

A History of HIV/AIDS – PEI & NS (2020)

[By: Chris Aucoin, November 2022]

(More Int'l detail : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_HIV/AIDS)

1967

In Dec federal Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau introduces criminal code amendments including “decriminalizing” homosexuality. “Sodomy” is an offence carrying a 14-year prison term. “Take this thing on homosexuality. ... there's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.”

1969

On June 28 police raid the *Stonewall Inn* in New York City. Such raids on gay bars are not new, but this time the local community responds with 3 nights of rioting. Not the first protest of its kind, ‘Stonewall’ galvanizes and inspires an already frustrated community. Within months “gay liberation” organizations begin forming throughout North America.

On Aug 26 Trudeau's criminal code amendments become law. With this major legal shift, and the Stonewall Riots a few months before, the first Canadian gay liberation organizations begin to form, and the anniversary of the Aug 26 date will be used for many of Canada’s first Pride festivals.

1972

Halifax's *Gay Alliance for Equality* (GAE) begins meeting in March 1972. GAE sets up the Gayline info phone-line and starts publishing a newsletter.

1973

In March 1973 GAE also presents its first human rights lobbying brief to the provincial legislature – the first “gay” group in Canada to do so.

In December 1973 the American Psychiatric Association (also the authoritative body for Canada) removes homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders.

1976-77

At the 1976 license-renewal hearings for the CBC Radio, GAE asks the CRTC to withhold license renewal until the CBC adopts a non-discriminatory policy after refusing to run GAE’s public service announcements earlier that year. In January of 1977 CBC announces it will refuse all ads from gay organizations nationally. On Feb 17, twenty-one people picketed the CBC radio building on Sackville St in Halifax: the first “gay” demonstration in Atlantic Canada.

With the new national policy the case became a national issue. GAE works with the National Gay Rights Coalition and 2 days after the Halifax protest pickets also happen in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver - the first nationally coordinated gay demo in Canadian history.

1979

Pink Triangle Day (Canadian LGBTQ holiday) is established by a resolution from GAE's delegation to the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition national meetings in Ottawa:

*"We recognize the importance of making known our history, so much of which has been lost or stolen, and particularly of commemorating the victories of lesbians and gay men. Given the historic importance of the acquittal of the officers of Pink Triangle Press as the first major legal victory for the Canadian gay movement, and given the fortuitous date of that victory, we propose a yearly celebration to mark the day...
... We therefore proclaim February 14 as an annual Canadian gay holiday to be known as Pink Triangle Day."*

1981

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) receive reports of unusually high rates of the rare diseases *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) and Kaposi's sarcoma in young gay men.

The disease is initially called *Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID)* because it is thought it only affects gay men, but cases are reported in injection drug users by the end of the year.

1982

The disease is renamed *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*. It is realized that the infection can be sexually transmitted, although cases are reported in haemophiliacs and blood transfusion recipients.

Canada reports its first case of AIDS in March.

1983

It is discovered that women can become infected with AIDS through heterosexual sex.

American & French scientists separately discover the virus associated with AIDS and it is later dubbed Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV.

1984

March 30, Gaëtan Dugas dies. He was a French Canadian flight attendant who was (inaccurately) linked by the CDC directly or indirectly to 40 of the first 248 reported cases of AIDS in the U.S.

Nova Scotia has its first AIDS death in September.

Shortly thereafter the Gay Health Association (GHA) is formed by Darrell Martin, Arthur Carter, John Hurlbert, Scott MacNeil and Dr. Bob Frederickson

1985

October 2, [Rock Hudson](#) dies of AIDS. On July 25, 1985, he was the first American celebrity to publicly admit having AIDS; he had been diagnosed with it on June 5, 1984.

GHA are forced to change the name after a local TV supper-hour program refused to broadcast their name (because of the word "gay") during an information segment dealing with AIDS. They change the name to "Metro Area Committee on AIDS" (MacAIDS).

1986

MacAIDS launches its *Get It Undercover* campaign.

Cape Sable Island grade 6 school teacher Eric Smith is tested for HIV (without his consent) and his HIV+ status is illegally shared by staff of his healthcare provider with local residents.

1987

In April Diana, Princess of Wales, is photographed touching a person living with AIDS, which results in a media frenzy... but also an international teaching moment about how HIV is NOT transmitted.

1988

In May 400 people attend a candle light vigil at St. Georges Anglican Church in Halifax, and 47 lost loved ones are named.

The Nova Scotia Persons With AIDS Coalition (NSPWAC) is formed with its focus on support and advocacy.

The Gay Alliance for Equality, along with other community groups, organizes Halifax's first Pride Week. The schedule includes workshops, films, women's dance, art show, variety show, safer sex 'fuck-aware party' (say it like "Tupperware"), and Halifax's first official "Pride March" on July 1st with the theme of "*Out of the Closet and Into the Human Rights Act*" and 75 people march.

In the fall Halifax's AIDS hospice "Morton House" (after Frank Morton) opens with four beds – and a waiting list.

After a year-long study, in September the NS Task Force on AIDS submitted its final report to the Minister of Health. The report contained 47 recommendations relating to AIDS education, care and financial support of HIV-infected persons and ensuring the rights of HIV-infected persons.

The [WHO](#) announces that December 1st 1988 will be the first World AIDS day.

1989

Ottawa announces compensation for people who contracted HIV from tainted blood products.

In June the US AIDS Memorial Quilt comes to Canada, and Halifax is the first stop with a showing of the quilt at Saint Mary's University. The newly formed Names Project Foundation of

Canada, which organizes the Canadian tour, invites people to create Canadian panels and begins what will become the Canadian AIDS quilt.

1990

In Winnipeg, the 3rd Annual Native American Gay and Lesbian Gathering met with the task of finding a term that could unite the LGBTQ Native community. Numerous terms in tribal languages identified third genders in their cultures that encompassed both masculine and feminine, however a consensus was reached to adopt the term 'two-spirit' to refer to Indigenous gender variant people.

Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS is formed

A needle exchange begins at NSPWAC

Valley AIDS Concern Group is formed

Pictou County Women's Centre sponsors a Women and AIDS Project

Stepping Stone launches HIV/AIDS outreach program

Lobbying group *Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia* (LGRNS) are a hit with the media and public when they stage *Human Rights Jeopardy* in the Grand Parade on May 31. The three 'contestants' for this piece of street theatre are Cory Closet, Laura Lesbian, and Gary Gay.

On August 31, 1990 the NS Human Rights Commission announces that they will start to hear cases regarding sexual orientation by reinterpreting the definition of sex.

A local chapter of ACT UP (*AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power*) forms in Halifax in November and holds its first action on December 1st, 1990, World AIDS Day. The group protests government inaction on AIDS issues by marching with a donkey through the streets of Halifax.

1991

The Red Ribbon becomes the international symbol of AIDS awareness, after Jeremy Irons debuts it as host of the 1991 Tony Awards.

MacAIDS takes on a provincial focus and becomes AIDS Nova Scotia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 10,000,000 people are HIV-positive

At a news conference in May, 1991, citing stress and medical advice, Eric Smith abandons his battle with the Provincial Department of Education to return to the classroom. Two days later provincial Attorney General introduces a hastily written patchwork quilt of human rights amendments that would add sexual orientation to the NS Human Rights Act.

After a successful 3-year campaign by LGRNS (and other supporting groups), the NS Government amends provincial Human Rights act to add Sexual Orientation.

Black Outreach Project begins consultation process, is formed and funded.

The Pictou county AIDS Coalition is formed.

After Tuma Yong and Elizabeth Paul attend an AIDS conference in BC, they return home to NS to form the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq AIDS Task Force to begin doing outreach and HIV 101 education.

Over the next couple years First Nations communities in the other Atlantic Provinces and Quebec join and the name will change to the Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force in 1993.

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton (ACCB) is formed

High-profile basketball star Magic Johnson announces that he has contracted HIV through heterosexual sex. As a straight black sports star, his announcement has a huge impact on black communities, and perhaps heterosexual communities. Sales of condoms temporarily skyrocket.

On Nov 30 NS residents Randy Connors and his wife Janet go public with their story of how Randy, a hemophiliac, became infected through receiving tainted blood, and as became infected as his partner as they were not made aware of any potential HIV risk from the blood products Randy relied on to treat his hemophilia.

1992

NS announces approval for compensation funding regarding tainted blood recipients - making it the first province in Canada to compensate.

1993

Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq AIDS Task Force becomes Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force.

1994

AIDS Nova Scotia (ANS) and NSPWAC move into the same office in September to begin the amalgamation process to become AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia in 1995.

Randy Connors, Dartmouth hemophiliac activist for a safe blood supply and compensation, dies.

1995

The [CDC](#) announces AIDS has become the leading cause of death for Americans aged 25–44.

The [WHO](#) estimates that approximately 18 million adults and 1.5 million children have been infected with HIV since the beginning of the pandemic.

Wilson Hodder launches his court challenge for same-sex spousal benefits after the loss of his partner, Terry Martin, to AIDS (Terry died in November of 1994).

Atlantic Transgender is formed by Jenn Nearing as a support group that last for the next 4-5 years. Jenn set up a web site as part of the group and the site quickly gains 250,000 hits.

1996

18,000 Canadians have AIDS.

International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver announces [Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy](#) (HAART – AKA the “AIDS Drug Cocktail”) as the standard treatment for HIV infection, and begins changed an HIV infection from a “death sentence” to a manageable illness.

In response to the growing need amongst those with HIV/AIDS, a group from Safe Harbour-Metropolitan Community Church set up “Manna For Health” food bank at ACNS.

1997

The US reports that the number of AIDS-related deaths has dropped substantially for the first time – a direct result of the new [Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy](#) (HAART).

[UNAIDS](#) estimates that the number of people living with HIV is 30 million, much higher than previously thought. It is estimated that 1 in 100 people worldwide are living with HIV, with only 1 in 10 of those knowing they are infected.

1998

[Post-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PEP) is pioneered in San Francisco.

ACNS chairperson, Wilson Hodder wins his court challenge to secure same-sex spousal benefits (May 26th).

WHO release its latest predictions that by the year 2000...10,000,000 people will have AIDS and 40,000,000 will be HIV positive

Dr. Bob Frederickson becomes the local resource in NS for transgender health info.

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) takes on Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) as an advocacy project, but has little first person Trans* input to inform how to best do so.

1999

The [WHO](#) announces that AIDS has become the fourth largest killer worldwide.

2000

Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force changes its name to Healing Our Nations.

Wilson Hodder, long-time activist in the AIDS movement in Canada, past Board Chair of ACNS, founding member of NSPWAC, dies peacefully in his home.

2001

The Truro-based Northern AIDS Connection Society forms to address issues in northern NS.

2002

HIV becomes the leading cause of death worldwide in people aged 15–59 years.

2003

The first officially sanctioned supervised injection site in North America opens in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

2004

The [WHO](#) supports the provision of sterile injection equipment to reduce HIV transmission.

2005

[Health Canada](#) approves a rapid HIV antibody test for sale to health professionals in Canada. Rapid point-of-care (POC) testing that can provide an accurate HIV antibody test result in 2 min.

2006

Dr. Julio Montaner with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS first promotes the idea that HAART might be a useful tool to prevent future HIV transmissions. He dubs this approach as Treatment as Prevention (TasP).

2008

The 'Swiss Statement' is the first to claim that being on effective HAART can eliminate the possibility of sexual transmission of HIV.

2010

About 85 people participate in Halifax's first "Dyke March". Organizers originally call it "Dyke and Trans March", but that decision is criticized as token since it is done without much trans input. Even so, the event is inclusive of significant trans participation, and becomes the "Dyke & Trans March" the following year.

2011

Science magazine names HIV Treatment as Prevention as its Breakthrough of the Year after the HPTN 052 study in couples where one partner is HIV-positive and the other negative showed that HIV treatment can significantly decrease the risk of transmission.

For the first time, WHO lists transgender people as a group at increased risk for HIV infection.

2012

ACNS's Gay Men's Health project has been developing a substantive HIV STI testing promotion campaign – but it isn't quite ready yet. So, for Halifax Pride 2012 they release a simple "We Recommend" campaign focused on the basic message of getting a once-a-year HIV/STI screen.

Despite growing scientific evidence that HIV treatment dramatically reduces the risk of transmission when the viral load is undetectable, the Supreme Court of Canada rules that an HIV-positive person has a legal duty to disclose their HIV status to a sexual partner before having any sex that poses a "realistic possibility" of HIV transmission.

After years of lobbying by NSRAP and other community groups, the government amends the Human Rights Act to include “gender Identity” and “gender expression”.

2013

For Pride 2013 ACNS’s locally created “Check Me Out” HIV/STI testing promotion campaign launches its 2 year run. Eight local and reasonably well known gay/bi men appear in posters and ads as the campaign ambassadors – which really resonates with the local community.

The Public Health Agency of Canada releases a new [HIV screening and testing guide](#) that includes recommendations to promote HIV testing during routine medical care.

Billed as an alternative festival for queer and trans* communities, Rad Pride emerges as an inherent and explicit critique of how mainstream, commercial and apolitical Halifax Pride has become. The young organizers seek to create a more inclusive series of events and spaces: events are all-ages, dry/substance-free, barrier-free, free of charge, and some offer childcare.

In the fall ACNS launches its adaptation of a gay men’s safer anal sex workshop from London called the ‘Ass Class’ - billed as how to have more enjoyable anal sex. The decision is made to also make it Trans-inclusive, as there is a small but growing body of research that suggest transgender folx are also a high-risk population for HIV. This is the first trans-inclusive HIV prevention program in Atlantic Canada and one of the very few in the country.

2014

A [preliminary analysis of the PARTNER study](#) reports the first direct evidence that HIV treatment can significantly reduce the risk of HIV transmission for gay men and other MSM who have condomless sex.

The UN issues new [HIV treatment targets](#): 90% of all people living with HIV diagnosed, 90% of those diagnosed on treatment, and 90% of those on treatment virally suppressed by 2020. Canada endorses in 2015 - but the Canadian government does nothing new to move towards them, even though the intended deadline is 2020.

After years of lobbying by NSRAP, On April 1, the Gov. of NS announced it would now cover eight sex types reassignment surgeries for Nova Scotians who intend to begin that process.

2015

Results from the [PROUD](#) study in England confirm that Truvada as [pre-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PrEP) is highly effective for gay men in a “real world” setting.

Despite being approved by Health Canada in 2005, as of 2015 rapid Point of Care testing (POCT) is still unavailable in NS. Dr. Jacquie Gahagan begins a community-based research project (Community Preparedness in the Context of HIV Point-of-Care-Testing) on POCT to assess what hurdles need to be overcome to bring it to NS / Atlantic Canada.

2016

In Feb. Health Canada [approves use of daily oral Truvada \(tenofovir plus FTC\) for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) to reduce the risk of sexual transmission of HIV.

Reflecting a growing body of evidence that transgender populations (especially trans women) are also a high risk population for HIV infection, the public Health Agency of Canada adds transgender people as a priority population for their HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund that supports community based HIV and Hep C prevention work in Canada.

The grassroots Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) movement is formally launched with the release of a *Consensus Statement* inviting community orgs, experts and government bodies to endorse the U=U message. U=U is informed by the growing body of research showing that HIV+ people who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load through effective use of anti-retroviral medications; those people CANNOT pass on the virus to their partners.

A group of concerned advocates forms NS PrEP Working Group; an advocacy group to explore informational and governmental barriers to making PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) widely available to those communities most at risk.

2017

With the patent on Truvada (tenofovir + FTC) expiring in Canada, [four generic equivalents get approval from Health Canada](#). By year's end only Quebec, Ontario and BC have included Truvada and its generics on provincial formularies as PrEP, so access throughout much of the country is still very limited and expensive.

Passed in June 2017, Bill C-16 added the words "gender identity or expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act, to a section of the Criminal Code that targets hate speech, and to a section of the Criminal Code dealing with sentencing for hate crimes.

ACNS loses 40% of its federal CAF (HIV prevention) funding from PHAC after a very mis-managed application process sabotages a national 12-member "gay men's health program" group application that PHAC specifically requested - and that ACNS was party to. As a result of the loss of funding – which is locked in for 5 years – ACNS downsizes staff and office space to stay minimally operational. As well, the Truro-based Northern Health Connections Society and the Sydney-based Ally Centre of Cape Breton lose CAF funding entirely. Both these organizations move forward with a more concentrated focus on harm reduction for those who use substances.

ACNS adds its name to the growing list of those who have endorsed the U=U Consensus Statement. On Nov. 30th (before Dec. 1st - World AIDS Day) the [Gov. of Canada becomes the first federal government to publicly endorse U=U](#).

2018

In late January the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia organizes a public info session on PrEP held at the Halifax Central Public Library, and [live-streamed on YouTube](#). Sixty people attend to hear the panel present and answer audience questions about PrEP.

In June the NS gov. announces that new HIV diagnosis have spiked in the Halifax area. The increase is driven by IV drug use and by year end the regular provincial total of about 15 cases is almost double.

2019

Final published results from the PARTNER study of gay/MSM verifies that (ART) and an undetectable viral load eliminates the HIV transmission risk via sexual contact. This is the fourth major international study to verify TasP / U=U .

In June ACNS participates in the 2nd annual National HIV Testing Day and, working with local partners, organizes a series of public mini-testing clinics using rapid POCT tests – which are STILL not available any other way in NS. Local MP Andy Fillmore demonstrates for the media.

ACNS also launches its **Five Facts about HIV** campaign which included details on

- role of the undiagnosed being source for many – perhaps most – new HIV infections
- U=U
- the roll of other STI infections on increasing HIV transmission risk
- condoms, PrEP and U=U are 3 solidly researched + highly effective HIV prevention tools
- that early diagnosis and treatment means not ever having to get AIDS

In July Health Canada grants the HaliFIX Overdose Prevention Society a one-year exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the consumption of otherwise illegal drugs at the site. They open for business a few months later

In September CATIE launches *Can't Pass It On* - a national campaign with videos and posters of mixed HIV status couples talking playfully about U=U.

In November ACNS organizes a panel to begin to explain U=U to the general public! The panel is intended to be the beginning of a longer public education program to be launched early in 2020, however the COVID shutdown postponed that launch.

2020

In January CTAC (Canadian Treatment Advocates Council) ceases operation. Formed in 1996 to inform public policy in response to the complexity of issues arising from the introduction of combination anti-HIV therapies, it's the latest casualty in the growing list of HIV/AIDS organizations that have closed their doors due to reduced federal funding.

The emergence of COVID -19 early in the year has had a significant triggering effect on HIV “long-time survivors” - people who have been living with HIV for more than 25 years ... many of whom are permanently disabled by the HIV (irreversible damage done to their health before the HAART treatment cocktail changed the disease progression) and who watched their peers die during the worst of the AIDS crisis. The uncertainty, and threat of death, that COVID-19 imposed relating to health and human contact, for some that feels all too familiar....

With COVID changing the landscape ACNS temporarily closes its physical office in mid-March, but staff continue to work from home and begin the complex task of adapting work styles,

getting work cell phones to stay connected, adapting programs where possible, putting other programs on hold, and getting used to Zoom meetings like so many others...

One immediate priority for ACNS was to make use of the (COVID response) GOC Emergency Community Support Fund to provide inexpensive pre-paid cell phones to HIV+ clients who normally used ACNS office (or a local library, etc.) to make phone calls to case workers, the HIV clinic, pharmacy, etc.

In November, Health Canada approves a one-minute HIV Self-Test. The INSTI® HIV Self Test uses the same rapid technology that Health Canada approved 15 years ago, and commonly known as Point of Care Testing (POCT) or just the 'rapid test' as it requires only one appointment to both take the sample and get results back in a minute!

On Dec 1 2020 ACNS held its first virtual World AIDS Day Vigil.

2021

UN Endorses U=U and encourages leverage of U=U as stigma intervention tool internationally.

In December ACNS reworks its 'Five Facts' campaign into "HIV is Different Now" with the U=U message at its core and has an advertising budget of \$3000. That budget enables paid ads to be placed in the Chronicle Herald / Saltwire Media on World AIDS Day and in other media.

In December ACNS also launches its Red Scarf Project – a visibility campaign taking the form of hand-made red scarves tied to the wrought-iron fence around the Public Gardens on World AIDS Day. HIV is Different messages are tied to each of the 150+ scarves which also have a message to "take me if you are cold". 80% of the scarves are gone by day's end.

2022

April 1st marks the beginning of the next federal 5-year CAF funding cycle, and ACNS was successful in regaining the funding levels that were lost in 2017. ACNS also partners with CBRC to pilot a 2SLBTQIA+ Harm Reduction program - called PEER N PEER - for one year. With those two programs and the usual annual provincial grant supporting HIV+ client support work, ACNS staff grows from 3 fulltime staff plus a series of student interns a year earlier to 6 fulltime staff plus 4 intern or part-time staff.

Late spring brings news of a MonkeyPox (Mpox) outbreak amongst "men who have sex with men" in Europe and North America. This is not a new disease, but largely unknown outside of Africa until now.

In Canada initial cases are mainly in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver ... but with summer vacation/Pride season approaching spread is expected to other parts of the country... and pressure to have a vaccine program launched using existing Smallpox vaccine stockpiled by the federal government begins to mount.

In anticipation of the first in-person Pride festivals in 3 years, ACNS gets funding from Halifax Pride and ViiV Healthcare to purchase a limited number of HIV Self tests to give away during

Halifax Pride and Cape Breton Pride (Sydney). The initiative is to increase awareness that the tests exist, and address the dearth of testing over the previous 3 years due to COVID.

In July ACNS Board Member, and former Board Chair, Michael Sangster passed away unexpectedly. In addition to serving for many years on the ACNS board, Mike was a presence on national boards including CTAC and the Canadian AIDS Society, as well as numerous 2SLGBTQ+ and gay men's leather-fraternity groups over 4 decades. He was known as a fearless leader on both the 2SLGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS communities.

In July ACNS develops the first Mpox information resources in NS and partners with other community activist and sexual health organizations to lobby and work with provincial health staff to bring in an Mpox prevention vaccination program. Initially NS announces it will only vaccinate contact-traced individuals known Mpox cases, however as the vaccine supply from Ottawa starts to increase, they agree to community pressure to move forward with a preventative vaccination program. That program launches at the Halifax Sexual Health centre in September, followed by a Sydney clinic in early November, with more promised in other parts of the province.

In August a safe-consumption site is opens in Sydney. *Peer Six* joins Halifax's *ReFix* site as the second site of its kind in Nova Scotia. Operated by the Ally Centre of Cape Breton, the overdose prevention site also has Naloxone kits and drug testing equipment.

In August former ACNS Board Member and long-time HIV/AIDS activist Janet Connors passed away after a short illness. Janet and her husband Randy became activists and advocates in the early 1990s in response to their HIV diagnoses. Initially with Randy by her side, but also for many years after his death, Janet worked provincially and nationally to affect change around numerous HIV/AIDS issues, and also became a significant queer community ally. While she sat on regional and national boards, her biggest contribution was in public speaking – to community groups, to conferences, to politicians, to the media, and to the Krever Inquiry on HIV tainted blood. As a speaker she was known to be powerful and articulate, as well as passionate and inspiring.

In tacit acknowledgement that HIV testing capacity has been well below what's needed during COVID-19, in late summer the Public Health Agency of Canada offer's free HIV Self-tests and staff funding to create HIV Self-Test distribution programs across the country under the title of "Community Link". This program will launch in late November and will run until March, 2023. In early November ACNS receives confirmation of funding as the key Nova Scotia Community Link partner.

In October Nova Scotia announces an increase in HIV cases well beyond the norm – not unexpected with the significant reduction in HIV/STI testing services brought on by COVID impacts over the past 3 years.