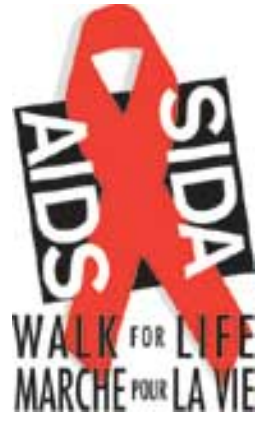
Info@avi.org
www.avi.org

AVI has offices in Nanaimo, Courtenay and Campbell River, and mobile needle exchanges serving the Cowichan Valley and the Port Hardy/Port MacNeil areas. Contact info can be found at www.avi.org

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for other issues, and referrals. Clients can also make an appointment for counselling in the afternoons or attend an HIV/AIDS Support Group (held every second Monday evening).

On Wednesdays from 2-4pm, we have a Hepatitis C (HCV) Drop-In that is open to anyone in the community who has HCV and needs support and/or information. We work closely with the AVI Health Centre's HCV nurse for medical information and treatment updates.



Nanaimo AIDS Walk
Sunday September 24th

Maffeo Sutton Park on
Nanaimo's Waterfront.

Registration at 11am,
Walk begins at Noon

Form a team!
Come and enjoy!
Volunteer!

For more information call Anita or Claire at the
Nanaimo office at (250)753-2437.

Port Hardy

Over the last few months AVI has been building its educational program on the North Island. We provided education for emergency and hospital staff and will be providing education to each new group of participants at the Namgis Treatment Centre in Alert Bay.

AVI has also operated a booth at the community festival in Alert Bay and Port Hardy this summer, and there was a good community response especially from the grannies. If you have the grannies on your side, all will go well!

The autumn will surely be busy, as we will be providing education for First Nations youth groups, young parents groups, professionals and in schools across the North Island.

Courtenay

"Condom Patrol" at the Island Music Festival

AVI made their presence well known at this year's Island Music Fest (July 6 - 8, Courtenay) by handing out over 1300 condom packs (2600 condoms with lube). Volunteers Del Grimstad, Nadine Ericksen, Richard Nixon and Jeanette Reinhardt were on Condom Patrol handing out condoms and lube throughout the weekend. This year the organizers for the festival provided us with a table to display information and respond to questions. Our goal for next year is to increase our profile by having a booth inside the main stage area, and to distribute over 4000 condoms.



Del Grimstad and Nadine Ericksen ready to head out on condom patrol at the Island Music Festival.

Campbell River

We've Expanded our Partnership with the Upper Island Health Unit!

At the beginning of August, AVI Campbell River and Upper Island Health expanded our partnership and services, resulting in a more efficient, convenient, comfortable environment in which to do STI, HIV, and Hepatitis C testing, and immunizations. We're pleased to announce on site services every Friday from 1 - 2: 30 pm at AVI.

On a queer note, there has been recent interest and discussion in starting a support group for Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, and Questioning persons. The first support group meeting will take place on Wednesday September 6th from 5 - 7 pm at AIDS Vancouver Island. The group will focus on issues regarding safety, public awareness and education. This is a

huge leap for folks living in Campbell River and area. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Leanne at (250)830-0787 or 1-877-650-8787.

Also in the Campbell River office is Nadine Erickson (former Metis flatlander now gone Coastal). Taking like a salmon to salt water to the work around here, she's been able to get in and do several presentations with the First Nations communities in the area. Following the lead from the Aboriginal Train the Trainer conducted by Heidi in February, presentations have been done with Kwakiutl District Council, the communities of K'omoks, Cape Mudge, Quinsam, Campbell River, as well as Holmolco First Nation. Over on the west side, we've been to Gold River and have big plans for Nuuchahnulth First Nation in September. Very Skokum! Tanisi to the folks at North Island Metis Association too!



Volunteering at AVI



Have you thought about volunteering? We love volunteers at AVI and appreciate their energy and enthusiasm. Volunteers contribute greatly to the comprehensive and focused services AVI provides in the community.

Volunteering opportunities at AVI include:

- Flyering at Vancity branches during our campaign (see pg 1 of newsletter)
- Assisting at the drop in program during lunch or at during evenings at the Needle Exchange
- Helping with the AIDS Walk on September 24th

Volunteers receive training for the tasks at hand and can also attend additional training sessions to enhance their knowledge of HIV/AIDS and associated topics.

To find out more about volunteering at AVI, you can respond directly from www.avi.org (follow the Volunteer Program link) or, in Victoria contact Leslie Robinson at 384-2366 or leslie.robinson@avi.org. Volunteer applications are available in Victoria at the front desk. In other locations, contact your local AVI Office.

A Healthy Serving of Positive Wellness in Victoria

The Positive Wellness Program (PWP) welcomed in the summer with our second annual BBQ at Beaver Lake Park. About 20 PWP members (and their canine companions!) joined staff and volunteers for a picnic with tasty BBQ. Staff and program members alike always look forward to getting out of the city and enjoying the some fresh air and good company at the park. Special thanks go to Tammy from the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria for providing us with safe bus transportation to and from Beaver Lake.



PWP members enjoying the food and nice weather at the summer BBQ.

In May we welcomed Holistic Nutritionist, Stacey Horton, on board as the project coordinator for our Community Kitchen project. Stacey has been working with PWP members to share her knowledge about nutrition and healthy eating on a budget. Participants have been able to share cooking tips, exchange information about living healthfully with HIV and Hep C, and have learned how to make pizza, stews, and even roasted lamb! The group will continue into the fall and will be hosting a banquet to offer their thanks to the First Metropolitan United Church for the use of their beautiful commercial-sized kitchen.

PWP also continues to offer food hampers for registered members, which has received much positive feedback. Once per month, members are eligible to

sign up and receive one grocery bag of dry goods and one bag of fresh items, both of which include many nutritious items.

Our numbers continue to rise and we currently have over 300 HIV+ members. On average, we see about 4 new member intakes each month and serve approximately 30-40 meals per day. Thanks to Saanich Organics we've been able to offer more organic veggies. We look forward to moving in to our new location in the coming year where we'll enjoy an expanded drop-in space and kitchen facilities.

The Army of Love Marches On...

The summer kicked off to a great start with "The Army of Love" at Pride 2006 in Victoria. Numerous staff and volunteers made up the high-energy parade contingent from AVI, and they were undeniably popular with the crowd!

At the post-parade festival, AVI's information tent, fondly known



as the "Barracks" was one of the most high-traffic areas. With stacks of information available, fun educational games, and safe sex supplies, we received a lot of positive feedback.

A big thanks to all the staff and volunteers who gave their time to the Army of Love!