

**VPWAS**  
AGM 2018

**WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 23  
2019**

101- 1139 Yates St.  
Coast Salish Territory  
Victoria, BC V8V3N2

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**support@vpwas.org**



# **VANCOUVER ISLAND PWA SOCIETY (VPWAS)**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

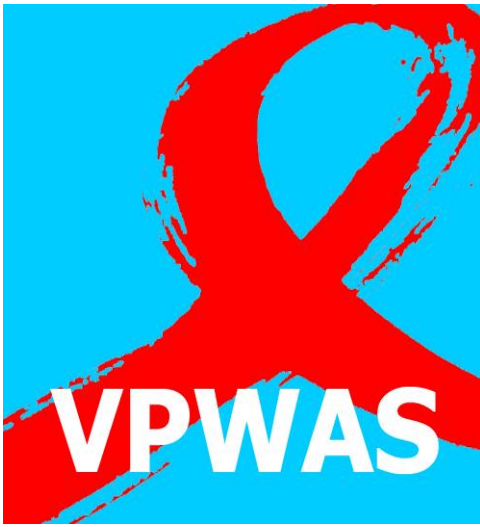
### **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, Professor  
Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health and School of Nursing

**Open to all VPWAS Members & Community Partners**

**Light Snacks and refreshments**

VPWAS acknowledges that we are on unceded First Nations territory. The City of Victoria and the surrounding areas lie on the territories of the Coast Salish and Lekwungen-speaking peoples, including the Esquimalt, Songhees, and W̱SÁNEĆ First Nations.



## AGENDA

Welcome - Moment of Remembrance  
Territorial Acknowledgement

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kelli Stajduhar

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF November 14, 2018 AGM MINUTES

REPORTS:

Financial - TJ Furlani, Bookkeeper

Reporting on financial year ending March 31st, 2019

Board Chair - Piotr Burek

Executive Director - Craig Dales

Election of Directors

(the following all stand for re-election)

Piotr Burek

Charlene Anderson

Anne Bonner

Adjournment

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### BOARD MEMBERS 2018/2019

**Piotr Burek** - Chair

**Charlene Anderson** - Director

**Anne Bonner** - Director

### STAFF

Craig Dales, Executive Director

Peer Navigation Coordinator

Penny Bradford, Peer Navigation

Michael Yoder, Peer Navigation

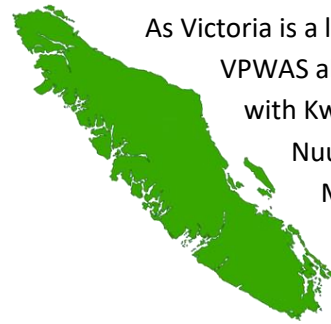
Sarah Wilson, Support and Advocacy

TJ Furlani, Bookkeeper/Office Manager



The Vancouver Island PWA Society acknowledges the territory of Esquimalt and Songhees Nations (their ancestral families consisting of the Teechamitsa, Kosampson, Swangwhung, Chilcowitch, Whyomilth, Chakonein, Kakyaakan, and Chewhaytsum).

It is these families who had established villages and used the territory for hunting, fishing, berry picking, and ritual and cleansing sites prior to Captain Vancouver's arrival in June of 1792 and later James Douglas establishing a colony in 1849.



As Victoria is a large urban centre  
VPWAS also recognizes families  
with Kwakwaka'wakw,  
Nuu-chah-nulth and  
Metis Ancestry.

With gratitude to William White, Coast Salish  
(Snuneymuxw) for his guidance

# THANKS!

- Island Health Authority | STOP HIV Project • ViiV Healthcare • Victoria Foundation – “Vital Victoria Fund” • Sara Spencer Foundation •
- Island Health Community Wellness Grant Program 2018/2019 • CANFAR • YouthCo • Resist Stigma • Sukhi Lalli - Lalli Care Clinic •
- Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health (CBRC) • Level Ground Trading Ltd. •
- Thrifty Foods (James Bay) • Victoria Pride Society • University of Victoria Students Society •
- Copper Owl • CRUSH Collective • PLUR Collective • HEPC BC • AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) • The Men's Health and Wellness Program - (AVI) • Men's Trauma Centre • S.O.L.I.D. • TAPS • Umbrella Society • Our Place • VARCS • VIRCS • Pacific AIDS Network • Victoria Cool Aid Society • Positive Living BC • PEERS • Anti.Violence.Project • UVIC PRIDE • Camosun College Pride •
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre • CDI College • Greater Victoria Public Library • Victoria Event Centre •
- City Studio - Victoria • Jodi Jollimore (Community Based Research Centre (CBRC) •
- Nathan Lachowsky, PhD (School of Public Health & Social Policy) • Wendy Stark (STI/HIV Clinic Cook Street) •
- West Coast College of Massage Therapy • David Fredbjornson RMT, Soma Active Health •
- Murray Rankin MP • Randall Garrison MP •

**To the many volunteers who help every day and at all our  
special events you are the life line of VPWAS**

And of course the many private individual and anonymous donors and supporters who have contributed so much over the years.



# OUT AND ABOUT

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## HIGHLIGHTS

**World AIDS Day / Day With(out) Art 2018** partnered with Visual AIDS (New York, NY) to present “ALTERNATE ENDINGS, ACTIVIST RISINGS” a film that highlights the impact of art in AIDS activism and advocacy today.

Following the film presentation was a panel moderated by Piotr Burek, Ashley Mollison, Sarah Wilson, Gaëlle Nicolussi.



**HIV in my Day - Reflecting Back, Looking forward Community Forum** at the Ambrosia Centre where we presented the Oral History project a Research Study to document the early years of BC's HIV/AIDS Epidemic.

**Syrup & Sausages with the Sisters** – The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence hosted a community FUNdraiser for VPWAS and the Sisters which included a silent auction and breakfast with the Sisters.

**What does U=U Mean For You** - Dinner and Conversation with William Flett, YouthCO's Positive Programs Coordinator, and the YouthCo team. The Science is Clear: Undetectable = Untransmittable.

People Living with HIV with a sustained undetectable viral load do not transmit the virus to others.

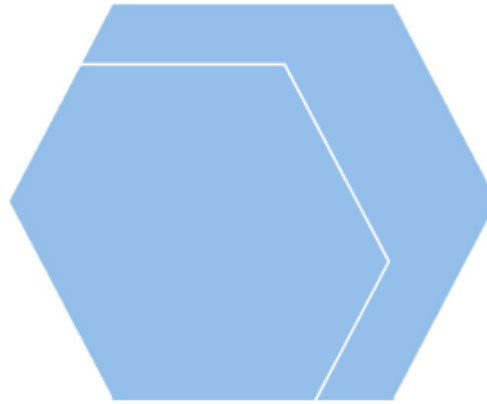
**Heartsafe EMS** – we are honoured to be asked back to present to the paramedic students of Heartsafe EMS, “HIV 101 from a community perspective”.

**Pride Parades and Festivals** again we had a presence at Victoria and Salt Spring Island Prides and at the first Pender Island Pride.

In 2018/2019, VPWAS drop-in was **open for 254 days** and we provided **over 1200 Individual Peer Navigation and Support Sessions**. Supported by over **3500 volunteer hours by 20 PLHIV volunteers and allies**. Over **1270** sandwich lunches were provided through Our Place.

On Social media we have **1078** Twitter followers; **906** followers on our various facebook pages.





## FROM THE BOARD

Every year brings about new and distinct challenges for the Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society. For over 25 years, VPWAS has been supporting individuals living with HIV and/or HCV on the Island. The organization, founded by a group of courageous men during the height of the crisis, continues to advocate for those living with HIV/HCV with a commitment to challenge the systemic barriers that impact poz folks and their loved ones.

The magic of VPWAS is that it endeavours to carve out space for members to support each other and build foundational relationships. As the world of HIV advocacy changes, so too does the organization we are part of, but one thing that remains stable, is the bond created by such a diverse group of individuals coming together to provide direction, healing and compassion.

Following the footsteps of the founders, the organization is committed to the ongoing work that is required to improve outcomes for our membership and all people living with HIV/HCV. It has been an honour to continue serving the community with such incredible and powerful individuals.

I'd like to finish off by thanking the amazing individuals who make VPWAS such an incredible organization. First, I'd like to acknowledge the amazing contributions of Sarah Wilson who recently has moved on to other pastures, however, remains a strong supporter and advocate of the organization. I'd like to give my heartfelt gratitude to the amazing staff, volunteers and board members of VPWAS. Without them, surely, the organization would not be able to do the important work that it does. I'd also like to thank our community partners, supporters and funders who are critical in ensuring the survival and advancement of the organization. Finally, I'd like to give my never-ending love and gratitude to the membership of VPWAS, our *raison d'être*.

With a new year comes new beginnings, and I am excited to see what will come out of the following year.

With so much care and gratitude,

Piotr Burek,

Chair of the Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society

## HIV IN MY DAY: REFLECTING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

**HIV IN MY DAY:**  
**REFLECTING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD**  
**RESEARCH STUDY ON BC'S HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC**

WERE YOU DIAGNOSED WITH HIV/AIDS  
AND LIVING IN BC BEFORE 1996?  
OR  
DID YOU SUPPORT OR CARE FOR SOMEONE  
LIVING WITH HIV DURING THIS TIME?

THEN HELP US DOCUMENT THE EARLY  
YEARS OF BC'S HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC  
BY SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES  
IN AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW.  
PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE  
\$50 CASH.

This research study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Victoria Research Ethics Board and is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Vancouver Foundation.

If you are interested in participating in this study or for more information, please contact:  
Ben Klassen, Simon Fraser University, Phone: 778-886-9417, Email: bjk8@sfu.ca

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“Reflecting Back, Looking Forward: HIV in My Day” is a community-based oral history project that collects stories of the early years (before 1996) of British Columbia’s HIV/AIDS epidemic from long-term survivors and caregivers. People living with HIV are passing from old age and suicide, and our organizations are shutting down (e.g. Positive Women’s Network, Victoria AIDS Resource & Community Services Society). We need to collect these stories now so that we can preserve the valuable community history of this time and generate insights into how the current response to HIV/AIDS can be improved.

The project brings together a number of community-based peer researchers, most of whom are themselves long-term survivors or caregivers from this period, with partners from YouthCO HIV & Hep C Society, Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society, the University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University.

We have currently completed 27 interviews on Vancouver Island and Salt Spring Island, and are in the process of transcription and coding.

We hope this project will inform intergenerational learning among people living with HIV about the onset of the epidemic. We also hope it will educate service providers and the public in order to increase empathy and decrease HIV stigma. We will archive stories as text, audio or video at the University of Victoria and build a public website to share these stories. Participants’ stories will be shared with the community, service providers, and the general public.

### Statement Regarding the Current Status and Future Directions of Youth Unleashing Power: a positive youth symposium

It is with heavy hearts that we must announce that there will not be a YUP symposium this year. We began a process last year of seeking new avenues for the symposium to be coordinated at a national level, and while those efforts are still underway, there are no plans at this time for a symposium to be held in 2019. In saying this, we want to express that we are still committed to supporting the continuation of this event and will continue to work on transferring the knowledge and experience that was gained over the past 3 years into the next iteration of YUP.

We want to acknowledge all of those who contributed in so many different ways to the symposium over the past 3 years.

We would like to thank our funders: Island Health, ViiV Healthcare, YouthCO and CANFAR. We are deeply grateful to the ongoing work of the PLUR collective in creating travel scholarships for participants. We are thankful to have had so much community support, especially from everyone who donated, shared, and promoted the event.

We, the organizers, recognize the innumerable contributions, both in-kind and otherwise, from the Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society, without which this program would not exist.

And of course, we thank each and every one of the participants of YUP over the past 3 years. Together you have created a legacy and contribution to the HIV movement that will leave a lasting impact for years to come. We are encouraged by what the future holds.

With gratitude, Sarah Wilson, Piotr Burek Project Coordinators & YUP Co-Creators

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Guest Speaker

**What the HIV/AIDS epidemic can teach us about care for people experiencing structural vulnerabilities at the end of life**

**Kelli Stajduhar**, RN, PhD, FCAHS is a professor in the School of Nursing and Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health at the University of Victoria. She has worked in oncology, palliative care, and gerontology for over 30 years as a practicing nurse, educator, and researcher. Her clinical work and research has focused on health service needs for those at the end-of-life and their families, and on the needs of people experiencing structural vulnerabilities. Dr. Stajduhar is the recipient of numerous awards including the Craigdarroch Award of Excellence for Knowledge Mobilization, the Award of Excellence for Nursing Research from the College of Registered Nurses of BC and the Canadian Association of University School of Nursing, Academic of the Year from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC, and Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.