



**AIDS
Vancouver
Island**

**Annual Report
2001-2002**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) is to confront
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS),
prevent its spread through education,
support all those affected by the disease,
and advocate on their behalf.

Since 1986

Chair's Message

The year has seen many positive events for AIDS Vancouver Island, and with these events have come some new challenges. We have brought all the Victoria programs together under one roof, there have been some staff changes and we have analyzed and responded to the priorities of a new provincial government. We have accomplished many important things.

I have highlighted a few accomplishments:

- Three members of the Board are from Nanaimo.
- A strategic planning committee was established to plan short term actions.
- A training/orientation workshop for Directors was established.
- SOS programs moved to our Blanshard Street office.
- We appointed a representative to the United Way/Member Agency Liaison committee.
- Board representatives met with the new provincial Government to discuss AIDS/HIV. This was an opportunity to educate about the disease while discussing our funding base.
- Board members met with the federal MP for Victoria to discuss a grant for the back patio completion.
- Board representatives met with the provincial Minister of Human Resources about a new direction for AIDS Vancouver Island and an innovative business initiative.
- Two reps attended the Pacific AID's Network Conference in Vancouver.
- We continued to fundraise through grant applications, local applications and events such as the Annual AIDS Walk.
- To better reflect the areas we serve and as a result of new Board Members from Nanaimo,

the Board has increased the use of the teleconferencing and has had Board meetings in Nanaimo.

- The staff had a two day retreat with the emphasis on team building and dealing with grieving and loss.
- In December through to February 2002 the provincial government embarked upon the New Era financial restructuring. The staff at AVI are to be commended for the long extra hours put in to meet deadlines, requirements for grants, requests for reviews, inventories etc. as set out by the various ministries and often at short notice.
- A Korean delegation visited our offices in the early spring to study how a needle exchange and AIDS/HIV clinic function together as the Korean government begins to formally address the epidemics in their country.

I would like to thank the Board for its dedication and support, the hardworking and loyal volunteers and the tremendous staff who work at AVI. In addition, I want to thank the clients of AIDS Vancouver Island for their understanding, patience and support given the agency and the staff. We have become an unbeatable team.

Paulette McCarthy,
Chair

Board of Directors

Executive

Paulette McCarthy, Chair
Lorraine Calderwood-Parsons, Vice Chair
June Beattie, Treasurer
David Nixon, Secretary

Directors at Large

Bert Hick
Duane Badminton
Ed Steele
Michael Wasserman
Del Thompson

Executive Director's Message

It's been a year of change, fulfillment and challenge for AIDS Vancouver Island and for me as I complete my second year as Executive Director. A fundamental way of thinking within AVI is the commitment to continuous improvement. Sometimes that means doing things in different ways - thinking outside the box.

This year all of the services of AVI came together under one roof. We have had a year of adjustments as we learned to live together and work together. As we work together to battle HIV/AIDS we have taken on the fight against Hepatitis C as well. No one ever said it would be easy, but like a family we carry on.

Everything we do at AIDS Vancouver Island has the foundation belief that we do this work for the clients. We offer prevention, care, treatment and support and with that clarity of mind, we have developed new programs and continued existing ones. The number of clients has increased and yet we have managed to continue the programming within existing funds and resources.

Our programs continue and they expand - the Drop-in is open five days a week. We offer a Food Bank for clients every month. Bus passes are available. The Needle Exchange is open seven days a week. We regularly offer acupuncture and holistic medical services. We continue to serve hot, nutritious meals five days a week.

The Nanaimo Health Promotion team has broken all records in getting the message out - they sent an educator to 25 schools in one month! Our region continually expands and the Nanaimo staff and volunteers have provided services to Bowser, Parksville, Qualicum, Port Alberni and Ahouset.

Volunteer contribution has increased to 22,000 hours this year.

The Peer Education Program offered in local corrections facilities is well received.

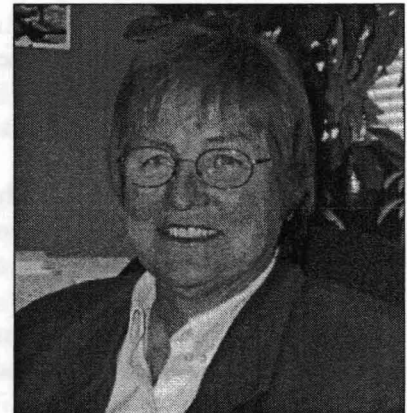
After doing the groundwork in 2001/02 we will begin a parent's program through the Street Outreach Services.

The struggle for financial stability is never far from my mind, and thinking 'outside the box' is key to the long term sustainability of our organization. AVI has laid the groundwork over the past years, now we have an opportunity build on that.

Our goal, though, is to minimize the number of future clients. In a perfect world there would not be a need for an organization like ours. For now, we will continue to offer care and support and to maximize the opportunities for people while providing supports so they can move forward in their lives.

It is the individual efforts that strengthen the whole effort of the agency. I am privileged to work with the dedicated staff and volunteers at AVI.

And I am pleased to work with the support and guidance of the AIDS Vancouver Island Board as we move through these challenging times.



*Miki Hansen,
Executive Director*

Direct Services

The Direct Services Department provides services to the HIV positive community through the Positive Wellness Program in both Victoria and Nanaimo, and to clients who use drugs by injection through our Street Outreach Services, Needle Exchange in Victoria and Duncan.

Positive Wellness Program Victoria

The Positive Wellness Program in Victoria provides 247 registered clients with: a drop-in center in which to meet new friends and socialize with peers; a client driven Hot Lunch Program and Food Store geared to the specific nutritional needs of HIV positive persons; Income Assistance advocacy and financial aid services; pre- and post-test counselling; solutions focused counselling and crisis intervention; prison outreach; alcohol and drug referrals; and, a Women's Wellness Program.

Positive Wellness Program Nanaimo

In Nanaimo, the Positive Wellness Program provides 95 registered clients living in communities from Duncan to Port Alberni with a daily drop-in program, a weekly support group, Income Assistance advocacy, physician referrals, hospital and home outreach, counselling, financial aid, and bus passes.

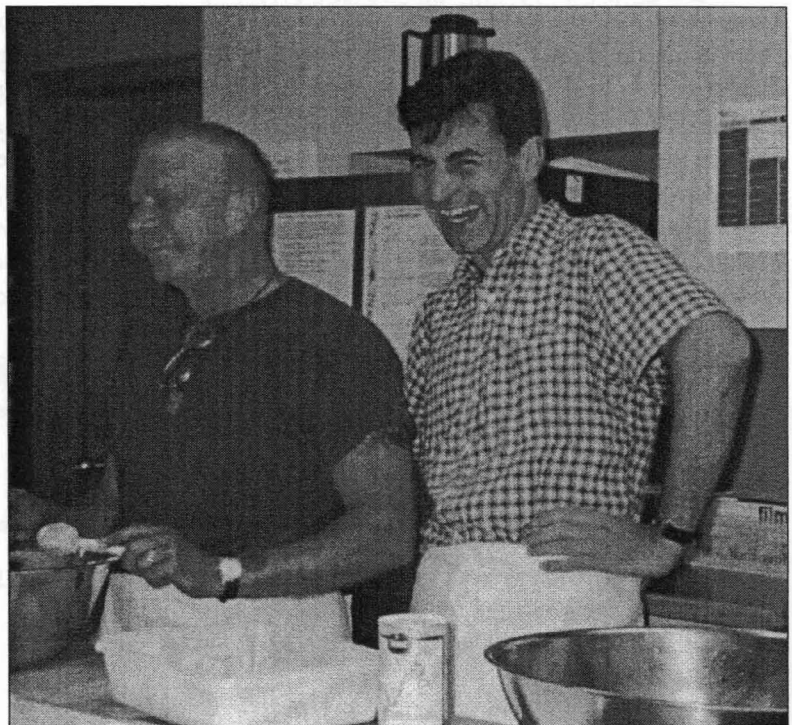
This year, new connections with the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council were forged that assist First Nations clients to obtain confidential access to provincial and federal programs, as well as HIV medical specialists and up to date medical interventions.

Women's Wellness Program

The Women's Wellness Program is a new and innovative prevention and health promotion program funded by GlaxoSmithKline.

This ten week program provides weekly sessions to HIV positive women on issues such as: nutrition, antiretroviral medications, recovery issues and harm reduction, meditation, art therapy, Chinese medicine, acupuncture and the effects of HIV on women's bodies.

We will apply for ongoing funding for this exciting and innovative program and hope to expand this service next year.



Hot cooks Ron and William

Direct Services

Each of these program areas contains specific and relevant programs that create meaningful opportunities for change. Activities assist clients to improve the quality of their life and are based on the philosophy of harm reduction through prevention and health promotion activities.

Street Outreach Services (SOS)

Street Outreach Services at our Victoria store front offices, and in Duncan through the Mobile Needle Exchange, provide harm reduction services to clients who use drugs by injection and who may be involved in the sex trade.

Through the provision of needle exchange, prevention and health promotion, information and referral, crisis intervention counselling, street outreach nursing, support groups and advocacy, Street Outreach Services aims to reduce the spread of blood borne diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. Harm reduction techniques such as safe needle use, safer sexual practices and vein maintenance are also provided.

In Victoria, Street Outreach Nurses are on-site to assist clients with medical concerns and to talk with them about possible ways of reducing harm to themselves and to others.



*Nanaimo and Victoria staffers,
Claire and MaryKay*

Taking It To the Streets

Over the past year, Hepatitis C has evolved as a major health concern for the clients who attend our Street Outreach Services programs. Many people in this client group are co-infected with both HIV and Hepatitis C. As a result, AIDS Vancouver Island has initiated a three year program funded through Health Canada called "Taking It To the Streets."

This innovative program provides outreach to people with Hepatitis C, who use drugs by injection and, who may be active in the sex trade. Through prevention and health promotion activities, peer training initiatives and a weekly support group, the project has initiated two programs: a peer training program within the prison system and another on the street. The result has been the creation of a comprehensive Peer Support Training manual that Hepatitis C peers are trained with and use to provide education and health promotion directly to their communities.

The changing face of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C has brought with it the increasing need to provide a continuum of care and support. The dedicated staff of Direct Services Department is committed to assisting the wide diversity of people, their families and friends who find themselves confronted with the challenging implications of these life changing illnesses.

Health Promotion and Community Development

Our team of staff and volunteers continued to expand health promotion and prevention work throughout 2001/02. Prevention education services reached from Greater Victoria schools and community groups to those in Sooke, Nanaimo, Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Alberni and other centres.

Health Promotion and Community Development (formerly known as Education Services) developed a very successful educational theatre program focused on issues of youth and HIV/AIDS. In concert with the Pearson College Drama Group, we reached many local junior and senior high school youth.

We collaborated with UVic to teach the semester-long course, "AIDS in the World," and provided many in-service trainings to various public service groups. The Info-Line service answers HIV/AIDS queries on a daily basis throughout the year.

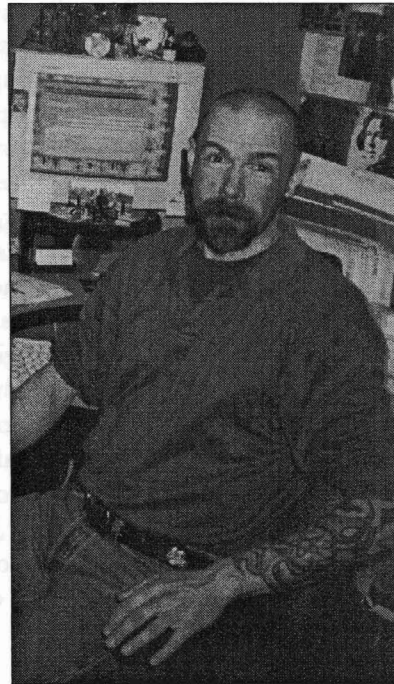
The Men's Wellness Program (MWP) expanded its programs beyond its funding requirements, by working closely with the Victoria Police to develop the Gay Community – Police Liaison and launched a support group for gays and lesbians with disabilities. MWP further developed its core services, including its newsletter (Men's Briefs) and the email list-serve to provide enhanced men's health information.

MWP ran a very successful gay men's discussion and support group (bi-weekly), provided individual counselling and support, produced four well-

attended community forums (including one in Nanaimo), provided condom packs and prevention information to the both Victoria and Nanaimo gay bars throughout the year and provided outreach to the public sex environment. In addition, MWP provided increased outreach and services to gay youth, providing support and education to local gay and lesbian youth, in conjunction with the YMCA and Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in three senior high schools.

In Nanaimo, our staff provided anti-homophobia training for several agencies and schools and built increased remote-community contacts to develop future presentations. In addition, we facilitated a three-day peer education workshop for intravenous drug users as part of the Hepatitis C program. We continue to be an active participant in the Diversity Outreach Team of Nanaimo.

Education outreach is so successful that the education worker is often booked solid for months in advance, attesting to the importance of this program in the middle and north island areas.



*Men's Wellness Program
staffer, Jim*

On average we reach more than 1,000 people through education sessions, classes, events and outreach each and every month all year round.

Volunteer Services

Volunteers at AIDS Vancouver Island contributed more than 22,000 hours of volunteer time in 2001/02. The services and programs provided by AVI could not be carried out without the strong commitment of the volunteers.

In October of 2001 Brigitte McKenzie joined the team. Since then, three core volunteer training series were held in the Victoria office. Forty people received training certificates and were placed in volunteer positions within AVI. This brings the number of volunteers to approximately 200 within the agency.



Keen volunteer David and staffers Brigitte and Garth

There are numerous volunteer opportunities at AVI.

The signature events that AVI participated in during 2001/02 such as Pride Parade, AIDS walk, AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day could not be done without the amazing volunteers!

Volunteers did reception related duties, assembled condom packs, assisted with data entry or other clerical tasks, supported Positive Wellness Centre programs, stocked supplies and did reconnaissance sweeps for dirty needles.

Volunteers served on a number of committees including the Board of Directors.

Volunteers helped assemble 200 hampers for clients during the December holiday season.

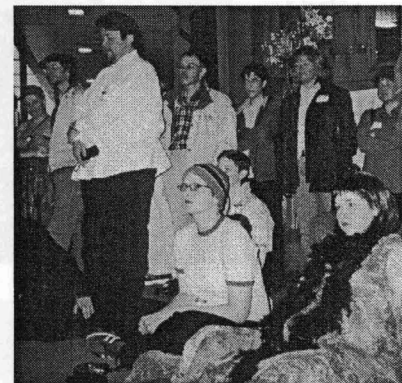
Key volunteers are being identified and trained to assume greater leadership roles within program areas.

A number of individuals were recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Event for their contributions and service as volunteers.



Volunteer Speaker of the Year Award winner, Minneh

Volunteer Appreciation Event was held at the Greater Victoria Art Gallery this year.



2001/02 was a great year for AIDS Vancouver Island and the volunteers we rely on!

Services Provided by...

Education:

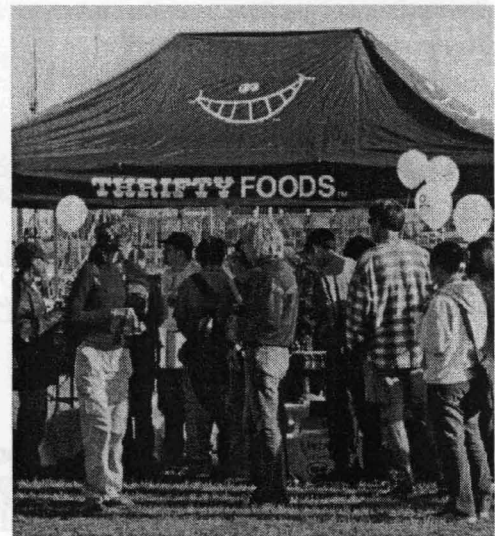
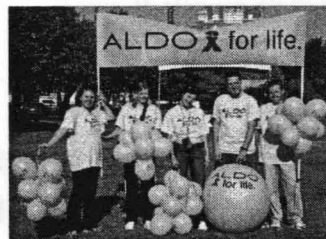
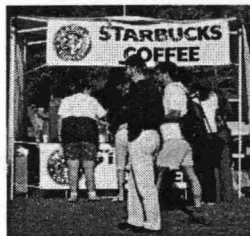
Health Promotion and Community Development

- Infoline (1-800-665-2437) provides information about HIV/AIDS, safer sex, HIV testing or transmission, STDs, harm reduction, etc. The confidential calls are administered by trained volunteers and staff.
- Speakers Bureau arranges HIV/AIDS and related presentations (by appointment) for schools, workplaces, and community or religious organizations. Speakers address a variety of topics and present to a wide range of audiences, including children as young as five.
- Information on HIV/AIDS and related issues is displayed at health fairs and other public forums.
- AVI's extensive collection of material regarding HIV/AIDS and related issues is available to the public through our Resource Centre. Please call for hours of operation.
- The Men's Wellness Program offers support, information and outreach to men who have sex with men (in order to reduce their risk of infection) as well as HIV positive gay or bisexual men.
- AIDS Vancouver Island's Nanaimo office provides education services to the Cowichan Valley, Greater Nanaimo area and more remote communities, including some Gulf Islands.
- Education Information, resources, presentations and displays can be requested through the Education Worker based in the Nanaimo office and the Health Promotion Worker in the Victoria office.

Direct Services:

Positive Wellness Program

- Short-term, solution-focused counselling is offered by appointment and on a drop-in basis.
- Advocacy assistance regarding income security, housing, legal, and family issues is provided.
- Referrals are made to community resources, professionals, agencies and institutions (e.g. drug and alcohol services, legal aid etc.)
- Drop-In offers refreshments (9am-1pm) and a nutritious lunch for people with HIV/AIDS (noon-1pm).
- The Positive Wellness Program offers programming for HIV positive clients, their families and friends.
- Some financial assistance is available through the Emergency Assistance and Complimentary Health funds as well as the provincial bus pass subsidy.
- The Advocate/Counsellor based out of the Nanaimo office offers counselling, support, advocacy and financial assistance to HIV positive clients, their friends and families in the Cowichan Valley, Greater Nanaimo area and surrounding regions.



Outreach takes many forms with the help of our community supporters.

...AIDS Vancouver Island

Direct Services:

Street Outreach Services (SOS)

- SOS offers needle exchange and health promotion/harm reduction information in addition to relevant programming (acupuncture, Christian drug and alcohol support group, art therapy, etc.) and a drop-in.
- Anonymous HIV, Hep C, Pregnancy and STD testing is provided on-site by the Capital Health Region Street Nurse Program. Vaccinations, referrals and other services are also available.
- The Hepatitis C Outreach Project offers peer support, information and referrals to individuals infected with Hep C or at risk of infection. The project also trains individuals in prisons and in the street community to be Hep C peer educators.
- Street Outreach Services also runs the Cowichan Valley Mobile Needle Exchange, which is based out of Duncan. For information or to access services, call (250) 701-3667, or Victoria SOS at (250) 384-2366.

Volunteers

- Extensive volunteer training provides information on HIV/AIDS and related psycho-social issues, determinants of health, harm reduction, confidentiality, communication, skills building and values clarification.
- Volunteer Services supports clients in the Nanaimo and Victoria areas who express an interest in "giving back" to the agency, providing them with valuable training and unpaid work experience.
- Volunteers are integral to AVI, providing support to the Speakers Bureau and Infoline; fundraising and special events; and Street Outreach Services. Volunteers also perform office and reception duties and serve on committees as well as the AVI Board of Directors.



Team building and dealing with grieving and loss were emphasized at the staff retreat.



Resource Development

In the 2001/2002 fiscal year, AIDS Vancouver Island continued to diversify its funding base and successfully enlisted additional support to advance program initiatives.

Through funding from GlaxoSmithKline, AVI was able to launch the (HIV+) Women's Wellness Program; the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre funded the Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS Inmate Peer Education Program; a grant from the City of Nanaimo was used to purchase educational materials for AVI's Nanaimo Health Promotion Team school program, and Health Canada provided funds for the Youth Action Research In HIV/AIDS & Sexuality Issues research project.

AVI also received funding for organizational development from the Partners in Organizational Development Program – an initiative supported by five BC organizations.

Separate grants from the BC Gaming Commission and the Victoria Steering Committee on Homelessness/Human Resources Development Canada, made it possible for AVI to make acquisitions and changes that would greatly benefit people and programs – these included the purchase of a large walk-in cooler, renovations to make the Victoria facility wheelchair accessible and a separate entrance to the Positive Wellness Centre Drop-In Lunch Program.

Our base funding comes from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, and we continue to work closely with them.

The 2001 AIDS Walk generated significant funds to be shared with our community partners - the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society, The Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and The Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

The Holiday Season Hamper Program was a success through the support of more than 15 Victoria organizations that donated gift certificates or items for the hampers.

Funders and Sponsors

BC Ministry of Health
Vancouver Island Health Authority
Health Canada
Human Resource Development Canada
United Way of Greater Victoria
BC Gaming Commission
Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre
Thrifty Foods
100.3 the Q and The Zone
Bank of Montreal
Bleeding Rose Multimedia
Canadian Springs Water Company
CFAX 1070
CH TV
Chateau Victoria
City of Nanaimo
Coast Capital Savings and Credit Union
Country Grocer
Enterprise Rent-a-Car
GlaxoSmithKline & BioChem Pharma
Grant Leier
Langham Court Theatre
Pedersen's Rentals and Sale
Silk Road Tea Co.
St John Ambulance Triangle RV Centre Ltd
The Belfry Theatre
The Lip-Schick's
Times Colonist
Victoria Display Services

In addition to our listed funders and sponsors, AIDS Vancouver Island graciously extends a sincere thank you to the many individuals and organizations that contributed to our success in 2000/2001.

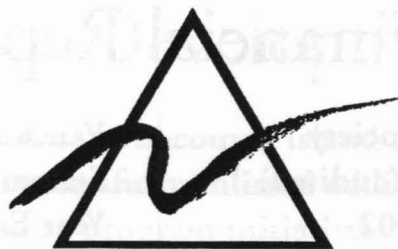
Financial Reports

Vancouver Island AIDS Society Statement of Operations (audited) Year Ended March 31, 2002

	Total 2002	Total 2001
Revenue		
Grants		
Provincial Government	980,172	864,702
Federal Government	166,709	133,837
United Way	42,403	40,004
Positive Women's Network	-	8,499
Donations	54,052	62,583
Fundraising		
Gaming	27,500	14,000
Dancers for Life	-	39,979
Merchandising	1,242	738
Honoraria	2,635	2,304
Interest and other income	13,799	14,026
Rent recovery	5,125	3,000
	<u>1,293,637</u>	<u>1,183,672</u>
Expenses		
Administration Fees	2,255	2,516
Agency disbursements	7,689	26,009
Contract Services	10,519	8,726
Equipment...	72,439	57,290
Financial Assistance	8,137	11,445
Licenses, Fees & Dues	2,852	3,959
Meetings, Honoraria...	44,267	37,646
Medical supplies...	10,273	9,638
Office and Stationery	41,874	39,134
Professional fees	8,820	9,212
Program Materials	69,690	59,310
Promotion...	2,496	5,681
Relocation Expense	11	11,350
Rent	78,191	116,456
Salaries and benefits	838,659	685,083
Telephone and Utilities	32,583	26,623
Volunteer Training & Recognition	6,390	3,120
	<u>1,237,145</u>	<u>1,113,198</u>
	56,492	70,474
Capital assets included in equipment, leaseholds & maintenance	62,458	47,889
Amortization	- 32,516 -	24,048
Gain (Loss) on disposal of assets	126 -	8,827
Deficiency/ Surplus	86,560	85,488

Vancouver Island AIDS Society Statement of Financial Position Year Ended March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 112,874	\$ 22,984
Term Deposits	\$ 194,351	\$ 90,000
Receivables	\$ 30,859	\$ 33,680
Prepays	\$ 13,478	\$ 10,538
	\$ 351,562	\$ 157,202
Capital Assets	\$ 104,841	\$ 74,899
	<u>\$ 456,403</u>	<u>\$ 232,101</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Due to Pacific AIDS Network	\$ 102,096	\$ 48,304
Deferred Revenue	\$ 92,228	\$ -
Payables and Accruals	\$ 22,716	\$ 33,724
Accrued Vacation and Overtime Pay	\$ 14,008	\$ 11,278
	\$ 231,048	\$ 93,306
Net Assets		
Invested In Capital Assets	\$ 104,841	\$ 74,899
Restricted fro Endowment Purposes	\$ 1,708	\$ 1,708
General Operating Fund	\$ 118,806	\$ 62,188
	\$ 225,355	\$ 138,795
	<u>\$ 456,403</u>	<u>\$ 232,101</u>



Contact Information

AVI Victoria

1601 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2J5
Telephone: (250) 384-2366
Fax: (250) 380-9411

AVI Nanaimo

201 - 55 Victoria Road
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5N9
Telephone: (250) 753-2437
Fax: (250) 753-4595

Cowichan Valley Needle Exchange

Telephone: (250) 701-3667

AIDS Info Line Toll Free: 1-800-665-2437

e-mail: info@avi.org

website: www.avi.org



AIDS Vancouver Island

Since 1986, AIDS Vancouver Island has worked to improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and prevent further infections. AVI is responding to the growing demand for HIV/AIDS services through it's offices in Victoria and Nanaimo as well as the mobile needle exchange in the Cowichan Valley.



AIDS Vancouver Island is a founding member of the Canadian AIDS Society and the Pacific AIDS Network. We are also a member agency of the United Way of Greater Victoria.

Charitable Registration #130642440RT0001



United Way
OF GREATER VICTORIA