

Appendix F

PROCLAMATION

City of Toronto, Alliance of Mayors/AMICAALL, FCM

14 August 2006

We, the City of Toronto, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities understand that the HIV pandemic continues to pose an exceptional challenge to all humanity.

We are also well aware that HIV infection rates are generally higher in urban areas where most of the world's population will be living in 2015.

It is an acknowledged fact that local government is the level of government closest to people and, as such, must play an increasingly pivotal role in the response to HIV and AIDS.

Local authorities around the world have used innovative approaches to combat the effects of HIV and AIDS. But they often do this important work without sufficient resources.

We believe a decentralized response involving local government, civil society and the entire world community is essential to effectively address the challenges of HIV and AIDS. There is a growing number of national and international organizations associated with local governments working together to confront the challenges of the HIV epidemic. They do so in partnership with the community, the private sector and many other stakeholders.

National authorities and the international community must recognize and support local governments in responding to HIV and AIDS through more sustained investment at the local level. As partners in taking up this challenge, local government and civil society must protect and promote the human rights of women, children, youth and people living with HIV and AIDS, while addressing the underlying issues of stigma and discrimination.

We call on all municipalities across the globe to join with AMICAALL and other local government associations to take up the HIV and AIDS challenge through joint leadership, advocacy, collaboration and the marshalling of resources