

"HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK, WORLD AIDS DAY AND ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK "

- WHEREAS** *HIV/AIDS continues to be a major global and local public health issue, having claimed more than 34 million lives worldwide so far; and*
- WHEREAS** *An estimated 71,300 Canadians are living with HIV, and an estimated 17,980 people living with HIV remained undiagnosed; and*
- WHEREAS** *HIV/AIDS continues to be a very stigmatized disease that comes with much judgment and bias; and*
- WHEREAS** *UNAIDS has called upon governments, organizations and individuals to recognize the week of November 24 to December 1, 2015 as HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and December 1, 2015 World AIDS Day where "Getting to Zero" is the theme selected by the World AIDS Campaign (WAC), the goals of which are:*
- Zero New Infections, Zero AIDS-related Deaths, Zero Discrimination; and*
- WHEREAS** *By putting people at the centre of the three zeros all people, regardless of their identity, choices or circumstances, have access to relevant HIV prevention services, voluntary and with informed consent HIV testing and affordable treatment and high-quality care and support services—including psychosocial, financial and legal services and that all people have the equal opportunity to grow, develop, flourish, work and enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, supported by enabling laws, policies and programmes that respect their human rights and address the social determinants of HIV, health and well-being; and*
- WHEREAS** *HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day offer an opportunity to enhance tolerance and understanding while communicating prevention information about the epidemic; and*
- WHEREAS** *in order to help curb future infection rates those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in our communities need the collective support of the general public and governments in Canada at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal level firmly grounded in evidence and rights-based approaches; and*
- NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim the week of November 24th to December 1st, 2015 as " HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK" and December 1st, 2015 as "WORLD AIDS DAY" and from December 1st to December 5th, 2015 as "ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK" in the CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY of the PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA, the TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES of the ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS.*
- IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, *I hereunto set my hand this 26th day of November, Two Thousand and Fifteen.*

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored By:
Craig Dales
Executive Director
Vancouver Island PWA Society (VPWAS)