

TAKE ACTION AGAINST AIDS

On March 31, 1993, all federal government funding to fight AIDS runs out. Yet the needs are more urgent than ever before. More people are living with HIV/AIDS, community groups are under-funded, research is inadequate and treatments are inaccessible.

Although the holiday season is supposed to be a joyous one, none of us should ever forget the sorrow and pain many families will feel as they ring in the new year. For them, this might be the last year they spend with their loved ones. AIDS is a fact of life that is not going to go away -- the more ignorant we are of this disease, the greater we are putting ourselves at risk.

On December 1, people from all walks of life will be honouring World AIDS Day. Here at U.P.E.I., a '5 Minute AIDS Test' will be distributed to various classes across campus. These questionnaires contain personal, highly descriptive questions dealing with one's sexual practices. All information given is to be strictly anonymous so no one will know what a person does or does not do. The results of these questionnaires will be made available to students in the spring-time. Once all results have been gathered, they will be published in the X-Press.

The facts of AIDS in Canada can no longer be ignored. If you are one of many students who believe that it "won't happen to you", then here are some facts that just might make you reconsider:

*In CANADA, 1 in 10,000 people are living with AIDS and 1 in 1,000 are HIV positive (1992).

*In NEWFOUNDLAND, early results from a study of pregnant woman point to 1 in 900 being HIV positive. This is six times higher than first anticipated (1992).

*AIDS related illnesses are the number one leading cause of death for men and women between the ages of 24 and 44 in both Toronto and Montreal (1992).

*In MONTREAL, 1 in 616 women gave birth to a live infant who was HIV positive (1990).

*In October 14, 1992, a fourteen year old Canadian girl died because of AIDS.

*On P.E.I., 10 people have tested positive for the AIDS virus and another 15 people have tested positive for the HIV virus (April 1992).

These are the facts one must face every time they go to bed with a partner without the right protection. If you are going to have sex, THEN INSIST THAT A CONDOM BE USED. It just might be the most important thing you do.

This December 1, show you support for AIDS victims and for the payments our government should continue to provide in the hopes of finding a cure. On this one special day, wearing a RED RIBBON shows your commitment to the fight against AIDS. The red ribbon demonstrates compassion for people with AIDS and their caretakers; and support for education and research leading to effective treatments, vaccines, or a cure. This red ribbon project is a grass roots effort that is a direct symbol of hope: the hope that one day soon the AIDS epidemic will be over.

So please remember to wear your red ribbon on December 1, and watch for announcements on a guest speaker who will be speaking in the Pit on Monday, November 30.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD JUST LIKE TO VOLUNTEER SOME OF YOUR TIME TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE THEN CALL AIDS P.E.I. AT 1-566-2437. ■

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