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ASIAN
COMMUNITY
AIDS
SERVICES

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July 27, 2011

**DEPUTATION FOR Executive Committee, July 28, 2011 by Noulmook Sutdhibhasilp,
Executive Director, Asian Community AIDS Services**

To: Members of the Executive Committee

Dear Mayor Rob Ford (Chair) and Members of the Executive Committee:

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) is submitting this deputation for maintaining current levels of funding to the City of Toronto's AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program (APCIP).

ACAS is one of several organizations that receive funding from the APCIP to provide HIV/STIs (sexually transmitted infection) education and prevention. We are the *only* organization focusing on the sizable East and Southeast Asian communities in Toronto. ACAS provides *targeted* and *strategic* work across its prevention programs, including much-needed activities for key at-risk populations. We also emphasize on building capacity of new immigrants and providing Canadian work experience through volunteer work. Here are three examples.

The Asian Bathhouse Night by the ACAS Men's Program brings trained volunteers and staff to the front lines of HIV/STI prevention. Through workshops and one-on-one interactions, they educate men who have sex with men directly inside venues where men are seeking sex partners.

The ACAS Women's Program uses a peer-based approach where East and Southeast Asian female volunteers are trained to help conduct workshops for their peers on a range of topics including sexual health, healthy relationships, violence against women, and so on.

Another example comes from the ACAS Youth Program which attracted over 200 Asian youth to attend its workshops in the current reporting period alone. Workshop topics include healthy sexuality, coming out, and anti-oppression.

From April 2010-March 2011, we had 2074 contacts at bars, nightclubs, and bathhouses. We reached out to 2649 people at community events. And distributed 3823 condoms, 6544 HIV prevention brochures, postcards and flyers to Asian-Canadians in Toronto.

Without sustained funding the quality and quantity of our health promotion activities would be at risk. It is for these reasons that we argue for the maintenance of current funding levels in order to ensure the East and Southeast Asian communities in Toronto receive culturally appropriate, targeted, and strategic HIV/STI education.

Respectfully submitted,

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