



## Message from the Chair of the Board

This year has been a monumental one for the Dr. Peter Centre as we began our next chapter with the addition of Scott Elliott as the Executive Director. Watching him build on the strong foundation left by Maxine Davis and develop a new vision for the Centre has been both inspiring and exciting.

It has been my honour this year to begin serving as Chair of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation Board of Directors. This is a life-changing experience for me and I am grateful for the support and guidance I have received from many who are long-time members of the Dr. Peter family.

This past year was a difficult one for many in BC and it has been inspiring to see firsthand the excellent work of our staff and the resiliency of our clients. Throughout the peak of the overdose crisis, the community around the Dr. Peter Centre has pulled together to take care of each other. We will remain committed to supporting and nurturing this community, and to our ongoing efforts to bring intravenous opioid therapy to the Centre to provide participants this life-saving medical service.

I am also proud of the of the work that has been done by the Foundation this year as our knowledge transfer department provides support to over sixty community-based organizations, policy makers, and health care professionals across Canada as they work to create supervised consumption sites in their communities using the Dr. Peter Centre model of care.

Much of this work would not be possible without our generous and caring donors. This past year we saw much-needed funding and support come from new areas and new partnerships. We are incredibly thankful for these and for the long-time supporters that remain committed to helping the most vulnerable.

At this year's AGM, we will be saying farewell to three of our valued Board Members. I would like to thank Irene Goldstone, Peter Green, and Gary Serra for their service to the organization.

The Dr. Peter Centre truly is a special place and I'm proud to be part of this organization.





## **Message from the Executive Director**

It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as the Executive Director of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation for the past year. The culture at the Dr. Peter Centre is vibrant—and I am proud to work alongside such a committed and confident group of professionals. It has been a year of change and the team is flourishing and expanding their personal leadership for the benefit of our clients.

It has also been a difficult year at the Centre with 25 client deaths, which is over 8% of our day health population — more than occurred at the Centre during the height of the AIDS epidemic. As the opioid crisis continues to take a toll, we are staying focused on the future which includes new partnerships and new innovative therapies.

This year, I presented on the Dr. Peter Centre Evening Program at the Canadian Pavilion during the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam—the largest global health conference in the world. At the conference, not only was I reminded that Vancouver remains a global leader in HIV/AIDS research, but also that the Dr. Peter Centre is on the forefront of innovative care. After more than twenty years, our model—one that addresses physical, mental, and social needs—remains unique with organizations from around the world striving to emulate our holistic, client-centred model of care.

While in Amsterdam, it was also abundantly clear that AIDS is not a thing of the past. And we know first-hand that the opioid crisis is not going away. The Dr. Peter Centre is positioned at the intersection of HIV, mental illness, and addiction and we will continue to be a uniting force that brings together community organizations, businesses, leaders, governments, and people with lived experience to provide the best services for the people who need them.

Most importantly, we know the work we do is only possible because of our strong supporters. And for this I give my most sincere thanks!

Scott Elliott

P.S. A big shout-out to Shirley, Dr. Peter's mom, who continues to be a compassionate moral compass for the organization.





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## **Donor Spotlight**

ViiV Healthcare is a global specialist HIV company dedicated to delivering advances in treatment and care for people living with HIV and for people who are at risk of becoming infected with HIV. The company's aim is to take a deeper and broader interest in HIV/AIDS than any company has done before and take a new approach to deliver effective and innovative medicines for HIV treatment and prevention, as well as support communities affected by HIV.



ViiV's commitment to ending HIV in Canada includes a wide variety of community and medical grants which ensure we leave no patient behind. These include funds dedicated to grassroots-based educational initiatives, Indigenous-led support projects, and an innovation fund that encourages HIV services organizations across Canada to deliver evidenced-based, cutting-edge programming that puts the needs of people living with HIV first. ViiV currently supports or sponsors fourteen initiatives in British Columbia alone.

"Ending HIV in British Columbia will require significant collaboration," says Matthew Halse, Manager of Community Relations at ViiV. "That's why I'm so proud of our partnerships with the Dr. Peter Centre, whose innovative approach to harm reduction, support, and community building is unparalleled. The Dr. Peter Centre puts compassion at the core of their care model. Combined with the expertise of their staff, it ensures that partnerships on projects like our funded outreach program for gay men aging with HIV succeed in helping people attain their treatment and wellbeing goals."

### **ViiV - Dr. Peter Centre collaborations**

#### **Evening Program for gay men**

In 2018, the Dr. Peter Centre received a grant from ViiV Healthcare through their Partnerships to Improve HIV Outcomes and Treatments (PIHVOT) granting stream. This \$100,000 grant allows the Centre to offer the Evening Program for aging gay men for two years.

For more information on the Evening Program, see pages 7-8.

ViiV Canada GM Sara Leclerc, Dr. Peter Centre ED Scott Elliott, and counsellor Randy Miller announcing the Evening Program grant.

#### Pride Cocktail Kickoff

Pride Cocktail Kickoff is a signature Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation event that kicks off the Pride festivities on a rooftop in downtown Vancouver. This year's Kickoff was co-sponsored by ViiV and TD Bank and the event raised over \$70,000 for the Dr. Peter Centre.

For more information on Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation events, see page 12.



Pride Cocktail Kickoff Commitee Gary Serra, Kevin Mazzone, and Ryan McKinley with Shirley Young.

## **Sharing the Dr. Peter Centre model**

In April of 2017, the Dr. Peter Centre received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to build capacity for community-based organizations across Canada that intend to establish supervised consumption services in their communities. This five year contribution agreement allows the Dr. Peter Centre to share our sixteen years of experience providing supervised injection services in an integrated, therapeutic environment.

In 2002, the Dr. Peter Centre became the first health care facility in North America to integrate supervised injection services into our model of care. Even today, the Centre remains unique in our service delivery that embeds the supervised injection services in a community setting with wrap-around, therapeutic programs.

The Dr. Peter Centre Knowledge Translation and Evaluation department will provide comprehensive, customized capacity and skills-building training to twelve organizations that are or will be providing supervised consumption services. In addition, the department is facilitating knowledge dissemination and exchange for more than fifty community-based organizations, policymakers, health care professionals, and knowledge networks across the country.

#### This includes:

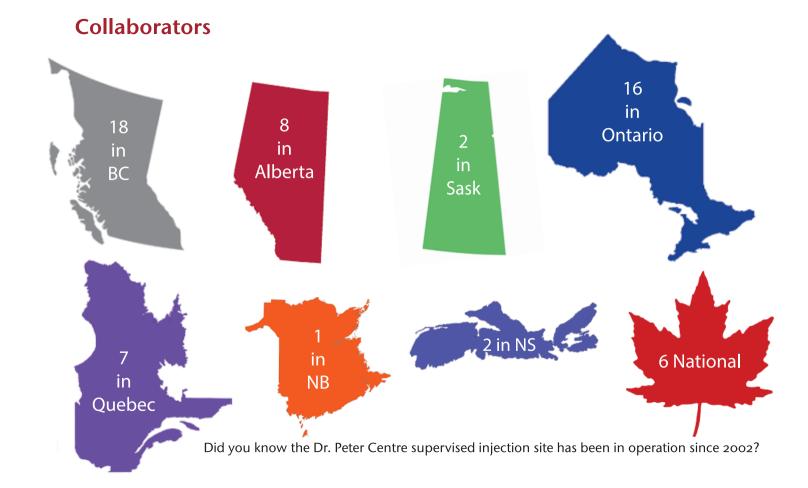
- o Developing and utilizing a rapid response toolbox to increase knowledge of supervised consumption services
- o Convening current and prospective SCS service providers across Canada in monthly bilingual teleconference calls to share best practices and lessons learned
- o Providing tours of the Dr. Peter Centre to equip policymakers and health professionals with experiential knowledge of our integrated supervised consumption service delivery model
- o Sharing logistical support and community engagement support
- o Creating an ongoing learning collaborative through video conferencing in order to foster ongoing collaboration between the organizations

This PHAC funding significantly enables the Dr. Peter Centre to deepen our intervention in the opioid overdose crisis that is striking communities across Canada.



We've learned so many lessons during the sixteen years we've been providing supervised consumption services and we hear that sharing knowledge and wise practices is very valued by organizations that are working to establish these services in their communities.





## **The Evening Program**

Twenty-five years ago, when Dr. Peter Jepson-Young made the Dr. Peter Diaries documenting his experience living with AIDS, the idea of people with HIV aging into their senior years would have been unthinkable. Now, due to improved treatment regimes, we are beginning to learn about the impacts of aging with HIV.

This is an emerging issue as over half of people in BC living with HIV are over the age of fifty. Studies are beginning to show that seniors with HIV exhibit fragility at an earlier age and also experience food insecurity. Not knowing where the next meal is coming from contributes to increased mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, which are especially common in seniors with HIV. Seniors with HIV also experience stigma differently than their younger peers. At the Dr. Peter Centre, we hear about gay men going back in the closet as they age because of new stigma from their peers and from caregivers.

A grant from ViiV Healthcare enables the Dr. Peter Centre to operate the Evening Program which engages HIV positive gay men over fifty years old. Every Wednesday evening, the group gathers at the Dr. Peter Centre for a mindfulness exercise. They then choose to go to the onsite fitness centre, the art therapy room, or the music therapy room. Several of the men are currently learning to play the recorder together.

The group then reconvenes for an evening meal around a shared table. Eating together invokes the spirit of a dinner party, the type of event that has become less common as so many of these men's friends passed away before current medication regimes were available. Before his death in 1992, Dr. Peter Jepson-Young created the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation to provide comfort care for people living with HIV and AIDS. The Dr. Peter Centre was built in Vancouver's West End in 2003. Over 370 participants are currently enrolled in the day program which provides two daily meals, access to nurses and counsellors, as well as art. recreation, and music therapy.

Building relationships is crucial for engaging people in their healthcare. Many of our participants have other issues that may be more pressing in their day-to-day lives such as unstable housing, poverty, or trauma. The Dr. Peter Centre provides a space that is free from judgement and serves as a reminder to take the medication that prevents them from

becoming ill.

Had Dr. Peter had access to the antiretroviral therapies that are available today, he would be turning 61 next month. He could have learned to play the recorder with a group of his contemporaries and shared a meal with a group of men, spending his Wednesday evenings in banter and with good company around the dinner table.

This op-ed by Scott Elliott was published in the Vancouver Province on May 31, 2018

#### In their words

We have to face [death] again. I have already lost so many people, and now again it begins.

There's still so much stigma. I'm coming up against so much, at work, with people I take home...the young guys assume, 'you're old so you must have AIDS'.

I didn't get out of bed all day, I laid there all day thinking and wishing there was something to do tonight.

And here I am! I love it here!

I really enjoy playing the recorder with a group. It gives me outlet for anxiety. I practice to be fully focused and present, which requires all my thoughts and attention.

Coming out to this evening gives me a sense of purpose to continue going out and participating. I wouldn't leave my apartment otherwise, it's easy to stay in and allow myself to disengage.

Through this program I have found my voice.

# **Gary's Story**

Gary is grateful he's had the opportunity to lead what he describes as a "full range of life", but says he does regret not having kids. Before being diagnosed with HIV on October 23, 2006, he had worked as an online sales manager and a banker and had the opportunity to travel the world. He loved the Mayan Riviera for the food, people, pyramids, and beaches.

Since that time, he's had to transition to living in an SRO, deal with the new language of HIV, and "learn how to be sick".

It's the little things he appreciates about the Dr. Peter Centre: people here don't judge and he has access to a clean shower. Where he lives, there's only one working shower for five floors. Gary's been coming to the Dr. Peter Centre since 2013 after being referred by the STOP HIV team.

#### "You never get over the diagnosis. It changes you."

When Gary was diagnosed, the doctor started crying—he had never given an HIV diagnosis to anyone before. Gary was immediately sick with pneumonia and says he's had a major bout of illness every year since. More than the seemingly constant visits to the hospital, it was the small changes that Gary didn't expect. He began stuttering which made it hard to be social. He became distant with friends and had difficulty connecting with people. His twin brother ostracized him. His neighbours found out about his HIV status and regularly threaten him. He now lives with PTSD and anxiety.

He appreciates that the Dr. Peter Centre staff tell people what to expect with their illness. And he's learned about spirituality from the other participants. They support each other through sickness, poverty, and in the journey towards death.

Gary likes the variety of people at the Centre. He says that nobody here wanted the disease, but they got it.

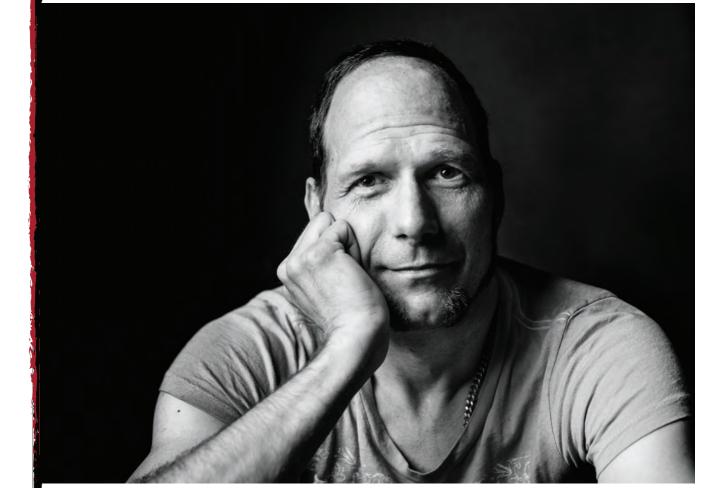
#### "The virus is not picky."

He eats meals and takes showers at the Centre. He also participates in the meditation and men's groups. Gary looks forward to outings with recreation therapy. It's an opportunity to visit places he wouldn't normally go, like the Museum of Anthropology, with a group of people he knows. He says the outings give participants positivity, enlightenment, growth, and hope—they get to live life and not just deal with the depressing parts of living with a chronic illness.

Gary hates HIV being referred to as a manageable illness:

#### "If I didn't have the Dr. Peter Centre, I couldn't manage."

For Gary, the virus has a voice of its own and it shows up in his dreams and visions. He's constantly checking in with himself to see how HIV has changed him. He wouldn't allow any photos to be taken of him after his diagnosis. He writes poetry as a way to process his thoughts. And he stays connected with the Dr. Peter Centre.

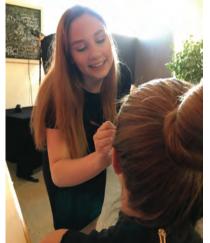














### **Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation Events**











Pride Parade

#### Pride Cocktail Kickoff

The 2018 Pride Cocktail Kickoff took place at an exciting new venue - the rooftop at 745 Thurlow. The Kickoff is the passion project of Kevin Mazzone, Ryan McKinley, and Gary Serra. This year, the event raised over \$70,000 for the Dr. Peter Centre.



#### **Passions**

Vancouver's best small gala, Passions 2018 will be held at Performance Works on Granville Island on September 26. Spearheaded by Nathan Fong, this event began as a cooking class and has blossomed into an foodie's dream with over twenty of the city's best restaurant, chefs, and mixologists.

Now in its 15th year, Passions has raised \$1.4 million for compassionate HIV care at the Dr. Peter Centre. Tickets available at drpeter.org/passions



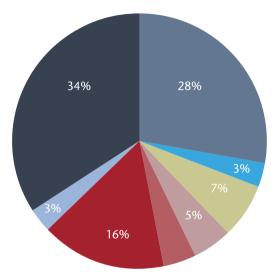
#### Life Commitment

An elegant dinner held at the home of Lorne and Melita Segal, Life Commitment has raised a total of \$3 million for the Dr. Peter Centre. Created by past Board Chair John deC Evans and the late Robert Ledingham, Life Commitment is in its ninth year. Tickets available at drpeter.org/lifecommitment



### 2017 - 2018 Revenue Sources

Total Revenue: \$6,767,737



VCH: Residential Care 34% VCH: Day Program 28% **Public Donations 16%** Deferred Revenue 7% Earned Revenue 5%

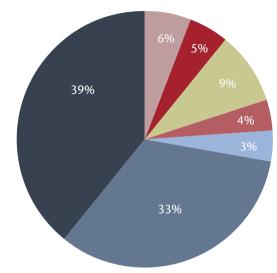
**Knowledge Translation Grant 4%** BC Housing 3%

Government of Canada:

VCH: Enhanced Supportive Housing 3%

## 2017 - 2018 Expenses

Total Expenses: \$6,782,172



Residential Care Program 39% Day Health Program 33%

Fundraising 5% **Enhanced Supportive Housing 4%** 

Property Costs and Depreciation 9% Knowledge Translation Program 4% Other 6%

> As of March 31 2018 Prepared by management

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1110 Comox Street Vancouver BC V63 1K5 T: 604.608.1874

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www.drpeter.org

The Dr. Peter Centre is located on the unceded traditional territory of the x maek at (Musqueam), sel'il' witulh (Tsleil Waututh) and skwxwu7mesh (Squamish) Coast Salish peoples.