



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

OTTAWA
September 17, 2015

Bruce Rankin, Co-Chair
Precious Maseko, Co-Chair
Ontario AIDS Network
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c/o Paul Lapierre, Executive Director
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Dear Co-Chairs Maseko and Rankin,

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2015 regarding the future of Canada's HIV/AIDS Strategy. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our position on key aspects of this important issue. The New Democratic Party's responses follow:

The National Response

Will you and your party commit to developing and implementing a new national HIV/AIDS strategy?

Will you and your party commit to providing at least a dedicated \$84.4 million to implement the strategy? (The federal government committed to this figure in 2004, but has never fully met its commitment)

Will you and your party commit to involving community-based AIDS organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS in developing, implementing and monitoring the strategy?

New Democrats, and many other Canadians were scandalized by the Harper government's undercutting of HIV/AIDS funding in 2007, and its ongoing refusal to meet previously agreed to commitments. When New Democrats grilled the government in Parliament, even as late as November 29, 2007, they were still claiming they would deliver \$84.4 million in funding the next year.

But, crucial community-based program funding has still not reached its originally targeted amount—hampering the ability to: provide on-the-ground harm reduction work, increase prevention in vulnerable populations, and support those living with HIV/AIDS to help manage their condition.

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It is time to reset our programming and funding strategy for HIV/AIDS at home and abroad. A New Democratic government will work collaboratively with HIV/AIDS organizations—particularly community-based groups—on this important initiative and toward finally following through on previous government promises.

Funding Model

Will you and your party commit to recognizing the unique and cost-effective role that community based AIDS programs can play to make the strategy effective?

Will you and your party commit to fair, transparent and consistent processes to allocate strategy funds?

New Democrats have a long and consistent record of supporting and working with community-based organizations and programs. Our very roots lie in Canadians coming together at the community level to support each other. It is in our culture to reach out to those most in need at any particular moment. We pride ourselves in working collaboratively to build a social safety net that ensures no one is left behind to face life's challenges on their own. And, we remain committed to doing so in a way that maximizes the impact of available resources.

So when it comes to developing and strengthening the HIV/AIDS Strategy, an NDP government is certain to solicit advice from and rely on the input of community-based AIDS programs. More than any other party the NDP recognizes that to be effective, the HIV/AIDS Strategy requires on-the-ground, evidence-based, community input. That's why we fought hard for an HIV/AIDS strategy, and why we strongly opposed the Harper cuts to this critical component.

Under an NDP government, the process of distributing and administering the strategy funds will be fair, transparent, consistent and accountable.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these important issues.

Regards,

Canada's New Democrats