



**News Release**  
For Immediate Release  
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**AIDS Calgary Celebrates Life**  
*11<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk for Life*

**Calgary, AB** - On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> more than 1,000 Calgarians will participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Calgary AIDS Walk for Life.

Since 1980, HIV/AIDS has touched many lives. In Calgary there are an estimated 1300 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Today, women are two to four times more vulnerable to HIV infection, youth has one of the fastest rising infection rates, and Aboriginal people are five times more likely to have AIDS than any other Canadian.

“We hope to raise public awareness of HIV/AIDS, prevent further infections through cultivating a compassionate and informed society, and raise funds to enable continued education and support for the Calgary community,” said AIDS Calgary Executive Director, Susan Cress. “The AIDS Walk for Life celebrates the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS, and honours the memory of those we have lost.”

AIDS Calgary provides support, outreach and education services to people at risk for, affected by, and living with HIV/AIDS. Since HIV/AIDS negatively impacts society as a whole, both economically and socially, there is a collective need for education and prevention to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

“Research shows an increase in sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which indicates people continue to have unsafe sex. HIV is preventable, and we are here to support the Calgary community in making healthy choices,” said Cress.

The Calgary AIDS Walk for Life takes place on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Eau Claire Plaza from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration forms are available online at [www.calgaryaidswalk.com](http://www.calgaryaidswalk.com) and at all Starbucks locations in Calgary. For more information, call 541-WALK.

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