



September 27, 2021

LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Committee  
City Hall, Committee Room 2  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members,

**Re: Funding Cuts to ACT and other health service providers**

Recently, the Public Health Agency of Canada informed the AIDS Committee of Toronto and other HIV/AIDS health service providers that their funding will be decreased significantly over the next five years.

These funding cuts are putting the supports our communities need in jeopardy and will have a considerable and measurable impact on the thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto and across Canada. Keeping these health programs and services FREE and accessible to all is critical to continue the work towards a city with zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health and the Senate of Canada have both recommended that funding to the federal HIV strategy be increased to \$100 million annually. This increase has never been realized and has actually remained the same since 2003.

These funding cuts come at a time when our community needs these services now more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has further marginalized many populations at risk of HIV, HCV and other STBBIs, and it has both taught us the dangers of underfunding public health and demonstrated our capacity to mobilize resources when needed.

If we are going to meet Canada's commitment to both the UNAIDS and World Health Organization (WHO) viral hepatitis elimination targets, it will be critical for us to invest in and expand HIV/AIDS health programs and services, not reduce them.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit Advisory Committee recommend to the Executive Committee that:**

1. City Council express its disappointment and concern with the Federal Government's decision to significantly reduce funding the HIV/AIDS health service providers in Toronto and across Canada.

2. City Council support the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health's recommendation and urge the Federal Government to increase the federal HIV strategy funding to \$100 million annually beginning in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

**Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam**  
Ward 13, Toronto Centre  
Chair, LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Committee