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## Condom Cops return to the Central Okanagan

### ***For Immediate Release***

2001

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**KELOWNA**—Condom Cop Programs approved in Central the Okanagan.

The AIDS Resource Centre, is very pleased to announce our **Condom Cops** program has been approved by Human Resource Development Canada for a 9<sup>th</sup> year in Kelowna, the fifth year in the South Okanagan and the fourth year in the North Okanagan.

The objective of the program is to educate and inform the public about HIV/AIDS, its transmission, prevention, and safer sex behaviors and testing.

The program helps to dispel the myths and misunderstandings surrounding HIV/AIDS causing discrimination and marginalization of persons infected or affected by the disease. There remains a dangerously mistaken belief that HIV/AIDS affects only certain populations. While recognizing that some population groups are currently higher in the risk continuum, education will be provided to inform the public that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS is a universal reality, which excludes NO person or group of persons from the continuum of risk. We provide the most accurate and up-to-date information available. AIDS Resource Centre projects a distribution of at least 50,000 free condoms and educational materials,

particularly in areas where a prevalence of high-risk behavior has been identified. The areas of concern are bars, pubs, nightclubs, beaches and parks. The parks and beaches are targeted locations during the day and on weekends when people are accessing these areas. The bars, pubs and nightclubs are visited in the evening during hours of greatest activity. This schedule covers the places and times when as many people as possible can be reached in one area. **Condom Cops** do not attend family events or family restaurants.

**The Condom Cops** program which is extremely well received and has shown a great amount of interest from tourists on how they can have the same program in their areas. People are reached who may not come to an AIDS organization for educational materials or condoms.

AIDS Resource Centre has hired students for the 2002 program, who will hit the beaches, bars and clubs throughout the summer so when you see them out and about say HI!

For further information on this program please contact:

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