

Health Initiative for Men

*strengthening the health and
well-being of gay men*

Why HIM?

- Gay men face challenges that are different from other groups
- Gay men recognize the role of their communities in supporting good health
- Gay men are working together to take ownership of their own health
- Gay men are taking an asset-based approach and building on foundations that already exist

Why HIM?

- Gay men's health is more than just avoiding HIV infection
- The interrelationship of the risk of HIV infection with other factors is generating new challenges
- Gay men's health determinants are often unknown and vary greatly from individual to individual

What we know....

- HIV transmissible behaviour is on the rise
- Testing is declining
- Online networking is increasing
- Community involvement is decreasing
- There is strong support for a stand-alone gay men's health organization

What we know....

- More than half of the new HIV infections in Vancouver happen among men who have sex with men (62% in 2008)
- The 2001 report “Moving Ahead: Assessing HIV prevention in BC” found that while new HIV infections had been increasing significantly in gay men for three years “capacities and resources for MSM prevention in BC were overextended and under-organized for the scope of the problem, and preoccupied with other areas”

– BC Centre for Disease Control, 2001

HIM's Mission

The Mission of HIM is to strengthen gay men's health and well-being through trusted, tailored, targeted research-based health promotion services and by engaging the community through volunteer involvement, online access and events. We foster mutually beneficial relationships among gay men and health professionals to ensure the best possible outcomes. We do this because we value the ability of gay men to make informed decisions, we value the role of our community in supporting the foundations for healthy living, and we value scientific research.

Health Promotion Services

- Websites
 - checkhimout.ca
 - whatRUwaiting4.ca
- Campaigns
 - What Are You Waiting for?
 - Condom Distribution
 - Anti-Homophobia
 - Do the Math: Calculate your Risk





welcome.

HIM is a community-based organization dedicated to strengthening the health and well being of all gay men. Our vision of health encompasses physical, mental, spiritual and social aspects of gay men's lives.

HIM volunteers and staff deliver community education, sexual health services, workshops and social events. Get behind HIM! If you'd like to volunteer or contribute, contact us at office@contacthim.ca

HIMblog

Public displays of gay

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

HIM has a new poster campaign that is being promoted during the Olympics. The campaign shows visitors the diverse and accepting side of Vancouver, while promoting public displays of gay affection. The posters will show images of gay couples expressing affection on various street corners in...

[Read more...](#) | No Comments



Gay Relationships Need Drama. True or Untrue?

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

A friend of mine is currently having one of those on and off again relationships with his boyfriend of just one month. While this seems to be just another typical gay hook-up, I couldn't help but notice the change in my friend's behaviour (not necessarily a positive change either). Let's rewind a...

[Read more...](#) | No Comments



Quebec introduces anti-homophobia policy

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Quebec has introduced a province-wide policy against



HIM Sexual Health Centre

Rapid HIV testing

The HIM Sexual Health Centre is now open. Among other things, we are offering rapid HIV testing by appointment or walk-in. 604 488 1001 ext. 227. Standard HIV and STI testing is also available.

Suite 421- 1033 Davie Street, Vancouver.

Hours:

Mon - 5pm - 9pm
Thurs - 5pm - 9pm
Fri - 7pm - 9pm

Public displays of gay

We want your public displays of gay! Click on the image below for a gallery of community submissions.



HIM calendar of events

HIM has a lot to offer. For more details of any of

www.checkhimout.ca

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR

RAPID HIV TESTING

RESULTS IN A MINUTE

and

EARLY HIV TESTING

TEST 2 WEEKS AFTER RISK

whatRUwaiting4.ca

HIV
MONEY
OPTIONS
SEX FRIENDS
MEDS
BOYFRIEND
CONDOM
MONEY
HEALTH
FAMILY
SS
STRI
OPT



HIM HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR MEN

HIM is dedicated to strengthening the health and well being of all gay men. Our vision of health encompasses physical, mental, spiritual and social aspects of gay men's lives
www.checkhimout.ca

Two new HIV tests are now available to gay men in Vancouver. Here's how they compare to the Standard HIV test:

Rapid HIV test

- ◆ Done by finger prick
- ◆ Looks for HIV antibodies
- ◆ Detects antibodies 3 months after infection
- ◆ Get your result in 1 minute (same visit)
- ◆ Available at HIM Sexual Health Centre & Spectrum Health

Early HIV test (RNA/NAAT Test)

- ◆ Done by blood sample
- ◆ Looks for the HIV virus, not antibodies
- ◆ Detects virus 10-12 days after infection
- ◆ Wait approximately 1 week for results
- ◆ Available at HIM Sexual Health Centre, Bute St Clinic, Three Bridges Primary Care & Spectrum Health

Standard HIV test

- ◆ Done by blood sample
- ◆ Looks for HIV antibodies
- ◆ Detects antibodies 3 months after infection
- ◆ Wait approximately 1 week for results
- ◆ Available at all testing facilities in BC

For more information go to:

whatRUwaiting4.ca

Testing Info Trading Cards

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WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR



In 2008, gay men made up 62% of new HIV infections in Vancouver (BC CDC Statistic).



[HOME](#) [RAPID TEST](#) [EARLY TEST](#) [ACUTE HIV](#) [TESTING SITES](#) [FAQ](#)

What are you waiting for?

Many gay guys want to get an HIV test, but waiting for the results can be a hassle. In the past, you had to wait months after being exposed before you could get tested, and then a week before you could get the results.

Two new testing options change all that.

The 'Rapid' test, which may have a window period of up to 3 months, gives you a result in a minute, eliminating the stress of waiting a week or more for results.

The 'Early' test reduces the window period (the time you have to wait before getting tested) from 3 months or more, to only 10 to 12 days.

This site explores the various testing options available to gay men in Vancouver. For more information on Rapid and Early HIV testing click below.

RAPID and EARLY HIV TESTING

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www.whatRUwaiting4.ca

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Poz guys talk to Frank
about sex and Hepatitis C



Hey Frank thanks for coming by.

Thanks for asking me.

How about telling us a little bit about yourself?

Sure, I'm in my early forties. I enjoy working out, spending time with my friends, listening to music. And I like to travel.

Where do you live?

I live in the West End.

Do you have a boyfriend?

No, I'm single.

Why's that?

Let's just say I like variety.

Frank Talk: HIV & Hep C

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Not all sex has the same risk.
Calculate your risk at www.checkhimout.ca

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Urinal ads, Banner ads, Newspaper ads

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Public Displays of Gay Olympic Campaign

“Gay love has been legal in Canada since 1969, protected by the Constitution since 1992, and celebrated with marriage since 2005.”



Vancouver

Fabulous since 1969

Gay love has been legal in Canada since 1969, protected by the Constitution since 1992 and celebrated with marriage since 2005.

P PRIAPE

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HiM is dedicated to strengthening the health and well-being of gay men. Visit www.checkimout.ca for more info.

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Condom & Lube Dispensers

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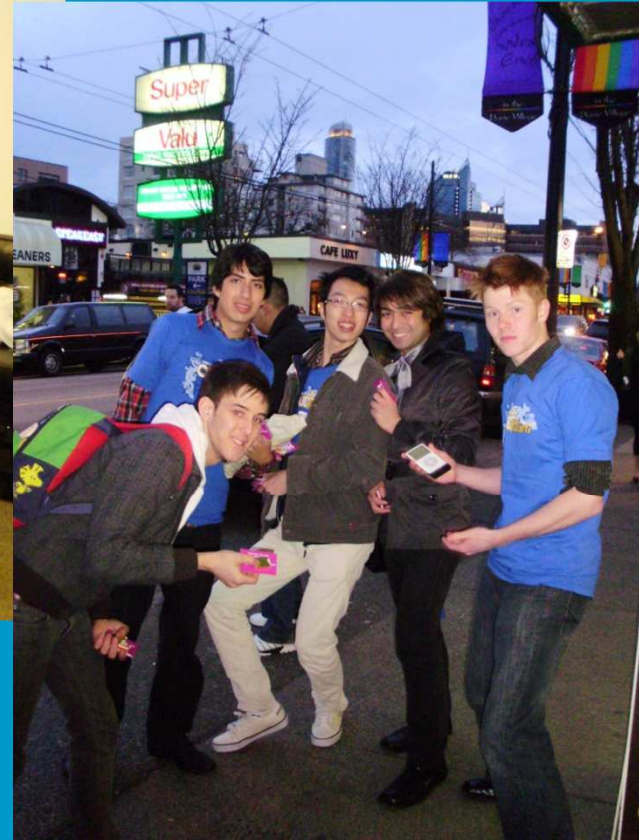
Health Promotion Services

- Events
 - Providing Health Promotion and Sex information
 - Partnering with other groups to collaborate or present at their events (UBC Medicine, PAN, Summit)
- Workshops
 - Totally Outright
 - Frooty Booty
 - Peer Support
 - The Art of Flirtation
 - Assertiveness Training
 - Perfection is Overrated



Totally Outright Recruitment Poster

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Totally Outright Graduates

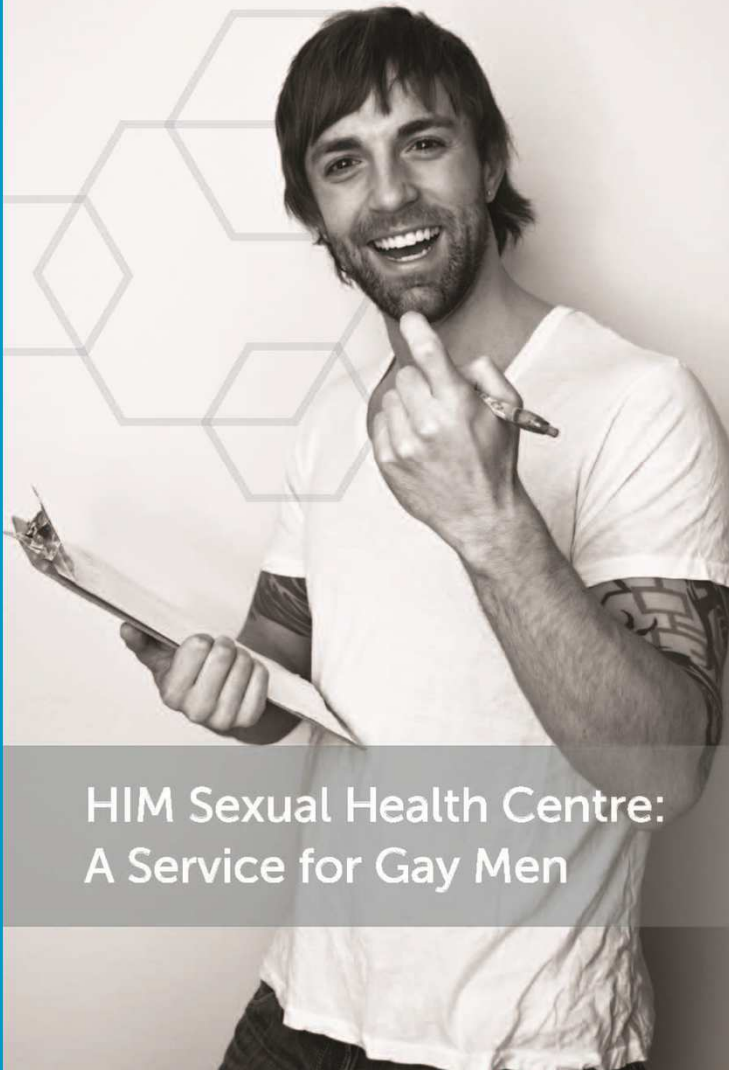
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Health Promotion Services

- HIM Sexual Health Centre
 - Rapid Testing
 - Early Testing (RNA/NAAT Test)
 - Standard HIV Testing
 - STI Testing
 - Peer Support
 - Hep A & B Vaccinations
 - Volunteer Professional Counseling



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HIM Sexual Health Centre:
A Service for Gay Men

HiM

SEXUAL
HEALTH
CENTRE

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Community Engagement

Volunteer Involvement

- Group leaders & facilitators
- Condom distribution
- Peer support
- Campaign development
- Administration
- Outreach & online engagement
- Professional support – HR, training, etc.



Fostering Mutually Beneficial Relationships

- Partnership in Summits and Conferences
- Collaborating on Surveys and Research projects
- Working with other health initiatives, service providers and agencies
- Developing researched position papers and recommendations
- Supporting research through clinic and community interactions

Creating a framework to foster mutually beneficial relationships

- How do gay men interact and engage with institutions?
- How do institutions interact and engage with gay men?
- How do we ensure optimal relationships?

Our response....

- HIM presentation and promotion
- Research & Engagement Principles
- Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Position Paper

Why a HIM Presentation?

- New organization founded in 2007 – with a new mandate
- HIM presentation was designed to inform health professionals & institutions about the work we do
- Creating opportunities for collaboration and community building

Process

Many queries accompanied by need for internal volunteer and community orientation

Our response:

- Student Placement had interest and skills
- Developed presentation
- Made appointments to do in-service presentations for health professionals to encourage knowledge and referrals

Why Research & Engagement Principles?

- HIM acknowledges its responsibility to address the need for protocols for both academic and corporate institutions seeking to conduct health research and/or knowledge translation to gay men and other men who have sex with men.
- Researchers are knowledge brokers, people who have the power to construct legitimating arguments for or against ideas, theories or practices. They are collectors of information and producers of meaning, which can be used for, or against gay men and OMSM.
- Institutions, both public and private, have the power to affect the health and wellness of gay men and other men who have sex with men, by promoting certain beliefs and assumptions, often through academic research findings and knowledge exchange.

Our Principles

- Gay men have the right to knowledge that allows them to make the most informed decisions
- Gay men have a right to health and a role in deciding the manner in which healthcare services are delivered to them
- Effective health promotion and service delivery engages the community and maintains relationships with community leaders and gate-keepers
- Research is a necessary component to health promotion that is most effective when conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner
- Effective knowledge transfer is a necessary component to research that is most effective when conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner

Process

2010 – HIM is approached by researchers wanting to work with us

Our response:

- Established a Research & Evaluation committee to look at potential collaborations
- Sought guidance from Aboriginal precedence and Community Based Research principles
- Developed HIM Research & Engagement Principles

Our Approach

Research that involves gay men and OMSM as a focal interest (subject matter), whether directly or indirectly, should ensure that research protocols uphold the Guiding Principles of Community-Based Research, as outlined in the document titled “Communities Creating Knowledge – A Consensus Statement on Community-Based Research”

CBR Principles

- Community Benefit
- Capacity Building
- Collaboration
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Accessibility
- Empowerment

Why a Position Paper on Post-Exposure Prophylaxis?

- PEP has been discussed as an HIV prevention tool for more than a decade (Health Canada published a position paper in 1998 “Decision-making in the face of uncertainty”)
- In 2010, there is still confusion around the efficacy and the accessibility of PEP
- HIM creates a Position Paper with Recommendations and Actions:
 - HIM calls for PEP guidelines and protocols for accessing PEP for consensual sex
 - HIM promotes the use of PEP as part of its comprehensive risk-reduction and harm reduction strategies

Process

2009 - HIM was approached by a health care provider concerned about the inaccessibility of PEP

Our response:

- Established a PEP working group of community members and researchers
- Developed a Position Paper
- Circulated it for review
- Published paper
- Currently pursuing action on several items, including clear guidelines for accessing PEP

BCCFE Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy

The committee has reviewed and previously advised to use this approach to reduce HIV transmission

Until recently , challenge was lack of consistent coverage for the drugs. Dr. Montaner has brought this to the attention of Pharmacare

BCCFE Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy

Committee to develop

- Specific guidelines for management of non-accidental HIV Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Estimate of potential costs involved
- Logistics of implementing such guidelines throughout the province

HIM Response

- The political issue of payment should not delay development of protocols based on sound medical treatment.
- Development of protocols for assessment should be made in collaboration with health care providers who are experienced in addressing the health care needs of the gay community and can reflect the reality of gay men's lives.

HIM Response

- HIM is committed to supporting the development of a process for accessing PEP, and to disseminating this process to the community in a way that ensures fair access to those in need. We believe that we have a role in this and ask BCCfE to collaborate with us in developing an implementation plan. Given the need for immediate response and action in cases appropriate for PEP, it will be of little use to have a protocol that is not known to the individuals who most need access to it.



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