



IMPACT REPORT 2023/24

Our Mission:

AIDS New Brunswick Inc, is a provincial charity that promotes and supports the health and well being of all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI's) living in New Brunswick. We achieve our mission through a non-judgmental and sex positive approach to:

Prevention

Harm Reduction

Education

Support

Our Values Include:

Inclusion: We are non-judgmental. We promote the true involvement of persons with HIV/AIDS and others with STBBIs and ensure their voice in our work. We advocate for the necessary social infrastructure and policies to make this happen. We dismantle misconceptions, stereotypes and generalizations about STBBIs. We embrace intersectionality and recognize that everyone has their own unique experiences of stigma, discrimination, and oppression.

Accountability: We are accountable to persons living with HIV/AIDS, our service participants, our members, our partners, our funders, and all New Brunswickers. We actively pursue best practices and resources to ensure a successful and sustainable organization. We engage in partnerships to effectively support our priority populations, maximize resources and expertise, and ,achieve shared objectives

Empowerment: We empower individuals to understand their rights, to be self-advocates, and to take initiative in personal sexual health. We believe having positive role models who share lived experience influences positive health decisions.

Leadership: We are authentic leaders. We are a leading-edge and learning organization – we encourage research, innovation, and knowledge development. We are the provincial go-to organization on HIV/AIDS and other STBBIs.

Collaboration: We value authentic relationships and collaboration to build our capacity in research, service development and delivery, and in influencing public policy. We recognize that knowledge sharing and developing genuine relationships advance our mission.

A year with unique challenges

2023/24 saw some big changes and projects taking place. Core services were maintained, and some expansion was achieved, but this was not without challenges.

Our Bathurst office moved at the beginning of the fiscal year to a more accessible space. We had consistency in staffing in both the Miramichi and Bathurst offices but, saw a change in a key leadership position when the Prevention Program Manager left, to be replaced a few months later.

The organization had the opportunity to purchase a vehicle which really opened up the reach of the harm reduction service in health zones 3 and 4 and allowed for volunteers to play a bigger part in the services offered, for example, assisting the outreach service. Being mobile has led to more flexibility in the service and the opportunity to spend more time focusing on the development of some key partnerships in the Upper Valley region and beyond.

The Board took on the task of developing a new three-year Strategic Plan. This has given the staff team clear direction and guidance on developing an operational plan for the following year, allowing for a more focused approach and clear goals.

We started discussions this year with MAP's REACH Nexus team to be part of their Healthbox project. This is a "smart", interactive dispensing machine that provides free and low-barrier access to self-testing kits for HIV, plus essential harm reduction supplies and sexual health supplies. So watch this space for that and all the other work we have planned in 2024/25

Warmest wishes

Linda Thompson-Brown

Executive Director

A message from the President of the Board of Directors

First and foremost, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to serve as your Board President. Over the past year, AIDS New Brunswick has faced many challenges; however, through the strong leadership from our Executive Director, Linda Thompson-Brown, and her team, we have not only survived but thrived as the leader in the Province with HIV Education, Prevention, and Support with, Persons Living with HIV.

I want to thank the Board for its commitment to AIDS New Brunswick. During this past year, the Board completed and delivered our new three year Strategic Plan which will act as our road map to keep AIDS

New Brunswick as a leader in the province. I am very proud that we were able to redefine our Mission Statement, which sets the overall tone for us.

With the political climate changing in our Provincial Government, we need to navigate ourselves to be seen and not just heard. We stand committed to continuing to increase the access and affordability of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, or PReP, through partnerships.

I am very confident that our Board will be able to navigate through and provide the necessary guidance and leadership to be carried out by the Executive Director and the team.

Sincerely

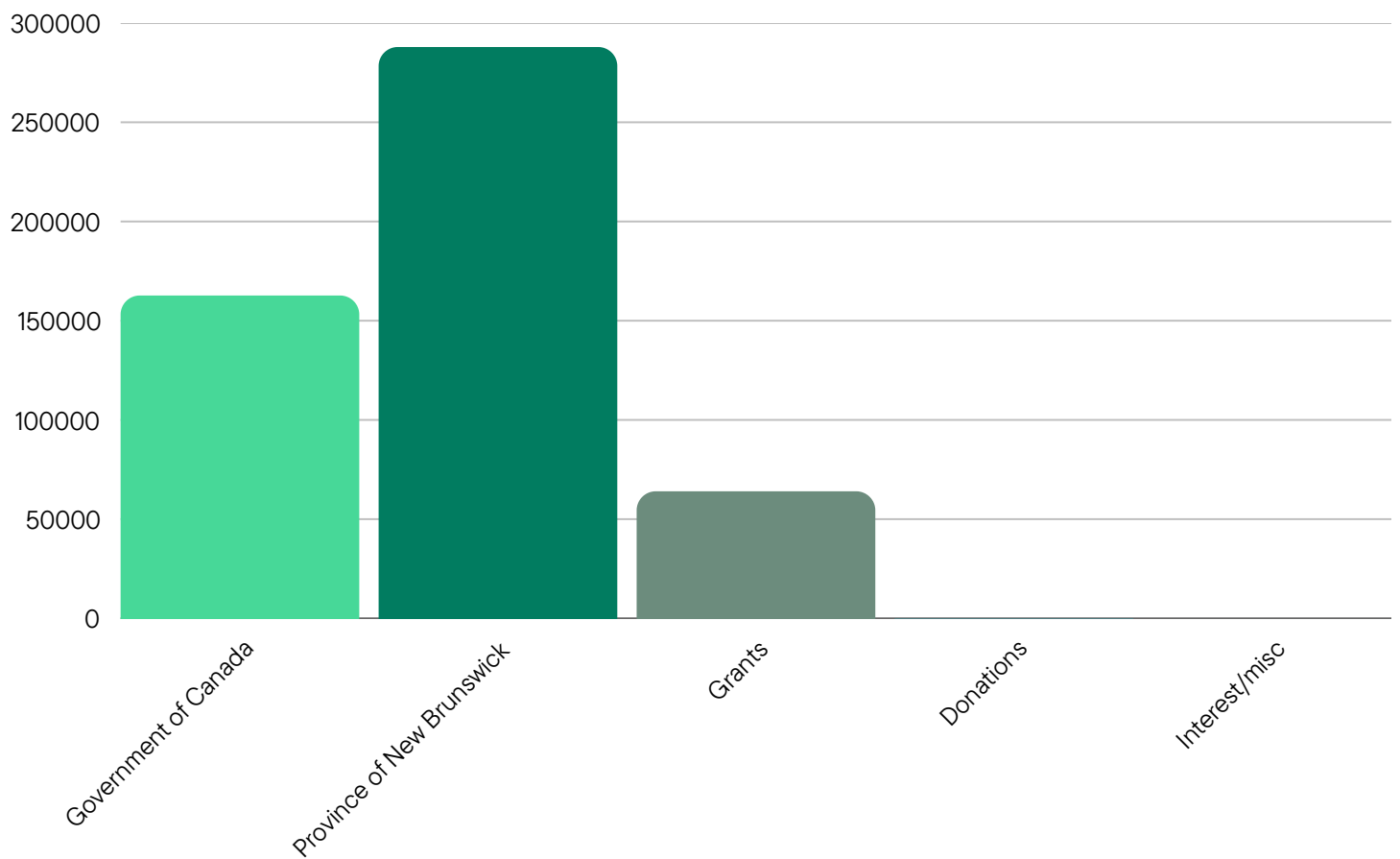
James Edwards

President

AIDS New Brunswick

Impact Snapshot			
80+	39+	400+	270,946+
HIV self test kits distributed	Group training session in overdose awareness and naloxone administration	Naloxone kits distributed	Harm reduction supplies distributed

Revenue: \$516,215 (see financial report for full details)



AIDS New Brunswick has three main focuses:

- 1) Support for persons living with HIV/AIDS
- 2) Education, support, and prevention of sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs).
- 3) Harm reduction that supports safer sex and safer drug use.

Below are just some of the highlights of our year carried out by the hard-working and committed AIDS New Brunswick Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors to support those areas of focus.

Projects	Details	Outcome
Mobile Harm Reduction Service	AIDS NB provides prevention, harm reduction supplies, education and support in health zones 3 to 7. The organization looked at cost effective and barrier free ways to provide services across zones 3 and 4.	The organization purchased a vehicle based at the Fredericton office. This led to the development and expansion of a delivery and outreach service in zones 3 and 4 and increasing the reach for the harm reduction, education and community engagement capacity in zone 4.
“Seeing Beyond the Stigma”	Stigma Training for healthcare professionals and frontline service providers. The project is funded through the Community Action Fund from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and is provided by the NB Alliance, therefore in partnership with Ensemble and Avenue B.	The first draft of the training is finished and being used. 39 persons who use substances were involved with the design. 90% of the target audience reported increased capacity to share their learnings within their sector
Peer Support Program	This project was funded through United Way Central. AIDS NB carried out Initial planning and development of a peer-led, community partnership program designed to be sustainable and replicable, aiming to support individuals living with HIV. Focus groups and surveys were carried out.	Key findings from the focus groups and surveys pointed to a need for a structured yet flexible peer support program that addresses the emotional and social needs of individuals living with HIV in New Brunswick. The proposed program, coordinated by AIDS NB, should be inclusive and focused on building strong social connections. NB specific Peer mentorship toolkit was developed

Education Services

We continued to provide our training sessions on HIV 101, Hep C 101 and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs), overdose awareness, naloxone administration, HIV self test kits, safer sex and substance use. This year also provided many opportunities to collaborate with, and learn from, community partners at a range of events throughout the province.

The education service has steadily expanded into the northern part of the province. Overdose awareness and Naloxone, STBBI, safe sex and stigma training has been provided in Woodstock, Florenceville, Campbelltown, Miramichi, Bathurst, Dalhousie and Fredericton

Enhanced STBBI surveillance among key populations (Tracks survey)

The Tracks is a sentinel surveillance system that conducts periodic, cross-sectional, bio-behavioural surveys among key populations across Canada. AIDS NB is a key partner.

Objectives of the Tracks surveillance system are to describe the following trends: prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C and other STBBI (e.g. syphilis) substance use, sexual behaviours and related risk factors.

HIV and hepatitis C testing behaviours.

Access to and use of health and prevention services.

Care and treatment for HIV and hepatitis C.

The New Brunswick data will be used for education, advocacy, and program planning.

The NB 2018 Tracks Survey has continued to be used, including educating public health professionals as recently as 2023. It is assumed the more recent data will demonstrate the continued need for improving services, including developing holistic treatment options for this population.

AIDS NB prioritized the following five strategic commitments:

Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors hired a consultant to support the development of a three year strategic plan, 2024/27

1. AIDS NB will rebuild support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

2. AIDS NB will improve our organizational sustainability.

3. AIDS NB will strengthen service delivery for all New Brunswickers.

4. AIDS NB will be a leader in sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs) education & harm reduction.

5. AIDS NB will increase visibility of its programs and services.

Annual operational plans will be developed and evaluated based on the five strategic commitments

Pivot

This project was funded through the Community Based Research Centre (CBRC) and Health Canada. Pivot is a community health leadership program that equips queer, trans and Two-Spirit people with the social connections, health knowledge and systems change skills they need to be health leaders in their communities.

The group created an educational resource for service providers about their rights and responsibilities when caring for queer and trans patients.

35 copies of the infographics in total were sent to clinics throughout the province. One of the outcomes of the project was the CBRC decided that they would also create a national version of the resource based on the one developed by this group to use in their work across Canada.

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Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, partners and supporters. We couldn't have done it without you.

This year has been extraordinary, and it's all thanks to you. Your support allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we've created change and this report is a snapshot and celebration of what we've accomplished. We are looking forward to all that 2024/25 has to bring.

"I can't get up those stairs and had to wait for someone to go for me. Sometimes I would have to reuse needles. Being able to call and get a delivery has stopped me from having to do that. Thanks for that"

"Thanks for sitting with me and listening when I took the HIV test. You know, I might have put it off if you hadn't been there."

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