

AIDS Awareness Week/World AIDS Day

AIDS Calgary, along with community partners, offer learning and remembrance opportunities

Calgary, Alberta – From November 27 through December 1, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association will promote AIDS Awareness Week which culminates on World AIDS Day - December 1st. Some of the activities will include training opportunities for service providers, people living with HIV and the general public as well as an opportunity to reflect on HIV/AIDS and the impact it makes on the lives of individuals in our community.

Many people are affected by HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination. AIDS Awareness Week is an opportunity for AIDS Calgary to help foster knowledge and understanding, increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS and bring to light the realities of what it means to live with HIV. The organization continues to advocate for HIV education and prevention and offers information, programs and services that support people at-risk for, living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

“HIV/AIDS awareness is the first step and the key to prevention,” said Susan Cress, Executive Director, AIDS Calgary. “AIDS Awareness Week is the perfect opportunity for people to reflect on how HIV impacts everyone in our community, and to take the time to learn more and offer support to people who are living positive.”

With approximately 58,000 Canadians living with HIV/AIDS, eliminating discrimination is important. Many people are not even aware of their HIV status. Some people who think they may have contracted HIV are so afraid of the stigma and discrimination that they will hold off on seeking help, treatment, and information.

“Community partnership is also an extremely important factor in HIV/AIDS prevention and education,” said Cress. “By working together we can reach more people and accomplish more in a shorter time.”

During the week leading up to World AIDS Day there will be several events around Calgary, including AIDS Calgary workshops, Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) training sessions and an Agency Fair at City Hall led by the Calgary Coalition on HIV/AIDS (CCHA). On Friday December 1st, World AIDS Day, there will be a memorial service held at AIDS Calgary.

For more details on AIDS Awareness Week events happening in Calgary, please visit our website at www.aidscalgary.org or call 403.508.2500.

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AIDS Calgary is a local not-for-profit AIDS service organization that offers support services to individuals who are at-risk for, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and provides prevention and education throughout the Calgary region. For more information, please contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or online at www.aidscalgary.org.

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