

2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

MESSAGE FROM: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR



As we reflect on this year, the first thought that comes to mind is ACO's 30th anniversary and the more than 3 decades of the HIV/AIDS movement in Ottawa, across Canada and around the world. Over the past few months, we have humbly put our efforts into a community-driven 30th anniversary commemorative initiative/legacy project - ACOXXX. During the development and production of this legacy project, we have realized how truly fortunate and privileged we are today to have the resources that we do at our disposal. ACO was built on the backs of the founders of the HIV/AIDS movement, who did incredible work during the most chaotic and turbulent times of the AIDS crisis, with little to no resources, but with tremendous love, passion, perseverance and activism. We dedicate this year to all the trailblazing pioneers of ACO, and all the people we have senselessly lost to HIV/AIDS. For all those who continue the courageous battle today, we stand together with you in solidarity.

ACO opened the doors of its new home on 19 Main Street on December 1st, 2014, on World AIDS Day. After a long and arduous journey of searching for a new space for ACO, we finally signed a 5-year lease last summer with the option to renew for another 5 years. The design of the new space was very thoughtfully planned to enhance the capacity of our service and program delivery, and to provide a dignified home to our participants, one that we can all be proud of as a community. We hosted a grand opening on February 9th, an event that was well-attended by local politicians, community partners, community members and the media. ACO also participated in Doors Open Ottawa 2015 for the very first time, and it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our new home and our services and programs to the larger Ottawa community. As we look back at the celebration of ACO's new space, we cannot help but think of the stigma that still surrounds HIV/AIDS today. During the process to trying to secure a new space for ACO, we faced challenges in finding a landlord who was amenable to our use of their space, a barrier that ACO had to overcome in the early days of finding office space. It makes you ponder whether stigma and discrimination in relation to HIV/AIDS has changed or not in the last 30 years. There is a lot more information, less fear, but our work is definitely cut out for us in terms of continuing to challenge stigma and discrimination in all its forms.

We are pleased to highlight that, during this past year ACO has successfully transitioned under the new CNCA (Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act). As a result, ACO has articles

of continuance and up-to-date Bylaws, all of which allow us to continue operating as a not-for-profit/charitable organization.

We are excited to announce the launch of our Strategic Plan titled "On the Shoulders of Giants, Honouring the Past, Building our Future, Our View to 2021". Last year, ACO engaged with Adobe Consulting Services to facilitate the strategic planning process. Throughout the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015, an environmental scan and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis was conducted, and on-line surveys, interviews and focus groups with 82 different stakeholders, as well as a review of internal documents and external research, was also conducted by the consultants. A strategic planning retreat was also held, where Board and staff worked together on the future strategic priority areas for our organization.

As ACO celebrates its 30th year of community work, we have taken this opportunity to reflect on our past and identify key high-level directions that will lay the groundwork for a stronger future. ACO is committed to leading the community-based response to HIV/AIDS in Ottawa. We look forward to sharing our strategic plan and embarking on our new journey together with all of you.

Warm Regards,


 Khafed Salam
 Executive Director


 Gord Asmus
 Board Chair



As I end my 4-year tenure as Board Chair, I would like to take this time to thank the AIDS Bureau, Ontario Organizational Development Program (OODP), Ontario Provincial Resource for ASOs in Human Resources (OPRAH), and the Peer Leadership Development Institute (PLDI), for guiding me and pointing me in the right direction. Thank you as well to all Board members (past & present), staff, volunteers, participants and members of ACO. You have all helped in making ACO the very different place it is today. It is a more welcoming and professional organization, and one that I am proud to have helped move in that direction.



WHO WE ARE: MISSION, VISION + VALUES

The AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO) is a community-based, non-for-profit organization providing free, confidential services for people living with, affected by and at risk of HIV/AIDS in the Ottawa area. ACO has served the Ottawa community for 30 years.

OUR MISSION

To provide support, prevention, education and outreach services from an integrated anti-racism anti-oppression social justice framework that promotes the holistic wellbeing of those living with, affected by, impacted by and at risk of HIV/AIDS in Ottawa.

OUR VISION

A world in which the human rights and dignity of people living with, affected by, impacted by and at risk of HIV/AIDS, are respected and realized; and where societal attitudes, laws and policies facilitate HIV prevention efforts, holistic care, treatment and support.

OUR VALUES

ACO is a learning organization that operates within an integrated anti-racism anti-oppression social justice framework. We achieve our mission through the following values:

- Accountability and Transparency
- Greater Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) and Meaningful Engagement of People with HIV/AIDS (MEPA)
- Health Promotion
 - Harm Reduction
 - Sex Positivity
 - Client-centered holistic approach to health
 - Self determination
- Community Engagement
 - Volunteerism
 - Collaboration and Partnerships
 - Capacity Building

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: 1 ACO at AIDS Walk 2014. 2 ACO at Pride 2014. 3 ACO Halloween Staff Team Building 2014. 4 ACO Annual Board Retreat 2014. 5 Canadian Folk Sensation Ash and Bloom Perform Benefit Concert for ACO. 6 ACO lease signing, 19 Main St. 7 Kitchen Party at the Gay Men's Social. 8 Grand Opening of ACO's New Home on 19 Main Street. 9 ACO at Pride 2014.



WHAT WE DO: SUPPORT SERVICES/LIVING ROOM, EDUCATION + PREVENTION AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

 <p>Research Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACB Newcomers Focus Group Addressing Needs of Families Living with HIV Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study HIV & Older Gay Adults (50+) HIV & Housing Human Rights, Sexuality, Prevention and Criminalization Hunger Count Survey Newcomers and Treatment Access Post Migration Health Project 	 <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACO Open House Celebration of ACB Canadian HIV & AIDS Awareness Day AIDS Candlelight Memorial CHEO Outreach Community Soccer Cup OPH Cultural Sensitive Training Vet Clinic & Video Project
 <p>Practical Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus tickets Caring & Sharing Exchange Programs Computer & Internet Fax & Phone Food Bank & Pet Food Bank Holiday Hampers Laundry Subsidized YMCA Passes 	 <p>Fun in The Living Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socials Bingo Bowling BBQ & Picnics Monthly Birthday Day Celebration Movie Mondays Holiday Dinners One Day Fun Day Sugar Shack Outing
 <p>Peer Led Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike Clinic Community Garden Haircuts Lunch Program Red Scarf Project Survive to Thrive Yoga Youth Group 	 <p>Workshops & Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict Resolution Financial Literacy Workshops HALCO HIV & Law Updates HIV & Immigration Let's Talk about Sex Speaker's Bureau Training Wills & Powers of Attorney Workshop Women & HIV Disclosure Workshop
 <p>Complementary Therapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiropractic Care Complementary Alternative Medicine Workshops Fitness Program Massage Clinic MI Counseling Reiki Tree of Life Art Project 	 <p>Mobilized Services Onsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat Healthy With Susannah Flu Shot Clinic Housing Help ODSP Support University of Ottawa Legal Aid Clinic

FACTS ABOUT

ACO's Education & Prevention Services

160

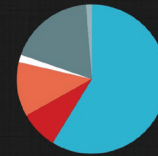
We attended 160 meetings to collaborate with community partners to build awareness, knowledge and capacity to respond to HIV prevention needs in Ottawa.



58 presentations

Were attended by 1,416 people on HIV education and health promotion

Staff and Peers provided 731 significant outreach encounters

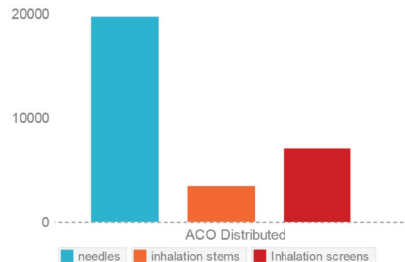


Legend for Outreach Locations:

- Bars & Clubs (59%)
- Jails (8%)
- Bathhouses (12%)
- Online (2%)
- Health Clinics (18%)
- Streets (1%)



Proud partner of the safer inhalation and needle exchange programs



452,284

Needles retrieved by the city's SITE program and partner agencies

We distributed:
38,931 Condoms!



AIDS Committee of Ottawa, OCHART data, April 2014 to April 2015.



ACO Volunteers

in 2014-2015

ACO wouldn't be where it is today without the generous contributions of our volunteers! The HIV movement has some of the most committed, engaged, and passionate volunteers and each individual brings something truly valuable to the organization. We are so lucky to have them as part of the ACO family!

What do ACO Volunteers do?



ACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GORD ASMUS
CHAIR



KEVIN HATT
VICE-CHAIR



RICHARD HUBLEY
TREASURER



SOYINI CORNETTE
DIRECTOR



KEVIN HALL
DIRECTOR



JEAN CHENIER
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LAURA CONROY
DIRECTOR



CAROLINE MEGUERDITCHIAN
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DIRECTOR



GREG WHITELOCK
DIRECTOR



SABRINA FABIAN
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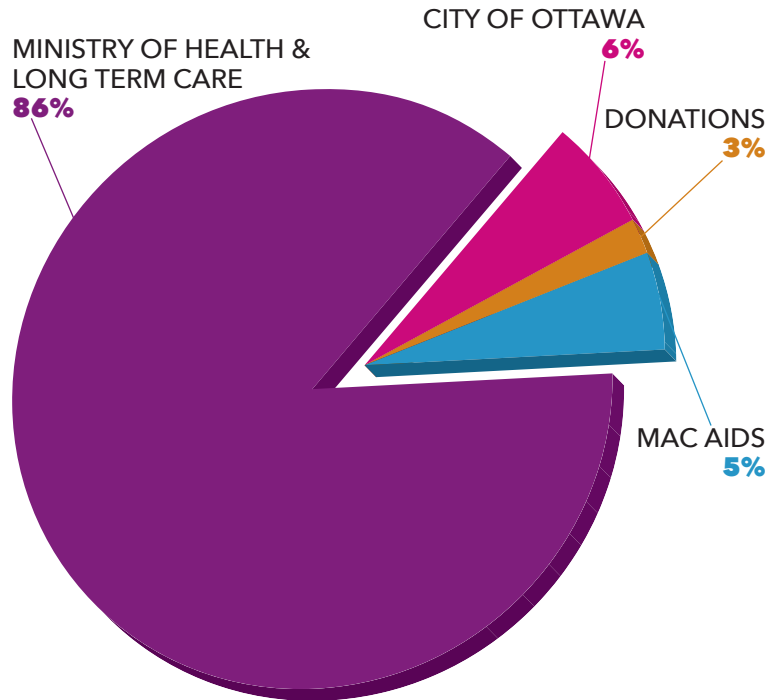
THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

INCOME	2015	2014			
Grants and contributions (Note 3)	\$1,170,842	\$1,190,570			
Fundraising and donations (Note 4)	20,571	21,702			
Special projects (Note 5)	13,366	33,817			
Other	19,000	-			
	1,223,779	1,246,045			
EXPENSES					
Operating (Note 6)	\$ 688,915	\$ 695,103			
Program (Note 7)	506,499	489,807			
Special projects (Note 8)	9,708	53,049			
Amortization of capital assets	17,925	12,816			
	1,223,047	1,250,775			
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 732	\$ (4,730)			
BALANCE,	Unrestricted	Invested in Capital	Robert Chisholm Fund	2015	2014
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 162,414	\$ 2,004	\$ 214,872	\$ 379,290	\$ 384,020
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	13,368	(12,636)	-	732	4,730
Acquisition of capital assets	(184,652)	184,652	-	-	-
Interfund transfer (Note 14)	111,479	-	(111,479)	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 102,609	\$ 174,020	\$ 103,393	\$ 380,022	\$ 379,290

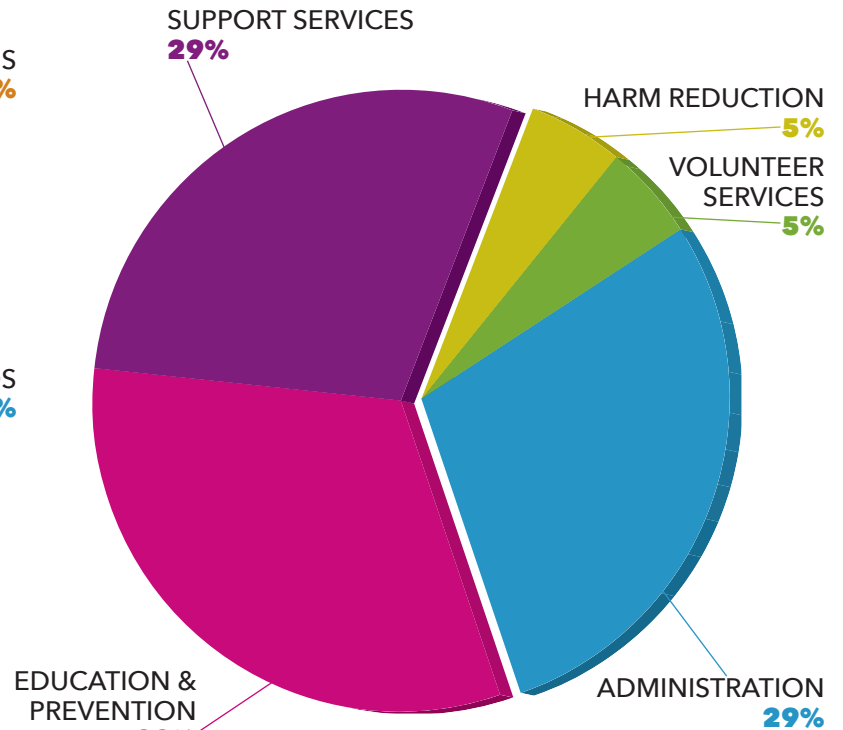
ACO FUNDING

ACO FUNDING SOURCES

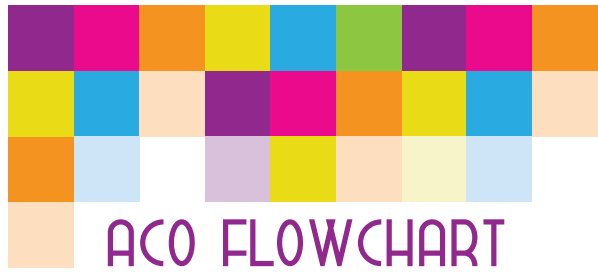


REVENUE TOTAL
\$1,223,779

ACO FUNDING ALLOCATION



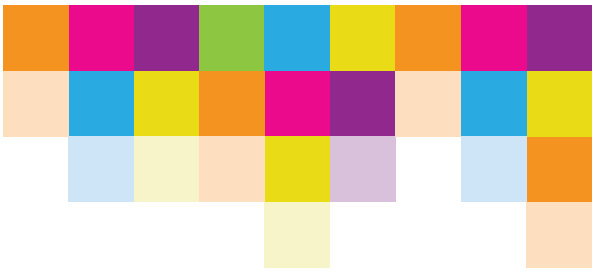
EXPENSES TOTAL
\$1,223,047



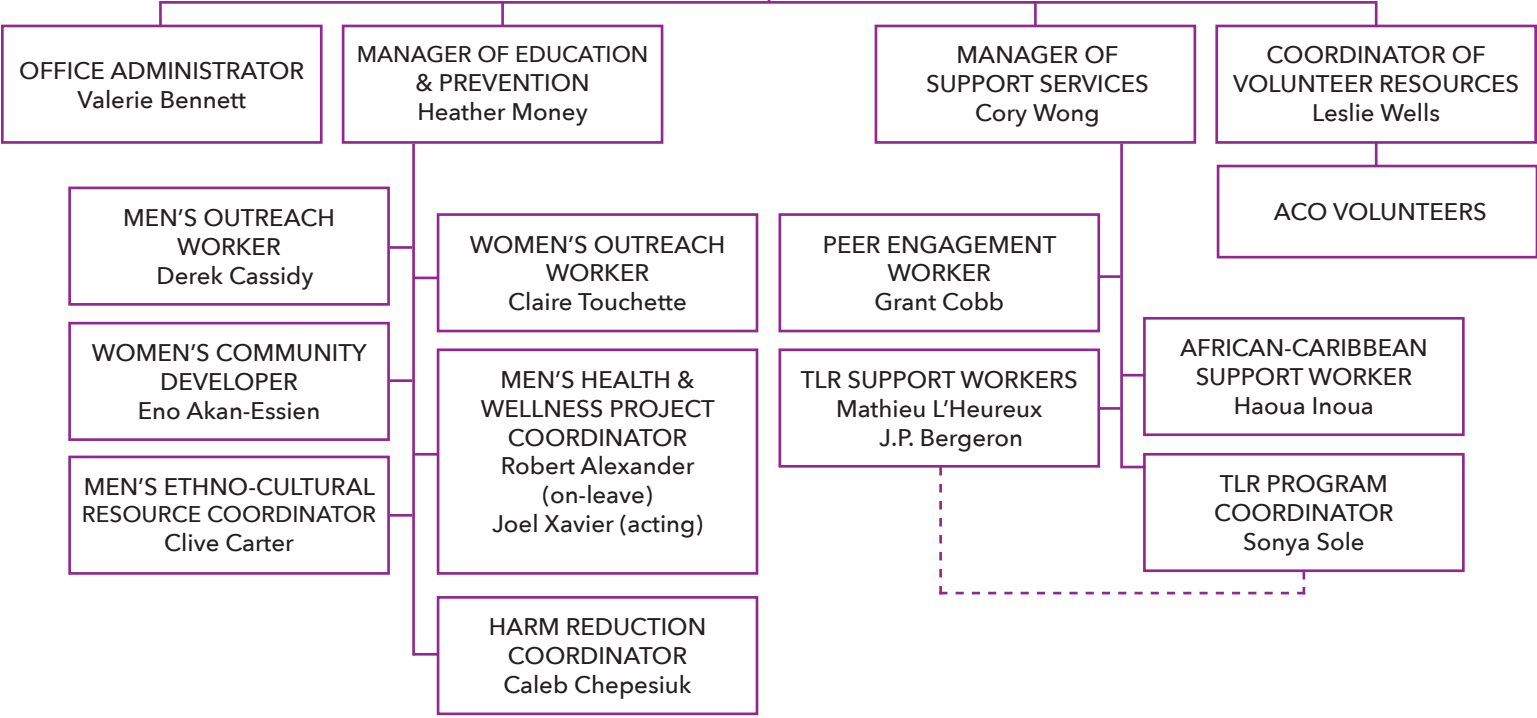
ACO MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Khaled Salam



ACO FLOWCHART



THE ONTARIO ACCORD

A statement of solidarity with GIPA/MIPA

“We, people living with HIV/AIDS and allies in the community:

- *Commit to the greater involvement and meaningful engagement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA/MIPA); GIPA/MIPA puts PHAs at the centre and is grounded in human rights and the dignity of the full human being*
- *Aim to transform all who live with, work in, and are affected by, HIV/AIDS in Ontario*
- *Commit to personal and social transformation*
- *Value community expertise in embracing the challenge for the betterment of society*
- *Value inclusion over exclusion, a quest for integrity at all times and the embodiment of self-determination*
- *Promote the evolution of thought, action and collaboration among us and with our allies*

Because GIPA/MIPA is about human struggles and aspirations, ethics, empowerment and accountability are its foundation.”

We acknowledge that Greater involvement of people with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) is never achieved once and for all; it is a goal and commitment that must be continually renewed. GIPA is a practice, not a project, and is similar to all other accountabilities of healthy HIV organizing and service delivery. Our practices in AIDS service organizations (ASOs) must be continually re-evaluated in light of the changing realities of HIV/AIDS and of those living with it.



THANK YOU!

The AIDS Committee of Ottawa gratefully acknowledges funding provided by:



The AIDS Committee of Ottawa gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our community donors, as well as the many individuals who donate each year:



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