



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

**Positive Women's
Network, a partnership
of women living with
and affected by HIV,
supports women in
making informed
choices about HIV
and health.**

We provide safe access to support and health education to women in communities throughout British Columbia.

Positive Women's Network provides leadership on women's HIV health and social issues locally and nationally.

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September 2012 Wellness Retreat at Bowen Island

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As the not-for-profit world faces continual strain and struggles, PWN has not only survived the pressures, it has remained a pivotal force in the HIV community.

With this in mind, the board has created a strategic plan for the upcoming years (2013–2016), one that will expand PWN’s mandate to include communicable diseases, such as hepatitis C, while still providing the quality of services for which the organization is known. To do this, we have set our goals even higher in terms of fundraising, and we have challenged our members to expand their vision for what we, as a board, can achieve.

Since fundraising continues to be an issue (and will be for the foreseeable future), the board has worked on raising funds, increasing our donor base, and expanding fundraising opportunities. This year’s AIDS WALK was our most successful in terms of funds raised (over \$7,000). We were pleased to see so many participants join our team (including donning the colour orange as our team symbol) or express heartening support for our cause. Nevertheless, the walk reminded us of the need to expand fundraising opportunities. In response, we have developed a corporate giving program, which will diversify our fundraising efforts and give prospective donors a greater choice in ways to contribute to the organization. We have already received numerous perishables and coupons for membership use, and the contributions have only begun.

We recruited five new board members this year: Brittany, Carly, Christina, Mary, and Negar. We’d like to thank our outgoing board members, Jestina, Hayley, Helenka, and Patti. Their energy and commitment have been a vital force for our board, and they will be profoundly missed.

Throughout 2013–2014 we will remain focused, build our board strengths and skills to exceed expectations, and find better ways to serve PWN members. We appreciate your trust and support and would like to thank all board members and staff for their endless energy and commitment. Thank you for making PWN such a great success!



Ivana Cikes
BOARD CO-CHAIR



Jennifer Keefe
BOARD CO-CHAIR

REPORT FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Having recently celebrated my 20th anniversary as Executive Director of PWN, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary evolution of the PWN community.

In particular, the ongoing emergence of our leadership role in BC and, indeed, across Canada, is important to acknowledge and celebrate.

Our founding members created a guiding principle of infected women and their allies working in genuine partnership to address all of the complexities surrounding women and HIV. This principle holds true today as members, staff, board, volunteers, and community partners work side by side to educate, advocate, and insist that women's voices be heard and women's realities validated.

Many initiatives have taken place over the past year, as described by our program coordinators. As ED, I have enjoyed working with a strong and visionary Board of Directors, who have kept the big picture in mind, never losing sight of individual women.

Across Canada, PWN is looked to for expertise, the wisdom of our community of women living with HIV, our ability to build bridges and form partnerships, sustained collaborations, and championship of the human rights and dignity of all people living with HIV.

To our colleagues, funders, partners, but most of all, to our membership, thank you for the honour and privilege of leading this amazing one-of-a-kind organization.



Marcie Summers
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUPPORT PROGRAM

Support means different things to every woman we meet: anything and everything from making connection in times of crisis, to being encouraged to participate in community.

Our program components range from direct one-to-one support, to outreach, to training and leadership opportunities. We recognize the importance of continuing to reach out to women who are dealing with multiple barriers to accessing services. Our women-only drop-in offers a safe space for women to connect, have a hot meal, and access information, referral, and advocacy. Weekly outreach visits to hospitals, community services, and connections via phone or email mean that members who are not able to come to our office still experience support and connection.

Partnerships are key, and we value our work with diverse community-based organizations. We continue to partner with AIDS Vancouver to provide a women-only food bank program and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre to facilitate greater access to the food bank. Partnering with the Pacific AIDS Network means many women living in BC are not only recruited, but also supported to attend comprehensive leadership training for HIV+ people.

In partnership with WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women) and peer guest speakers, PWN staff planned and delivered four days of Peer Support Training for eight members on topics ranging from confidentiality and maintaining boundaries, to being an ally. We have seen the great value of providing this training and supporting women in their personal growth and peer connections. PWN has also partnered with the Positive Living Society of BC to connect women with its peer navigator program.

Partnering formally and informally with the Oak Tree Clinic is crucial to ensuring PWN members have access to a range of women-specific medical services and supportive care.

Over the past year, successful wellness retreats were held in September, January, and April, allowing us to focus on unique themes at each: peer connection, skill development, and Aboriginal women's health. Retreat opportunities were offered to 73 PWN members, and women from all parts of the province attended.

Provincial outreach allows PWN to visit partner ASOs across BC, providing information to frontline staff and support to members in those regions. We see this as a valuable extension of our Vancouver-based site. Strengthening our ties again in the communities of the Fraser Health Authority is another key outreach component. Focus has been put on developing a partnership with the Fraser Valley Institute to provide support and information to women living with HIV who are in prison.

Along with direct support and connection for HIV+ women, we also focus on education and information, including presenting best practices at conferences (such as CAHR) and offering practicum opportunities for professionals in training. A big thank-you to Leya Robinson (Bachelor of Social Work, University of British Columbia), who has been our practicum student this year.

Respectfully submitted,



Bronwyn Barrett

SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

THIS WAS
THE FIRST TIME
IN A LONG TIME

I FELT
I BELONGED

— PARTICIPANT AT
SEPTEMBER 2012
WELLNESS RETREAT

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion is both public and personal, especially when it comes to a disease like HIV.

It's public because it impacts us all, infected and uninfected. Yet it's highly personal too—a woman with HIV can be understandably reluctant to share her diagnosis with friends or family, fearing judgment or rejection. She can be anxious learning about HIV and its potential effects on her and her family.

Our health promotion department addresses both the public and personal aspects of HIV education and support. We cover topics from science to society, doing so in small rural communities and global social media communities. We work with individuals and large groups to meet our goal of “Challenging HIV. Changing Women’s Lives.”

This year PWN's educator travelled to the BC communities of Surrey, New Westminster, Richmond, Abbotsford, West Vancouver, Vernon, Masset, and Squamish to train people working in support services. HIV 101—transmission, prevention, and universal precautions in shared environments—is still core course content. Ignorance about HIV causes fear, contributing to HIV stigma and bias where support is needed most.

FIND US ONLINE



Positive Women's Network
You Should Know



PWN_BC
YouShouldKnowCA

Globally we connect through Twitter, Facebook, and our website. Our weekly blog posts are read worldwide, as evidenced by requests to post them at The Body (www.thebody.com), Positive Lite (www.positivelite.com), and The Huffington Post (<http://www.huffingtonpost.ca>). Given we're the longest running HIV women-specific service in Canada, we share our resources as far as possible.

In all our work we keep in mind how the individual needs of living with HIV influence program responses.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Madsen

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



FEBRUARY 2013

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE REUNION

I LEARNED
THERE IS WAY MORE ROOM TO
MOVE FORWARD
IN MY LIFE AS
A LEADER

**AND RUN AS
FAR WITH IT
AS I CAN**



WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Marcie Summers, Executive Director
Donna Tennant, Director of Development
Nancy Hoo, Bookkeeper
Aretha Munro & Monique Desroches, Clerical Assistants
Bronwyn Barrett, Support Program Coordinator
Sangam Grant, Support Worker and Educator
Melissa Medjuck, Support Worker and Retreat Coordinator
Valerie Van Clieaf, Outreach Support Worker
Janet Madsen, Communications Coordinator
Erin Seatter, Resource Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Brown	Jestina Kusina
Ivana Cikes	Margaret Lau
Carly Daoust	Hayley Owens
Ryley Humphry	Surita Parashar
Helenka Jedrzejowski	Patti Telford
Jennifer Keefe	

VOLUNTEERS

Leya Robinson, UBC BSW Practicum Student
Angel, Corrine, and Lora, Support Program Volunteers
Complementary Health Volunteers

APPRECIATION

Our programs are supported by the generosity of many individuals and institutions. Thanks to all who contributed to our weekend retreats and workshops. We also thank our sponsors for their continued support.

SPONSORS

- Abbvie • BC Gaming • Deloitte • Valeria and Les Finnigan
- Gilead • Janssen • MAC AIDS Fund • Merck • Public Health Agency of Canada • Provincial Health Services Authority of BC
- RBC Foundation • Shopper's Drug Mart Foundation • Shooting Stars Foundation • Starbucks • Trigger & Girlgig Productions • Vancouver Coastal Health • Vancouver Foundation • ViiV Healthcare •

FINANCIALS

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Cash	\$165,238	\$170,783
Term deposits	80,635	80,491
Accounts receivable	33,062	20,996
Prepaid expenses	19,848	16,837
	298,783	289,107
Capital assets	14,890	13,872
	313,673	302,979
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$69,418	\$74,657
Deferred revenue	87,292	80,046
Deferred gaming revenue	44,001	40,280
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	1,114	1,590
Total liabilities	201,825	196,573
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	13,776	12,282
Internally restricted	90,000	90,000
Unrestricted (deficiency)	8,072	4,124
Total net assets	111,848	106,406
	313,673	302,979
REVENUE		
Grants	\$687,628	\$645,959
Donations	70,151	88,720
Gaming	36,279	31,020
Other	18,591	21,361
Amortization of deferred contributions	476	680
	813,125	737,740
EXPENSES		
Wages, benefits and contractors	\$544,487	\$527,561
Programs	102,096	87,159
Rent	77,851	76,434
Office and other	49,836	49,054
Bookkeeping	11,996	11,996
Utilities	8,281	13,005
Amortization	7,836	9,204
Professional fees	5,300	5,500
	807,683	779,913
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	5,442	7,827

Challenging HIV.
Changing women's lives.



Positive Women's Network

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