

Peel HIV/AIDS Network
serving Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT 2017

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VISION

Optimal health and well-being for all.

MISSION

Working together to improve the health and prosperity of communities in Peel.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Our agency is stable, strong, and determined

The 2017-18 fiscal year saw the Board of Directors undertake the work to implement a new strategic plan. The strategic plan serves to ground and guide us as we expand services, enhance leadership in the community, and strengthen advocacy for vulnerable populations.

PHAN is stable, strong, determined, and vibrant. I have full confidence that PHAN will thrive under new leadership supported by the excellent staff and volunteer team.

I wish to thank the PHAN team for all of their tremendous energy and dedication. I would also like to thank our members and PHAN's many volunteers for their unwavering passion for and dedication to our mission. Lastly, I extend my deep appreciation to all of my Board colleagues for your leadership and commitment to PHAN.

I am confident that PHAN will continue to evolve and grow with the changing landscape of HIV and with the changes and growth of the Peel region. I know that we will continue to step up and provide leadership on behalf of the diverse communities we work with. I look forward to what promises to be a truly spectacular year ahead.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission.

LETITIA FRANCIS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LETITIA FRANCIS

CHAIR



LIESEL RAFTOPOLOUS

SECRETARY & VICE-CHAIR



VINOD SHARMA

TREASURER

MEMBERS AT LARGE



MICHELLE BILEK



RACQUEL BREMMER



JULIE GUNN



SONJA JOHNSON



NOHEMIE MAWAKA



SANKET PATEL

NOT PICTURED: RENATA PUNWASEE



WHY PHAN?

"Because of my love, admiration, and respect for this organization's ongoing impactful work in creating safe spaces for those impacted by HIV. I pride myself in supporting an incredible organization who will stop at nothing to promote the stories of heroes living with HIV, in a positive light that moves away from stigmatization."

-Nohemie Mawaka

"PHAN is an organization with a progressive vision and mission, excellent staff and board."

-Vinod Sharma

"Being a part of the PHAN Board of Directors allows me to make a bigger impact on my community."

My aim is to connect to the community and to use my expertise and connections to shape the mission of PHAN."

-Sonja Johnson

"I am proud to be a part of the evolutionary growth, development, and sustainable future of this organization that has a direct impact on so many stigmatized and marginalized people in Peel."

-Michelle Bilek

"To be a part of a greater cause, immersing in the rich diversity of this beautiful community and to achieve personal growth through continuous learning and new experiences."

-Sanket Patel

"I was impacted by HIV/AIDS as a youth and lost a number of my peers when living in the Caribbean and. I have worked for the past 10 years advocating for marginalized communities including those living with HIV".

-Racquel Bremmer

FAREWELL TO PHILLIP BANKS



Phillip's activist spirit and unfaltering principles inspired team members to strive for more for the communities we serve

Phillip Banks served as Executive Director with Peel HIV/AIDS Network for four years. During that period he steered the agency with an expert hand through a period of unprecedented growth. Under his oversight, PHAN's culture was one that fostered innovation and encouraged compassion; both for underserved communities, and within the ranks of the agency. Visitors to the agency are quick to comment on the positivity that lives within its walls, and that is due in no small part to the values of mutual respect and collaboration that Phillip worked so hard to instill.

Phillip's activist spirit and unfaltering principles

inspired team members to strive for more for the communities we serve, and to fight against injustice wherever it was apparent. He inspired in us the confidence to aim higher, and to do better. As Executive Director, Phillip had a knack for recognising and capitalizing on the strengths of his staff team. He granted team members autonomy, and let us run with an idea- provided it was a good one- to see where it took us.

Under his guidance, PHAN pioneered innumerable ground-breaking programs and projects never before seen in Peel region, including but not limited to: comprehensive services for

2SLGBTQ+ communities, wide-ranging harm reduction programs and services, and the region's first sex worker-specific programming. Phillip's insistence upon community-informed program development was a driving force in the innovation that we witnessed during his tenure.

We look forward to working closely with Phillip in the context of his new role as Director of the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance (GMSH).

VOLUNTEER HOURS

The happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.

1,609

Student Placements, Board Members & Other Volunteers

PHAN is committed to supporting the development of post-secondary students by providing meaningful placement opportunities. Board members provide strategic leadership and governance, establish policy, and oversee the financial and operational performance of the agency. All Volunteers play a vital role in supporting PHAN's mission in our communities.

6,071

Peers

Peers are central to informing the development and implementation of our programs and services. Peer workers play a pivotal role in connecting with hard-to-reach clients as part of our harm reduction programming.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



HIV Support and Engagement

Our Client Support and Care program provides services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in the Region of Peel. We serve clients who need case coordination, counselling and referrals to community services and health care providers. We support other people affected by HIV/AIDS such as partners, close friends and family members. We also work with other community service providers in client support and in the dissemination of HIV/AIDS information. Our Engagement program provides health promotion and capacity building to PHAs from diverse backgrounds with peer-driven skills development, peer-based learning and mentorship.



2SLGBTQ+

Peel HIV/AIDS Network (PHAN) continues as a pioneer in providing a growing array of health promotion, education, social and support services for 2SLGBTQ+ folks in Peel region. Our 2SLGBTQ+ programs operate within an anti-oppressive, anti-racist, and anti-homophobic framework that strives to decrease stigma and discrimination against 2SLGBTQ+ communities.



Harm Reduction

We are committed to reducing the harms associated both with drugs and harsh, misguided drug laws. Instead of prohibition and punishment, drug policy must be grounded in sound public health evidence, and in the principle of the universality of human rights — rights to which all people are equally entitled, including people who use drugs.

African C

The African Health Program provides distinct and building for coalitions community. This program relations. sism, hom oppressiv with/affe



Caribbean Black

an Caribbean and Black (ACB) Promotion Program plays two roles. It seeks to provide capacity for service providers, agencies and communities around HIV/AIDS for the ACB communities within the Region of Peel. The program recognizes the inter-sectional factors that lack access, racism, classism, homophobia, heterosexism and other factors at play for those living affected by HIV/AIDS.



Women's Health Promotion

Responding to women's HIV/AIDS prevention needs, the Women's Health & Community Development program designs and implements health promotion and capacity building activities to improve the quality of life for women living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. We work with diverse agencies, organizations and groups that serve women and girls in Peel Region, to advance the Ontario Women and HIV Prevention Initiative.



SUPPORT

1-on-1 counseling, case management, & practical assistance for people living with HIV



WORKSHOPS

Capacity-building workshops for service providers



OUTREACH

Outreach to all of the diverse communities we serve



NETWORKING

Regular networking activities for all of our priority populations



ADVOCACY

Advocacy on behalf of clients and communities we work with to influence individual & systemic outcomes

2SLGBTQ+ PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The Totally Outright Program

Totally Outright: a free leadership program for young gay, bisexual, trans, and queer guys who are interested in being healthy, sex-savvy trendsetters. This program is offered to folks in the following age range; 18 – 29 years old.

“The Totally Outright program creates a safer space for gay men to address harmful messages in society that pressure gay men to conform instead of being consciously aware of their own identity and needs for support. Totally Outright is a program that enables gay guys especially to address harmful messaging around shame and illness associated with being gay in our society.”

-Project Participant

Gender Journeys Program

Gender Journeys is a free workshop series that provides trans and nonbinary folks in Peel with a safer space to form meaningful connections with their communities. This workshop is great for folk who wish to obtain info about community, gender affirming healthcare, and healthy sexuality.

“Over twenty people attended the Gender Journeys program, where they learned about networks in place for the trans community, sexual health and HIV prevention, Hormonal Replacement Therapy, mental health, and other topics.”

-Ziva Gorani, Project Lead

Pride in Volunteering

Pride in Volunteering is a project aimed at building the capabilities of not-for-profit organizations (target audience) to be more inclusive and to be identified as a safer space for volunteers to identify themselves as members from the 2SLGBTQ+ communities (beneficiaries).

“I learned at today’s workshop how to be a better ally and support the LGBTQ community; but most importantly I learned to recognize my own ‘privileges’ and move beyond them.”

-Workshop Participant

2SLGBTQ+ Capacity Building Workshops

2SLGBTQ+ Training and Capacity Building Workshops is a Peel HIV/AIDS Network offers a variety of workshops and training programs related to 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and capacity building in Peel region for service providers.

“I feel that today’s workshop helped me to become more sensitive to LGBTQ issues. I would like to continue promoting this education to others, and also continue to increase my own knowledge and sensitivity.”

-Workshop Participant



A Letter from the 2SLGBTQ+ Training & Capacity-Building Coordinator

Dear Young Matthew,

First, the bad news: You're balding. The good news is that you have a finely shaped head. Pull out those old baby pictures and you'll have a sense of what you can expect. Some other good news: You're an enormous homosexual. What — that doesn't sound good? Well, it's certainly not news to you, Matthew. Yes, I know the truth. You know the truth. And now you know that I know the truth. And guess what: It's fine. It's totally and completely fine, even though I know right now that every time you even think about the word "gay", you pray for it not to exist.

Growing up queer in Brampton, Ontario is going to present you with a number of different problems. You will often feel alone. You will often feel isolated. And you will often feel confused. You will learn to hate the sound of your voice and you will spend every day policing your femininity. You are going to spend the remainder of your high school days having secret crushes on boring straight boys while also trying to act like one of those boring straight boys. Unfortunately, you'll have to learn that the nicknames you are being called will only get meaner. In gym class, the boys are going to make jokes about how they don't want to change around the faggot and the jokes are really going to mess you up. So you will try even harder to be like them. You will wear your brother's sports hats and listen to the music they like. You will try to talk like them and even go on dates with girls. However, what you will soon learn is that no matter what you do, you will always be a fag in their eyes.

Young Matthew, I am here to assure you that you are not alone. You are not going to crumble up and perish. You are not a weak kid. Worry less. Use what the world has given you. See, all those little things that you like to do, like drawing, make-up, writing, singing, dancing, organizing your Barbies according to

décolletage — those are all helpful.

In your twenties, you are going to get the chance to work as a 2SLGBTQ+ Training and Capacity Building Coordinator at the Peel HIV/AIDS Network. This employment opportunity is going to present you with the chance to queer all of Peel region; to take your brightest rainbow paint and splatter it everywhere. You will be a part of ensuring that 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Peel have access to, and can fully participate in, all the health, social service, recreational, political, cultural, religious, and social opportunities offered in the region.

You will be a part of the fight to create safer spaces in Peel region that work to affirm and validate diverse sexual and gender identities.

You will have the chance to create the spaces that I know you need—please do not take this opportunity for granted.

Imagine this: You will have the opportunity to work as part of a region-wide 2SLGBTQ+ Collaborative of more than eight service organizations. **Your work will fight for the inclusion of diverse 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Peel region into various organizational programs, services, policies and procedures through various forms of community development, training and consultations.** You will get the opportunity to plan, deliver and evaluate 2SLGBTQ+ capacity building trainings as well as develop high quality training curricula and resources for service organizations. **As well, you will develop a 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion Assessment Tool that can be utilized to assess an organization's capacity to work with diverse 2SLGBTQ+ communities.** It turns out that the enormous homosexual-thing that you have been trying to hide away your whole life is actually your most important transferrable skill. Always remember to celebrate that.

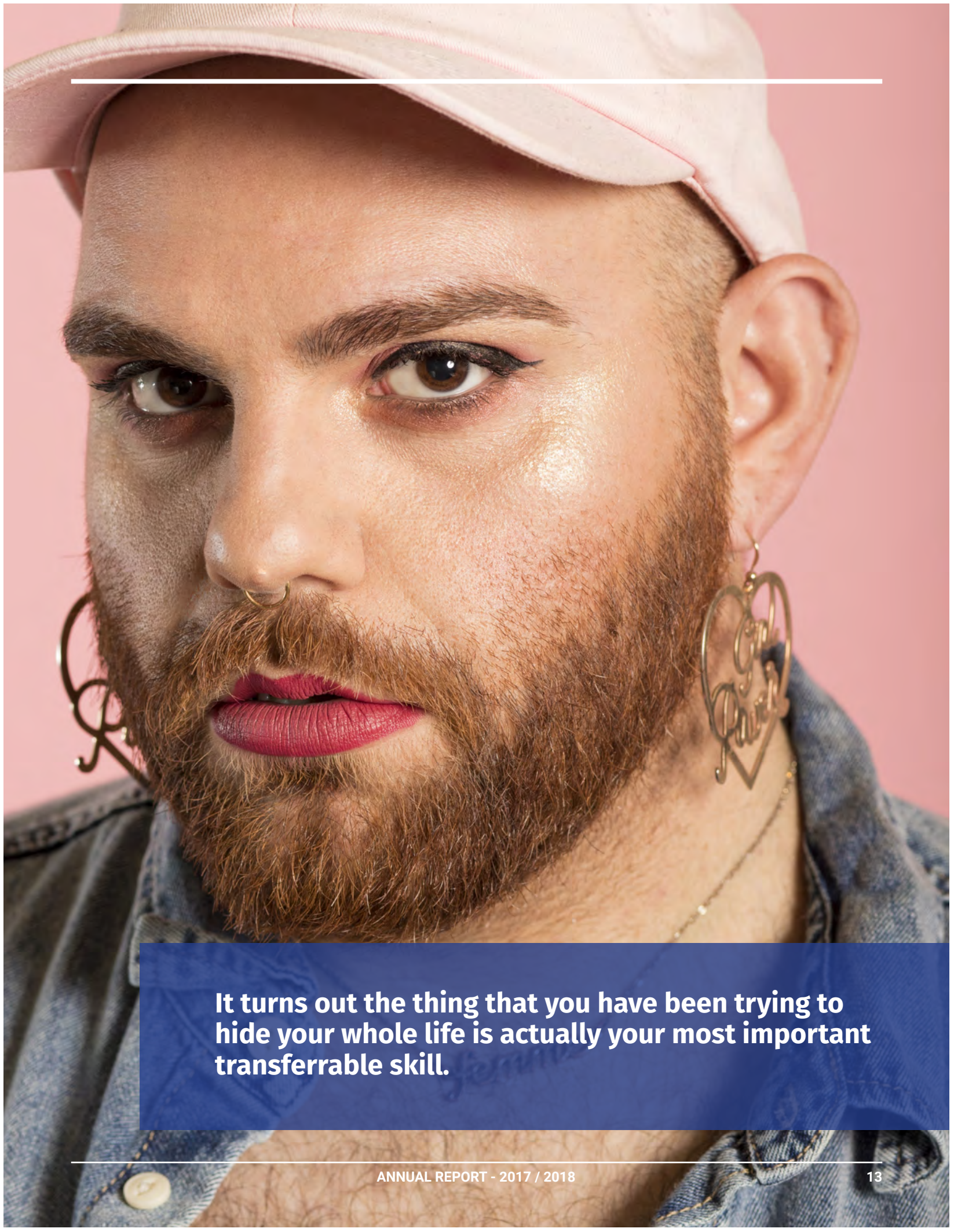
I promise you that you will not be scared

forever. No matter which profession you pursue, someone will always be there to warn you about the danger of being perceived as "too gay". Take this advice very seriously, flicker your 101 eyelashes, and reply in your highest pitch voice, "Darling, I hear you".

Love,

Yourself

P.S. No, really — love yourself.



It turns out the thing that you have been trying to hide your whole life is actually your most important transferrable skill.



ACB PROGRAM: THE YBW PROJECT

In the fall of 2017, young Black women hailing from across the Peel Region were invited to take part in the Young Black Women's Project, a leadership program that encourages participants to explore issues affecting health and well-being through facilitated discussions, expert presentations, and creative, communications and arts-based activities.



Weekly workshops focused on racism, mental health, sex and relationships, body and self-image, and leadership. Classes were led by a talented roster of community mentors, who shared insights gleaned from personal experience while skillfully guiding participants through sometimes-delicate subject matter. Participants in the Young Black Women's Project took part in a public speaking workshop led by a local television host, story-boarding activities and expressive painting with a talented visual artist, and a creative writing workshop facilitated by a New York Times best-selling author, among many others. Participants forged bonds quickly, both with one another and with the community mentors who facilitated group discussions. The supportive group dynamic helped to foster an open atmosphere, emboldening group members to freely communicate their ideas around tough subjects like sex and racism. With the help of a variety of creative mediums, group members shared thoughts and opinions that had hitherto gone unexplored.



The project has produced a cohort of highly-engaged young, black, women leaders, who are encouraged to take full advantage of mentorship opportunities within the wider community. They are better equipped to navigate adverse circumstances, and serve as "Resilience Coaches" in their social spheres and communities. Graduates of the program have gone on to volunteer opportunities within our agency and other community organizations. Many graduates of the program have committed to leading future iterations of the project, as members of the Young Black Women's Project Advisory Committee.



Written participant contributions provided content for a publication that distills the outcomes of the exercises, affording insight into the experiences of young Black women in Canada on the 150th anniversary of the country's confederation. This compilation of works, *Journal of a Young Black Woman*, is meant to celebrate, inspire, and encourage young black women from all walks of life. *Journal of a Young Black Woman* gives voice to distinct communities of Canadians, in the spirit of the commonly held Canadian values of diversity and inclusion. Amplifying the voices of diverse community members adds depth to our collective understanding of the Canadian experience.



Excerpt from "Dear Little Black Girl," by Fatima Allen
as seen in *Journal of a Young Black Woman*

Dear Little Black Girl,

Have you ever noticed the way their hair shines in the movies? The way gusts of wind brush through it ever so slightly. The way a man's fingers flow through it, like wading your hand through warm water. Always in slow motion. Always just as they're about to kiss, just on the cusp of falling ever so effortlessly in love. It is in that moment that I begin to wonder about my own hair. How it doesn't flow in the air, or fall off my shoulders so generously. How the colour isn't as light as raw honey—perhaps because I am not as sweet. I imagine a man's fingers getting caught and tangled in between my tightly knitted curls. How we would fuss and fumble before ever meeting each other's lips. How falling in love might not be so effortless for me at all. But then, how would I know?

I've yet to see someone like me fall in love in the movies.

It's such a strange thing, how much of our identity is wrapped up in our hair. It is as though, over the years, it has grown with me. Through the bad and the good. Through all the breathtaking firsts and the heartbreaking lasts. It has been cared for, kept and loved by my mother who rubbed us from head to toe with olive oil and bathed us in our innocence. I wonder then from where it is I learned to hate it so much?

WORKSHOPS & INTERVENTIONS

Education and prevention activities delivered to priority populations from April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018.



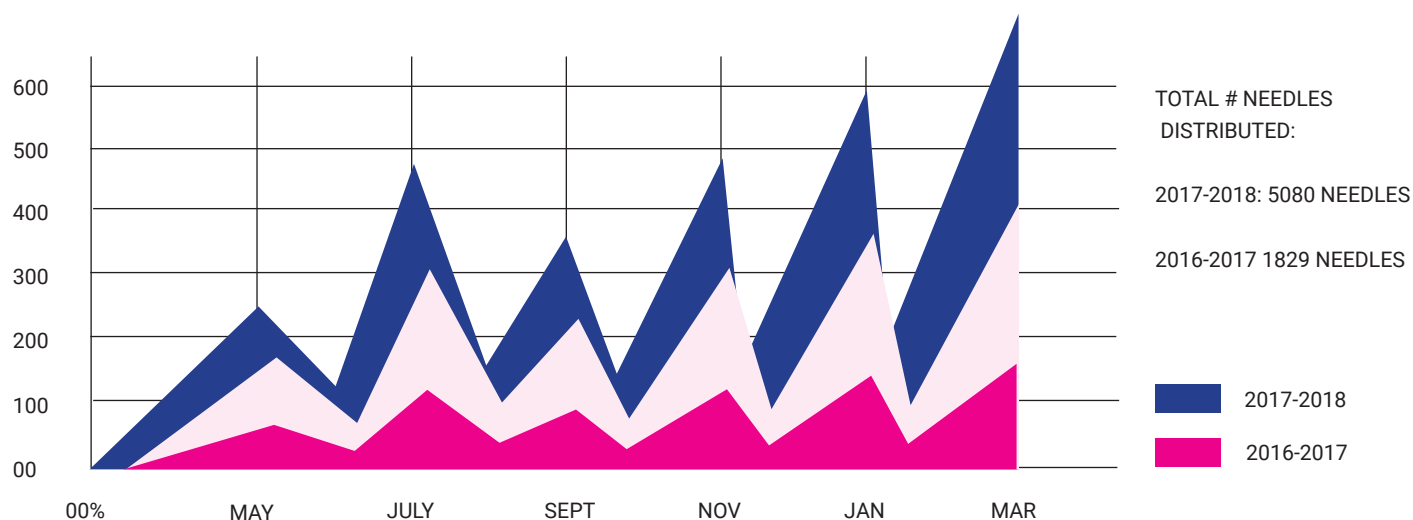
TOTAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

1,208

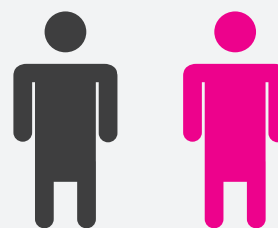
HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

+64%

NEEDLES DISTRIBUTED 2016-2017 V. 2017-2018



958 SAFER PIPES



808 CLIENT VISITS



**2010 SAFER
INJECTION KITS**



**958 SAFER
INHALATION KITS**



3305 LUBRICANTS



6326 CONDOMS



WOMEN'S HARM REDUCTION

2017-2018 harm reduction programming for women expands





Safe Space Drop-in

Safe Space Women's Drop-In continues to provide programming around self-esteem, life skills, and special workshops to address issues which affect some of the most marginalized women in Peel. PHAN is forever aiming to encourage the empowerment of women while we honour and celebrate the resiliency of the participants.

"This place is like family. I'd come every day if I could."

-Drop-in Member

Sex Worker Needs Assessment

PHAN completed and released the Sex Worker Needs Assessment in May of this year. The purpose of the needs assessment was to formally identify the needs and interests of Peel's women-identified sex workers. The project was successful in determining future actions which, when implemented, will support sex workers in our community to face and overcome barriers such as stigma, housing, poverty and improve their quality of life.

"This is important work. It's nice to see someone championing the needs of the region's sex workers."

-Community Partner

Winter Essentials Care Package Drive

In November of 2017, PHAN put out a call to our community partners to help us create our first ever Winter Essentials Care Package Drive. The response was overwhelming. As a result we assembled 30+ bags filled with items such as winter accessories, personal hygiene products, socks, and other essential items. They were handed out to our Safe Space Drop-In participants and distributed to others in need with the help of the Peel Public Health Needle Exchange Program.

"I loved it. I felt like a lot of thought into what went in it. It's nice to know that someone cares."

-Care Package Recipient



SPECIAL EVENTS



WE BELONG: IDAHOT BREAKFAST

Breaking Down Barriers. Changing the Conversation. Celebrating Diversity.

On May 2017, 2017, PHAN inaugurated a highly successful breakfast event in recognition of the International Day to End Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. The event, sponsored by TD Bank, drew more than 200 leaders from across Peel's business, political, and human services communities to explore their roles in nurturing a sense of belonging for 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Peel Region.



Knock Down Stigma Bowl-a-thon

The Knock Down Stigma Bowl-a-thon invited community members from all walks of life to join us at Bowlerama West on September 25, 2017 for a rousing, no-holds-barred bowl-a-thon fundraiser. Attendees showed up in full force, ready to lace up their bowling shoes and do their part to help strike down stigma in our communities.



Women's Harm Reduction Forum

PHAN hosted its second annual Women's Harm Reduction Forum on December 15th to commemorate the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. The event featured presentations by inspiring speakers from partner agencies including Sistering, TEACH, and WHAI, in addition to the unveiling of the findings of PHAN's sex Workers Needs Assessment.



Pride

PHAN was highly visible and active in both Toronto and Peel-based Pride events. The PHAN team was well represented at the Toronto Parade, with a contingent of staffers marching in the parade in addition to a resource table at the community fair, the epicentre of the festival. The PHAN Team also played an active role in the week-long Pride Week in Peel festivities.



Central Opening Doors

This year's Central Opening Doors conference, held on June 20, 2017, provided a broader focus in order to assist key stakeholders in achieving the priorities as set out in Ontario's new HIV/AIDS Strategy. The conference focused on harm reduction approaches, contributing to important discussions about how harm reduction is relevant in our work and in our communities.



Women's Health & Rights Matter

Peel HIV/AIDS Network, Punjabi Community Health Services, Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, and the Black Community Action Network of Peel hosted Women's Health and Rights Matter on May 28th, 2018. Exciting expert speakers explored a wide range of relevant topics, including culture-based paradigms in reproductive and sexual health rights, structural violence in healthcare, and women's rights.

CAMPAIGNS

We Belong

The year-long We Belong campaign focused in on the uniquely compelling stories of local members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, with the aim of promoting 2SLGBTQ+ inclusivity in the region. With this initiative, we aimed to break down barriers, change the conversation, and celebrate diversity.

Educational resources, promotional materials, social media toolkits, and more were disseminated on an ongoing basis throughout the duration of the project, which will run through May of 2018.

Visit webelonginpeel.com to see what 2SLGBTQ+ folks from Peel had to say when we asked them to tell us about their experiences, hopes, and dreams for the future.



"It's surprising to see how many of the same issues I faced as a child growing up in Peel Region are still relevant today. In my eyes, educational programs are a must to help educate our communities about the LGBTQ community."

-Daniel Pillai



"Coming from Syria, there is much more acceptance compared to my life back home. However, I believe there is work to be done to enhance 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and acceptance in Peel region."

-Ziva Gorani

WE CAN SAVE LIVES

Peel HIV/AIDS Network Hosted Overdose Prevention Site Demonstration on World AIDS Day



Peel HIV/AIDS Network (PHAN) hosted We Can Save Lives, an educational overdose prevention site exhibit, on World AIDS Day, December 1st, 2017, to help start a conversation around the benefits of providing emergency first aid in the event of an opioid overdose. The event offered an opportunity for community leaders from across Peel to explore practical, low-cost, evidence-based interventions to reduce the negative impacts of the overdose crisis on people affected in the region. In 2017 there were more than 3000 overdose/poisoning deaths in Canada, exceeding the number of deaths at the height of the AIDS crisis. In Ontario, the number of deaths from opioid overdoses has surpassed deaths from motor vehicle accidents. The situation in Peel mirrors the

broader Canada-wide trend, and as the number of casualties in the opioid crisis continues to mount it has become increasingly clear that strategies and action plans must include the evidence-based interventions that are quickly becoming common in other communities. With We Can Save Lives, PHAN hoped to encourage policy makers in the region to consider the delivery of practical interventions such as an overdose prevention site in order to reduce the number of overdose-related deaths in Peel region.

"I've lost twelve people since January that I know personally to accidental overdose," said Adam Chalcraft, Chair of the Peel Harm

Reduction Committee and Harm Reduction Supervisor with PHAN. "If the right measures had been in place those community members could still be here. The sad thing is that things are likely to worse before they get better."



Injection drug users represent the second most affected population, proportionately, of Canadians living with HIV. PHAN has taken a leadership role in addressing the needs of people who use drugs in Peel. As an HIV organization we advocate around issues relating to substance use to push for policies and health measures that will reduce drug related harm. PHAN supports the delivery of evidence-based interventions in order to reduce the negative impacts of the opioid crisis on community members.



U = U

PHAN endorsed Prevention Access Campaign's U = U consensus statement on May of 2017. All people living with HIV have a right to accurate and meaningful information about their social, sexual, and reproductive health. A groundswell of research confirms that when a person living with HIV is on effective treatment, it will reduce the level of HIV to "undetectable" levels which protects their health and makes them incapable of transmitting HIV to their sexual partners, or what we call "Undetectable = Untransmittable: U=U". As a prevention strategy, this is often referred to as Treatment as Prevention.

The U=U message is an unprecedented opportunity to transform the lives of millions of people with and affected by HIV and to radically transform the field: Improves the lives of people living with HIV by dramatically reducing the shame and fear of sexual transmission and opening up possibilities for conceiving children without alternative means of insemination.



Randy Davis is an HIV activist and advocate based in Barrie, Ontario. Randy has lived with HIV since February of 2015, and serves as Pride Coordinator for the Prevention Access Campaign. Randy was in attendance recently when MedsExpert hosted an information session for the community featuring Bruce Richman, Executive Director & founder, Prevention Access Campaign, the agency that started the UequalsU campaign. Let's review some of his statements:

"People living with HIV who have an undetectable viral load and take their medications as prescribed will NOT transmit HIV to sexual partners." Please explain this statement.

This speaks to the science behind the #UequalsU message and movement, which includes the research derived from groundbreaking treatment as prevention studies HPTN 052, PARTNER, Opposites Attract and the Swiss Statement. It is the definition of Undetectable = Untransmittable.

"UequalsU was born in the United States, but it grew up in Canada." What does this statement mean?

When Bruce makes this statement, for me, it's his way of acknowledging the contributions of Canada and Canadians in the growth of the #UequalsU message and movement. Canada gave one of the first acknowledgements of support outside of the United States with the endorsement by PositiveLite. CPPN, ACO and YouthCO in B.C. soon followed, but when CATIE gave its unequivocal support of the campaign in January of 2017, it saw Canada's contribution to #UequalsU become impactful globally.

"I didn't even realize it at first, but UequalsU will encourage HIV testing." Can you explain why this is the case?

UequalsU encourages HIV testing because it makes it clear that this has become a highly manageable illness not unlike diabetes. Truth be told, it is actually more easily managed than diabetes in many cases. One pill a day and your viral load becomes *undetectable*, making the virus *untransmittable*. UequalsU helps to alleviate the fear of a positive HIV diagnosis and reaffirms that there is life, a good life, after testing as HIV-positive.

WOMEN MARCH FOR SAFE SPACES

Vulnerable Private Citizens Women's Group Calls for Action in Wake of May 2017 Murder

In the wake of the violent death of mother-of-two Beata Paciorek, 35, private citizen activists marched on June 2, 2017, to call for a 24-7 safe space for women in the city of Brampton that is inclusive of single and childless women.

Beata was a regular attendee at Peel HIV/AIDS Network's Safe Space Women's Drop-in group, members of which have mobilized in the aftermath of the tragic loss to lead the charge towards safe spaces for vulnerable women in Brampton. She is remembered as a loving mother and friend who was making an effort to improve her living circumstances at the time of her passing. While her death deeply affected her friends and loved ones, it sadly did not come as a surprise to them in light of the shortage of safe spaces for women in Brampton. They are familiar with the inherent risks that affect women without stable housing in a city that does not have a 24-hour safe space for single women.

In the aftermath of the tragic loss of their dear friend, Peel HIV/AIDS Network has supported the women's efforts in their call for safe spaces for vulnerable women in Brampton. With programs tailored to communities including current and past sex workers, substance users, ethno-racialized communities, and other marginalized populations, the agency has long been aware of this gap in service offerings. Staff, peers, and volunteers alike have seen first-hand the sometimes-devastating consequences that cut across all program areas. In

the light of this loss, Peel HIV/AIDS Network redoubles its resolve to advocate around this and other issues that threaten the health and well-being of vulnerable women.

The march commenced at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017, at Grace United Church. Pedestrians stopped in their tracks to gawk at a sight that interrupted the otherwise placid tempo of downtown Brampton's city streets. The crowd of 70-plus women and men surged down Main St., rallying around an issue that was clearly a pain point amongst them all. The group paused to release helium balloons in Gage Park, pink and blue, a tribute to Beata. They lay a stone in a memorial garden in honour of their fallen friend, those closest to her paying tear-filled tribute to her loving spirit and unwavering smile. The group then proceeded to hand-deliver dozens of letters to Brampton City Hall, imploring city councilors to pay heed to the issue at hand. A petition requesting a 24-hour women's crisis centre was also presented to Brampton City Council.

A close friend of Beata's shared, after collecting herself in the moments following the memorial service: "I'm here because I was her. That was me, in the same situation. There need to be more options available to women."

Whatever the outcome with respect to the specific demands of this movement, the march in itself was a tremendous demonstration of resilience, fortitude, and love. Beata leaves

behind a legacy that evidences the incredible power of a few, united by a common cause. The memory of Beata is indelibly etched on the women who rose up after her passing and made their voices heard; revealing strength, conviction, and drive that had hitherto been unbeknownst even to themselves. Women, long ago resigned to living behind the cloak of invisibility that shrouds those relegated to live on the margins of society, raised their voices in a call that was heard province-wide. In this her loved ones can perhaps find some solace.



FINANCE

PEEL HIV/AIDS NETWORK Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2018

REVENUE	2018	2017
Grants	1,022,325	833,573
Donations & Fundraising	15,047	11,893
Interest & Others	11,300	16,027
Memberships	20	20
TOTAL	1,048,692	861,513

EXPENDITURES	2018	2017
Amortization	11,997	8,736
Fundraising	1,890	2,218
Insurance expense	7,524	7,746
Office and telephone	22,323	15,576
Office rent	75,256	63,320
Loss on disposition of assets	-	749
Professional fees	35,267	62,271
Program expenses	166,775	98,732
Salaries and benefits	699,738	543,009
Staff development and support	10,903	28,416
Volunteer support services	1,751	2,362
TOTAL	\$1,033,424	\$833,135

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	\$15,268	\$28,378
OTHER INCOME (EXPENDITURES)		
Client assistance payments	(7,754)	(14,588)
Gain on change in fair value of marketable securities	302	4,433
	(7,452)	(10,155)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$7,816	\$18,223

COMPLETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ON PHAN.CA.



STAFF TEAM

ADAM CHALCRAFT

HARM REDUCTION SUPERVISOR

BETTY WILLIAMS

HARM REDUCTION
PEER COORDINATOR

CHANTELLE ARCHAMBAULT

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