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30 June 2011

Mr. Neil MacDonald, Executive Director
Public Health Strategic Policy and Planning Branch
Alberta Health and Wellness
23rd Floor, Telus Plaza North Tower
10025 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1S6

Dear Mr. MacDonald;

Re: HIV/AIDS EPI Data in Alberta

The Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH), is writing to Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) to express our concern regarding the timely dissemination of current and accurate data of incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our province. We have found with the multitude of changes within Alberta Health, we receive this information later than previously, and where once this information was readily available from a single source, it is less and less clear to whom we should be looking for the most up to date information.

Our member groups use this data to plan programming, assess the impact of current services, develop appropriate prevention messages and strategies for at-risk groups, develop policy, and to respond to the ever changing epidemic in a robust and dynamic way. We look to the leadership of Alberta Health and Wellness in this area as the data is also a key factor in accountability of money invested in the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF).

The epi-data plays a vital role for our member groups and ACCH; if there is any assistance that we can provide to optimize the process, we would be pleased to discuss it.

Sincerely;

Brenda Yamkowy
Chair
Alberta Community Council on HIV

c.c. Dr. André Corriveau, MD, MBA, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alberta Health and Wellness

Margaret King
Assistant Deputy Minister
Alberta Health and Wellness