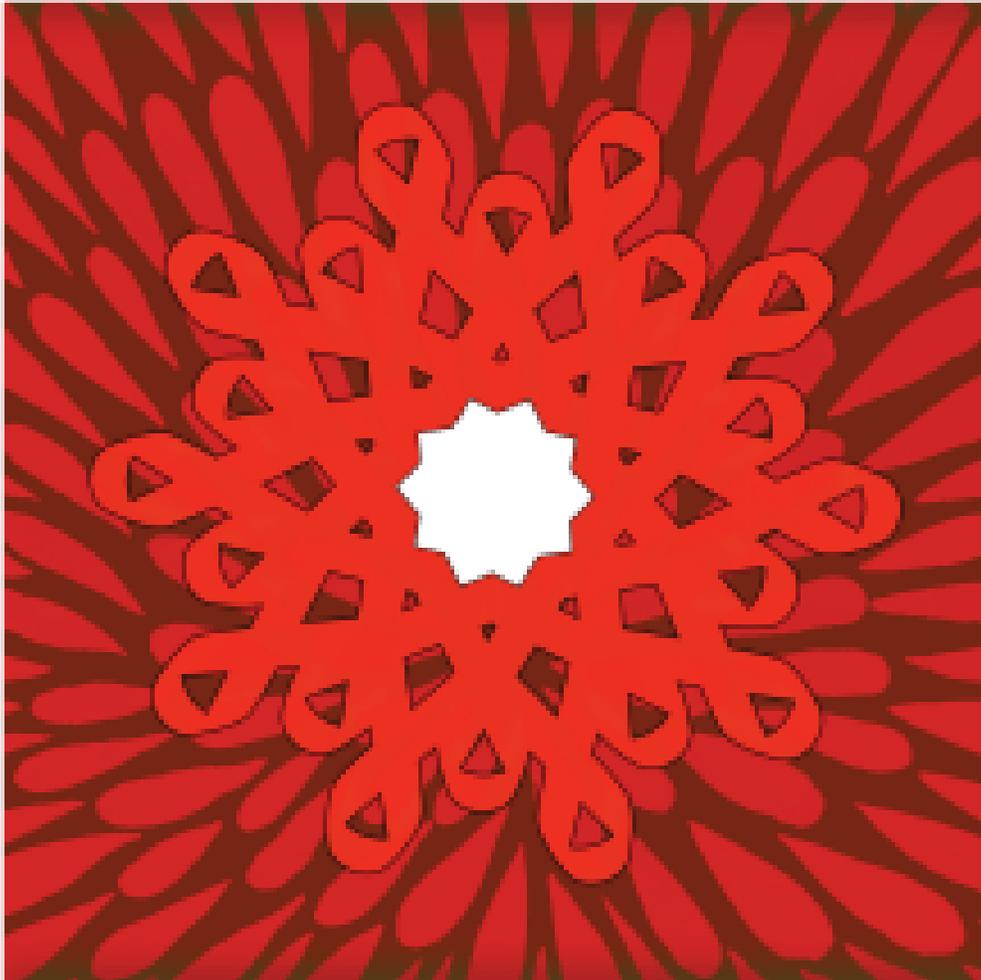

POSITIVE 18
GATHERING



EVENT PROGRAM



*Message from the
Chair*

TOM MCAULAY

Welcome to Positive Gathering 2018...

This is the last time you will attend the Gathering in this format. We've had a good, long run. But funding from our government sources for this event has now dried up. I am personally committed to revising the Gathering to perhaps align with other conferences or events in the future. Those of us who have attended Positive Gathering in the past know that this is an incredibly valuable experience for all of us living with HIV. Those of you who have never attended before are sure to find out what I mean.

This Gathering has been designed to give us more opportunities to share with each other as a large group—a Gathering “community”, if you will. I encourage all of you to get to know each other and connect in friendly, respectful and meaningful ways. That's what our Saturday and Sunday plenary sessions are meant to accomplish.

The Planning Committee wishes to acknowledge that we are holding the Gathering on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Tseil Waututh nations.

Enjoy your weekend!

Friday Night Opening Session

This is the last Positive Gathering. So your Planning Committee has designed this session as a way for us to reflect on the past with some pioneers of the HIV/AIDS movement in our province. We'll also be using this session to get to know each other better through some fun games and group activities hosted by John Cameron from the DTES Consumers Board.

Appetizers will be served starting at 7pm, and a cash bar will open at that time.

Saturday Night Presentation **The Positives of Being Positive** **-AL HUNGERSCHAFER-**

Al Hungerschafer is very proud of his roles as a volunteer and HIV Educator and Health Mentor for over eight years. Having lived with HIV since 1990, Al is often in amazed and inspired as to how many of us have found a way to make our lives (and the lives of others) a little bit better despite the many challenges we've faced. He sees this as one of *The Positives of Being Positive*.

This presentation is part of our gala dinner on Saturday, from 6-8pm in the Ballroom.



Saturday Morning Plenary Sessions

Ballroom A (Third Floor)

**All attendees are asked to attend these sessions
Lunch will be served afterward at 12.15-1pm**

9-10.30am

A Mile in Our Moccasins

A Mile in Our Moccasins is a short film that was co-created by five Indigenous youth who are living with HIV. The vision behind the film is to combat HIV stigma, address HIV myths and misconceptions, while awakening compassion, education, and understanding in those who view it. We will begin by screening the film and then our presenters will lead a group discussion.

Presenters:

Lulu Gurney
Nisga's Nation Wolf Tribe
Peer Research Associate,
Qualitative Interviewer,
Outreach Worker

Preston Leon
Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Youth Chief

William Flett
YouthCO

Martin Morberg
Tlingit and Northern Tutchone
Indigenous HIV Activist

10.45am-12pm

Advocacy and Activism

It's important for us to remember that even though we won't all be able to connect through Positive Gathering anymore, we will always be connected by advocacy and activism issues affecting HIV community. The Gathering partner organizations will lead this session by each identifying their top priority advocacy issue. We will then invite all Gathering participants to participate in a group discussion, and finish up by making a plan to move forward as a strong community.

Presenters:

Tom McAulay (emcee)
Positive Gathering Community Partners

Saturday Afternoon Workshops **1.15-2.45pm**

Title: Sex Now!

Location: Ballroom B

The Sex Now Survey is a periodic survey conducted by the Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health (CBRC). Since 2002 the CBRC has used findings from this survey to investigate every day issues facing gay, bi and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) including disproportionately higher rates of HIV and other health inequities. Join us for a glimpse of our findings, and the opportunity to set the agenda for the 2018 round of the Sex Now Survey!

Presenters:

Rob Higgins William Flett
CBRC YouthCO

Title: Intro to the BC Radical Faeries Location: Vancouver Room

The Radical Faeries have been around since the late 70's and offer support and fellowship to Gay, Bi, Cis, & Transgender with a focus on positive body image. Though the Radical Faeries are not strictly for HIV positive people, they do welcome with open arms those that are. This presentation includes handouts, approximately 30-45 minutes of open conversation followed by an introduction of a Heart Circle.

Presenter:

A self-described survivor & searcher, Randall Lloyd has belonged to many communities over the years including leather and drag—though he never felt really connected until he found the Radical Faeries which “feels like coming home to a welcoming family.”

Title: Positive Sound

Location: Seymour Room

This workshop combines some breathing exercises with sound (singing), with the aim to explore our bodies, emotions and thoughts. This workshop includes: a brief theoretical introduction to breathing (pranayama) yoga, and chakra; some basic pranayama exercises; and some basic vocals with pranayama exercises.

Presenter:

Enrique Estrada is a guitarist-arranger with more than 15 years of experience in the "popular" music field, Enrique has performed in cultural forums in the states of Morelos, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Jalisco and DF(Mexico). Last year he participated in an artistic residence on HIV Thematic in Palermo Italy. He is also a certified yoga teacher with many years of experience teaching at regular classes and workshops.

Saturday Afternoon Workshops **1.15-2.45pm (cont'd)**

Title: The Role Self-care plays in Leadership and Volunteerism in the HIV community

Location: Grouse Room

An interactive workshop exploring the wisdom in the room on the importance of self-care. Come learn about the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) workshop at Loon Lake this late spring "Who am I as a Leader?" The purpose of PLDI is to support people living with HIV/AIDS to realize their leadership potential and increase their capacity to participate meaningfully in community life. Come share and learn from others on how strategies help us navigate our best selves in living our lives fully with HIV. This workshop open to all HIV-positive folks and their partners who may be negative (for this discussion) if in attendance. All former PLDI grads and alumni also invited to attend and participate.

Presenters:

Dakota Descoteaux's HIV journey of 32 years has his current passion bringing empowerment tools and life skills to his HIV colleagues through the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) since 2013.

Jaydee Cossar, manager of the Positive Leadership Development Institute at the Pacific AIDS Network and is actively engaged in the community response to HIV in a number of facets; from research to fundraising.

Saturday Afternoon Workshops **3-4.30pm**

Title: Injectable: Is this the new treatment revolution?

Location: Ballroom B

We have come a long way since the introduction of HAART in the late 90s. The pill burden went from 15+ per day to just one pill in just one decade. Those of us, who endured unbearable side effects of the first generation of HAART medications, can truly appreciate the almost side-effect free meds of today. So how will the next generation of medications affect our lives? Dr. Conway has been involved in injectable clinical trials and has a wealth of information to share with us.

Presenters:

Dr. Brian Conway is the President and Medical Director of the Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre (VIDC), specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic infectious diseases and related conditions, with a focus on HIV and HCV. He has been involved in 3rd stage clinical trials of injectables.

Hesham Ali is a peer navigator at Positive Living BC, working out of St. Paul's Hospital. With interest in medical research and has been involved in various studies in the past.

Title: #relationshipGoals with YouthCO

Location: Seymour Room

Let's Talk about Relationships! We will chat about Romantic, Platonic, or Sexual Relationships... or anywhere in between! Join us if you have questions to ask about Boundaries, Communication, Labels... or anything else about Relationships!

Presenters:

William Flett and Celina Grace McKenzie, YouthCO

Saturday Afternoon Workshops **3-4.30pm (cont'd)**

Title: Easy Does It: A Path to Stress-Free Writing

Location: Grouse Room

A crash course in story structure, drafting outlines, editorial calendars, and professional blogging tips. Novice and experienced writers alike will be given tips on how to alleviate the stress, doubt, and procrastination that too often get in the way of creativity. Through lectures, slides, writing exercises and Q&A, all of these tools will be explained and explored.

Presenters:

Jason Motz is the managing editor of *Positive Living* magazine, a recovering blogger, and a freelance-ish writer in Vancouver. This is his third appearance as a facilitator at Positive Gathering.

Denise Wozniak is a regular columnist for *Positive Living* Magazine and is known for her humorous 'Last Blast' columns. Denise served on the magazine committee and as a member of the Positive Living Board. Her proudest writing achievement was co-authoring a United Nations pamphlet on "The Ethical Inclusion of Children Living with HIV/AIDS in your NGO." Denise will be giving TEDx speech in White Rock, BC on May 31, 2018 on how trauma can lead to our greatest creativity.

4.30-6pm

Title: Recovery Meeting, Clean and Sober with HIV

Location: Vancouver Room

This is an interactive presentation involving discussion, ideas and information sharing. This is a joint NA/AA meeting

Saturday Evening Gala Dinner **6-8pm** ***In the Ballroom***

See page 3 for details

Sunday Morning Workshops **9-10.30am**

Title: Financial Literacy – Making a Plan for Your Retirement

Location: Ballroom B

Whatever your age, planning for a financially sound retirement after 65 needs some planning and actions now.

Tony Trieu shares his experience in helping individuals succeed in accessing the wide variety of savings and retirement pension instruments available to persons living with disabilities and on fixed incomes. Disability Tax Credit, Registered Disability Savings Plan, Tax-Free Savings Accounts and Registered Retirement Savings Plans will be illustrated and discussed, with time for your questions. The value of saving a small amount of money each month, compounded over a number of years before retirement will indicate the real worth of planning and saving ahead.

Presenters:

Tony Trieu, World Financial Group

Bill Granger, Retired Manager, Parks and Environmental Services

Title: Decolonize & Anti-Oppression Workshop

Location: Seymour Room

This workshop is a lightly facilitated discussion exploring a brief history of Canada and its relationship with Indigenous peoples and anti-oppression terminology. The objectives are to encourage a greater understanding of the territory/land we occupy and our relationships to each other through an intersectional lens, as well as increase comprehension of anti-oppression terminology.

Presenters:

Tami Starlight is a 52 year old, HIV-positive, 2spirited, trans experienced, Indigenous person, positive since 1995.

vanessa bui is first-generation vietnamese, queer, genderfluid, upper working class born, abled and HIV-negative, raised and currently residing on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples

Sunday Morning Workshops **9-10.30am (cont'd)**

Title: Sharing our HIV Status with YouthCO

Location: Vancouver Room

Let's talk about disclosure! We all have some very memorable stories of disclosing our status to share and learn from. Why do we disclose our HIV status when we do? What impact has U=U and the Criminalization of HIV affected these decisions?
– *This workshop is only open to people living with HIV.*

Presenters:

William Flett, Ishraad Bijan Adatia, YouthCO

Title: Wellness & Complementary Therapies for PLHIV

Location: Grouse Room

This interactive workshop includes storytelling, games and activities, and learning about various therapies including: Acupuncture/TCM; Massage Therapy; Naturopathic Medicine; Reflexology; Tai Chi; Thai Yoga Massage; Therapeutic Touch; and Yoga Therapy.

Presenters:

Dakota Descoteaux's HIV journey of 32 years has his current passion bringing empowerment tools and life skills to his HIV colleagues through the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) since 2013.

Brandon is the Health & Wellness Coordinator at Positive Living BC, he loves being able to provide health services, support and education for our members.

Sunday Morning Plenary Session

10.45am-12pm

Ballroom A (Third Floor)

**All attendees are asked to attend this session
Lunch will be served afterward at 12.15-1pm**

This session will be an opportunity for each of the Gathering partner organizations to speak on the work they do in your community so that we all know where to get the support we need beyond our event. This session will end with a celebration of the history of the Positive Gathering and all the work participants have engaged in over the last few days...and, in some cases, years!

Presenters:

Tom McAulay (emcee)

Positive Gathering community partners

Sunday "Farewell" Lunch

12.15-1.15pm

In the Ballroom

This lunch session gives us a chance to refresh, nourish, and bid farewell to the friends we've made at the Gathering.

