

From: John Maxwell
To: Board of Health
Subject: My comments for 2021.HL25.3 on January 18, 2021 Board of Health
Date: January 15, 2021 12:00:11 PM

On behalf of the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), we would like to address the Board of Health by supporting unequivocally the five points that the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Eileen De Villa is putting forward for consideration.

ACT is one of the first AIDS Service Organizations to be established in Canada and one of the largest in both the country and our city. We have been in the forefront of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and we have always demanded and have always fought for a comprehensive, compassionate response to HIV in our city, province, and country. We continue to advocate and support those living with HIV, those at increased risk for HIV and ally ourselves with marginalized communities who need access to healthcare and other supports. As with HIV, COVID-19 tends to affect those more marginalized within society. And, as we have learned from the ongoing the HIV pandemic, our work must be done through the lens of the social determinants of health.

COVID 19 has placed a tremendous burden on so many community-based programs and services, workplaces, among those precariously housed, essential workers and on our overall healthcare system.

If we are to stop the spread of COVID 19, we must address how people in our communities are supported and cared for – including access to paid sick leave and an equity-focussed approach to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Thank you,

John Maxwell (he, him, his)
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Promote Health. Build Community. End HIV and AIDS.
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instagram.com/aidscommitteetoronto | www.youtube.com/user/AIDSCommitteeToronto

Please note: For the safety of service users and staff in light of the rising COVID-19 cases, **ACT will be closed to the public starting Friday, October 2nd, 2020.**

Virtual and phone services will continue at this time.

ACT remains here to support you. We will get through this together.

Please visit www.actoronto.org for more information.

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