

hepc.bull

Canada's Hepatitis C News Bulletin

www.hepcbc.ca

OUTREACH PHOTO ESSAY



John and Heather Cowan, HepCBC Volunteers, spoke to Baby Boomers and others at the Woodgrove Centre Mall outside Nanaimo, BC, at our Community Booth display, April 30, 2015. A grateful liver transplant recipient, John and his wife have lived with hepatitis C over many decades.

We offered visitors ribbons and invited them to a free showing of the DEAL WITH IT film at Vancouver Island University on May 8th. It was good to have something positive to offer the mall visitors and get their attention. Many mall visitors did a “double-take” when they saw a local group doing hepatitis C education.



HepCBC's info booth at First Nations Health Authority "Gathering Wisdom" Health Fair, May 5-7, 2015.

This was our second year at this fair, and we met more people this year who were anxious to talk about how hepatitis C is affecting First Nations people in our province, especially in the more remote areas where stigma is strong and treatment access challenging.

(Continued on page 3)

MLAs TEST-IN: YOU CAN, TOO!

On, May 25, 2015, from across the aisle and across the province, 16 British Columbia MLAs and 5 staff volunteered to “roll up their sleeves” to get tested for hepatitis C, hoping they can help broaden, normalize and de-stigmatize use of this test. After hearing that 75% of the people with hepatitis C in Canada are in the age cohort born 1945–1965, and 44% of the people who have Hep C don't know it, they decided to show leadership (and courage – who likes needles?) by getting this simple blood test publicly.

Carole James, Victoria/Beacon Hill



The two nurses from Victoria Cool Aid Society and volunteers from HepCBC Hepatitis C Education & Prevention Society said they were surprised at the strong response, and had to turn away three MLAs (Stephanie Cadieux from the government, plus Bill Routley and John Horgan from across the aisle) when they ran out of needles! MLAs who were able to get tested included: Ralph Sultan, Naomi Yamamoto, Simon Gibson, Scott Fraser, Carole James,

(Continued on page 5)

RECENT HEPBCB OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The last month has been a whirlwind of outreach activity in which the general public plus members of all our target populations – baby boomers, First Nations, and immigrants - were reached. Let HepCBC know if any of these inspire you to do outreach. Take photos and write a report; we'll be delighted to publish it! And if you think of any way we can help support your outreach activity, let us know and we'll do our best to help.

Starting April 30 in Nanaimo, we had an info booth at Woodgrove Centre, a huge shopping mall. We were inviting people to HepCBC's upcoming showing of the movie, "Deal With It," which would be taking place at Vancouver Island University on May 8.

(See photo, upper left).

On May 5-7 we had an info booth at the Gathering Wisdom Health Fair in Vancouver. We found people there much more receptive and open about hepatitis C than they'd been in 2014. It was delightful to run into people we'd first met a year back during our Outreach trip to small communities in the NW corner of the province. One particularly exciting thing happened. When our President, retired nurse Rosemary Plummer, asked First Nations Health Authority's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Evan Adams, if he would consider participating in a public hepatitis C test (to help combat stigma against such testing), he said YES! We'll report more details when we hear them. (See photos pages 1 and 3.)

On May 10 we set up another booth, similar to the one at Nanaimo's Woodgrove Centre, at the Victoria Flea Market. But the response was quite different. The atmosphere at the Flea Market was more festive, and the people openly curious about our booth; they didn't hesitate to come up to say hello, ask questions, or read our educational materials. This shows that the context in which we present hepatitis C information is something to consider carefully (See photos, page 3.)

(Continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HepCBC Outreach Projects	1
Marathon	2
...more Outreach	3
...still more Outreach	4
Honour Roll	5
Conferences / Treatment Coverage	6
Care Programs / Compensation	7
Coming Up	8

ORDER OR DONATION FORM

NOTE: Ordering (or donating) via Credit Card or PayPal is available online at

www.hepcbc.ca/hepcbc-order-form/ OR...

Fill out form below with a cheque made out to "HepCBC" - Send to our NEW address:

HepCBC
#20-1139 Yates Street
Victoria, BC V8V 3N2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ PC _____

Home () _____ Work () _____

Email: _____

Monthly bulletin** through email....FREE*

Membership with voting privileges...FREE*

Bulletin through mail, Subscribe 1 year. \$10.00

Peppermint Patti's FAQs through mail...\$20.00

Donation enclosed.....\$ _____

(You will receive an annual charitable tax receipt)

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

*Only name and email address required for emailed bulletin.

Membership also requires a postal address.

We will mail you a member package with pamphlets, yellow and red ribbon pins, information about volunteering opportunities, and how to participate in our annual general meeting, plus other ways to make your voice heard.

(Note: Nothing mailed to you from HepCBC will have ANY reference to hepatitis on the envelope.)

Registered Canadian charitable organization since 2001. No. 86800-4979-RR00001.

**Download the *hepc.bull* free (since 2001) at www.hepcbc.ca/hepc-bull-monthly-newsletter/

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline for any contributions to the *hepc.bull*® is the 15th of each month. Please contact the editors at jking2005@shaw.ca, (250) 595-3892. The editors reserve the right to edit and cut articles in the interest of space.

HOW TO REACH US:

EDITOR: **Joan King**
 PHONE: (250) 595-3892
 FAX: (604) 424-4374
 EMAIL: info@hepcbc.ca
 WEBSITE: www.hepcbc.ca

HepCBC
 #20 1139 Yates St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *hepc.bull* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. When writing to us, please let us know if you *do not* want your letter and/or name to appear in the bulletin.

THANKS!!

HepCBC thanks the following institutions and individuals for their generosity: The late John Crooks, Allison Crowe, Billie Wood and Adrian, Victoria Positive Living Centre, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, the Victoria Foundation, Dr. C. D. Mazoff, Judith Fry, and the newsletter team: Beverly Atlas, Diana Ludgate, Alp, Cheryl, Anamaria, and S.J.

Please patronize these businesses that have helped us: Top Shelf Bookkeeping, Merck Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche Canada, Vertex, Gilead, Janssen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, AbbVie, Rx&D, VanCity, Country Grocer, and Thrifty Foods.

NEW!! UPDATED!! Peppermint Patti's FAQs, Version 10.1 !!

Download for free:
http://hepcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/FAQ_v10_1.pdf

—Vancouver -July 28th World Hepatitis Day 2015 Event: Creekside Community Centre @ 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver, BC

—Vancouver—May 30th Aboriginal Hepatitis Month/ Hepatitis Month (TBA). Both events will have quest speakers, the film *Deal With It*, Info tables/booths, and possibly onsite HCV testing. Contact: Anita at info@hepcbc.ca

LET US KNOW ABOUT
 YOUR EVENT

HEPCBC LIVER WARRIORS 5TH YEAR AT THE MARATHON

Fighting HCV stigma, demonstrating the benefits of exercise for liver health, getting in shape, meeting new people, having fun, raising HCV awareness—that's what being on the Liver Warriors team is about. 2015 is the fifth year of the HepCBC Liver Warriors team at the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon. This year the event will occur Sunday, October 11th, wending through Victoria's heritage downtown, into its elegant older neighbourhoods and gardens, and along its pristine beaches. There! So now you're coming, right?

This is not just a marathon, but a half-marathon and an 8k race, as well. People are welcome to either walk or run, but if you're a serious runner, this one is a "Boston Marathon Qualifying" course. Consider making the commitment to join our team this year. It's an amazing feeling, flying over that finish line!

Take a look at the site now:

www.runvictoriamarathon.com/register.aspx

If you decide to go for it, be sure to join the "HepCBC Liver Warriors" team. It's on the 1/2 Marathon site already, so just select it from the dropdown list. For other events, you may have to create the team name yourself. Please let HepCBC know if you join the team by writing us at marathon.hepcbc@gmail.com.

Earlybird Prices to July 15th (which include a race T-shirt) are as follows:

- 1/2 Marathon (21.1 km) \$75
- Full Marathon (42.2 km) \$100
- 8k Road Race \$40

Hope you will decide to join our team!



You Can Have Hepatitis C and Not Know it.



التهاب الكبد 肝炎 丙型肝炎 viem gan hépatite

It can kill. There is a cure. Get tested.



Find out more at HEPCBC.ca

80,000
 BC residents
 have hepatitis C

75%
 infected are
 Baby Boomers

Watch for the above ad inside City Buses and the Skytrain or Canada Line during the month of July in these British Columbia cities: Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria. HepCBC has had bus ad campaigns several times over the years, but not recently. Please take photos of the ads and Tweet (use #HepCBusAd and @hepcbc), post on Facebook, or email to HepCBC, thanks!



Lisa Sam, CHR from the Nak'asdli First Nation (near Fort St. James), was a friend from our 2014 HCV Outreach Road Show whom we ran into at our "Gathering Wisdom" booth. She was presenting at this event about the effects of mining on her people's health. Here she is at our booth with Shakuntala Soden, PhD, Exec. Project Mgr. at HepCBC's new Vancouver Office.



This First Nations Health Authority photo shows four main pieces of Telehealth equipment which can enable doctors to examine patients remotely. Staff in remote communities must be carefully trained in their use in order to produce accurate results.



HepCBC founder and long-time volunteer Chaim D. Mazoff, PhD, sharing stories with retired hepatology nurse Susan Halpert. They met at HepCBC's Victoria "Africa Fest" booth at Vic West Community Centre on May 22-24.



We were also delighted to see another friend from our HCV Outreach Road Show, Cynthia Munger, at our booth! She is the Community Health Representative (CHR) at the Stellat'en First Nation (in the Tsilhqot'in Valley between Williams Lake and Bella Coola). She had been happy to show the 3 of us from HepCBC (2 nurses and a HCV+ patient) her wellness centre's beautiful Telehealth Room.



Victoria Office Community Project Manager Bronwen Black, joins HepCBC Volunteer Echo (Song Zhe) from Royal Roads University at the Victoria Flea Market on May 10th. They and others handed out bulletins, ribbons, info, and advice to visitors. There was a lot of interest, particularly as our display was aimed at Baby Boomers, a group few realize are at 3-X higher risk of having hepatitis C than younger Canadians.



T. (Tony) Obenatem, from Cameroon, was working at the Africa Fest registration table. He kindly offered to distribute our ribbons and info cards to all visitors with their registration pkg. Needless to say we happily took up his offer! Later, he said he'd like to volunteer with HepCBC at similar events in the future. The people at this event were very friendly. We ran out of French pamphlets, though. Next year we'll bring more! Some local French media people were there and expressed interest in writing an article about hepatitis C in



Left: This First Nations Health Authority map shows the existing and future planned Telehealth sites in British Columbia. With the new hepatitis C treatments so short, effective, and almost side-effect free, it is now more realistic for HCV+ patients in remote parts of the province to obtain treatment in their home communities with the assistance of local medical staff trained to use Telehealth technology connecting them with specialists in urban centres. While generally associated with a First Nations Wellness Centre, Telehealth services are made available to all residents, and are a tremendous asset to these Northern and remote communities.

Continued on page 5

ANNE'S EASY CHILI

Ingredients: 1 can of tomatoes, a can of beans, a chopped onion, a package of ground turkey, a bunch of seasonings. (See below.)

- Fry the onions.
- Brown the turkey in the same pan.
- Add everything to the pot where you'll have the beans and tomatoes.
- Add **cocoa powder, cinnamon, paprika** (I'm pretty sure you can't add too much of any of these), 3 **chopped garlic cloves**, a ton of **cumin**, as much **chipotle sauce** as you feel you can handle, **bay leaves** if you've got 'em, and a **bit of salt**.
- Let the whole thing simmer for half an hour or longer, and dinner's up. :)

BRAVE MLAS

(RECENT ACTIVITIES—Continued from page 1)

On May 22-24 we had an info booth at a great cross-cultural event, Africa Fest, in Victoria's "Vic West Community Centre". The food, music, dancing, and general sense of camaraderie was delightful! We brought materials in about 20 different languages including a hepatitis C pamphlet in 6 East African languages. The French, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese pamphlets were the most popular. We even got a new volunteer from Cameroon. (Photo, page 4).

On May 25, along with two nurses from the Victoria Cool Aid Society, we had the "Hep C Test-In" at the BC Legislature in Victoria. This was attended by 21 MLAs and staff members. We tested 13 MLAs (from both Liberal and NDP sides of the aisle) and 5 staff members. We had to turn 3 MLAs away because we ran out of needles, amazing. (Separate article, page 1).

On May 29 HepCBC volunteers attended a hepatitis C info and testing (and free luncheon!) event at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre with AIDS Vancouver Island and Victoria Cool Aid Society. We had an info table there and talked with lots of people about our lived experience with hepatitis C and the new medications. Many heard for the first time that hepatitis C is curable, and said they would make sure their HCV+ friends know about this.

And on the afternoon of May 31, the last day of Aboriginal Hepatitis C Awareness Month, HepCBC joined with several other organizations at the Creekside Community Recreation Centre in Vancouver to hold an awareness event. This was also part of the lead-up to World Hepatitis Day Vancouver 2015 (July 28). Though focused on First Nations, this event was attended by a cross-section of people from Vancouver.

As you can see, between the end of April and the end of May has been one REALLY BIG month for us. Maybe you've gotten some ideas about ways you could make a positive difference in your home community. If you can do it on July 28th, World Hepatitis Day, that's great, but the fact you're holding an event is more important than when you do it! Let HepCBC know if you need materials or publicity. We'll do our best to help.



Jennifer Rice, North Coast



George Heyman, Vancouver/Fairfield



Maurine Karagianis, Esquimalt/Royal Roads



Lana Popham, Saanich South



Scott Fraser, Port Alberni/Pacific Rim



Harry Bains, Surrey/Newton



Katrine Conroy, Kootenay West



Simon Gibson, Abbotsford/Mission



Jenny Kwan, Vancouver/Mt. Pleasant



Gary Holman, Saanich/North Islands

(Continued on page 5)

(HepCBC Reaches Out—Continued from page 3)
 Canada's immigrant population, particularly from Africa.



After spending many hours putting these ribbons and cards together, Echo (Song Zhe) handed them out to our Africa Fest booth visitors. She and a fellow student have also been working on Chinese posters about hepatitis C which they will post at Chinese churches and other cultural centres Chinese immigrants attend.

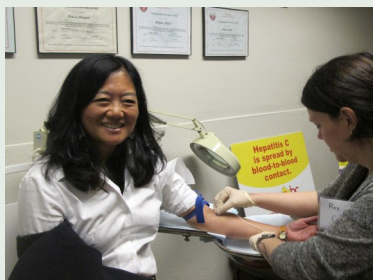
Shakuntala Soden, PhD, HepCBC's Executive Project Mgr., in our postage stamp sized office.
 Address: Room 206A, 938 Howe St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 1N9.
 For office hours, phone: 604-259-0500.
 Lower Mainland peer support line is 604-259-0501.



Continued from page 4



Ralph Sultan, West Van/Capilano



Naomi Yamamoto, North Vancouver

SVR HONOUR ROLL



Have you been undetectable for at least 12 weeks after treatment? Give others hope. Add your name! Congratulations to our friends:

1. **GJ** - SVR Dec 1998 - IFN/RBV 52 wks - Dr. Anderson/Natalie Rock, Vancouver, BC.
2. **Jeanie Villeneuve** - Oct 2000 - Schering IFN/RBV
3. **Amberose** - (GT2a/2c) - SVR 2000 - Schering IFN/RBV 24 wks
4. **KG**-Transfused 1987 (treatment naïve GT2A/2C) IFN/RBV 24 wks, 2003-2004, Toronto. SVR confirmed 2014
5. **Darlene Morrow** - (GT1 relapser) - Mar 2004 - Hyperthermia/Induction + pegIFN/RBV.
6. **Kirk Leavesley** - (GT1) - 2004 - Roche
7. **Beverly Atlas** - (GT1a) - 2005/2006 - Albuferon/RBV 44 wks
8. **Steve Farmer** - 2008 (Transplant Vancouver 2005) IFN/RBV 72 weeks.
9. **Gloria Adams†** - (GT1b relapser) - Fall 2009 IFN/RBV/telaprevir 48 wks - Drs. Erb & Yoshida, Vancouver, BC)
10. **Don Crocock** - (GT1 Stage II) - Dec. 2010 IFN/RBV - 48 weeks
11. **Daryl Luster** - (GT1a) - Feb 2011 - IFN/RBV/RO5024048 48 wks.
12. **Donna Krause** - (GT1 partial responder) SVR Nov 2011- Pegasys/Copegus, danoprevir/ritonavir/RO5024048 24 wks. Dr. Erb, Vancouver.
13. **Hermione Jefferis** - (GT 1a) – SVR 2011, PegIFN/RBV, 48 wks, Dr. Partlow, Victoria, BC
14. **Cheryl Reitz** - (GT1b previous partial responder) SVR12 Mar 2013 - asunaprevir/daclatasvir 24 wks - Dr. Ghesquiere, Victoria, BC.
15. **Anita Thompson** - (GT1a treated 3 times) Cirrhosis - Apr 2013 - Pegasys/boceprevir 48 wks. Dr. M. Silverman, Whitby, ON.
16. **Leon Anderson** - (GT2 partial responder) SVR24 May 8, 2013 - GS-7977/RBV 16 weeks - Dr. Alenezi & Dr. Conway- VIDC - Vancouver.

17. **Joan King** - (GT1b treated 5 times) SVR24 June 2013 - asunaprevir/daclatasvir 24 wks Dr. Ramji, Vancouver, BC
18. **Jackie** - GT1 relapser) - SVR24 June 2013 - IFN/RBV/boceprevir 48 wks. Dr. Keith Bovell, Guelph, ON.
19. **Sandy J.** (GT 1a treatment naïve) Oct 31, 2013 - IFN/RBV/Victrelis 28 wks. Fran Faulkner, RN, Vancouver Island. Now SVR24.
20. **Andrew P.** - (GT 1a many prev treatment attempts over 10+ years, including Incivek Jan 2014.) sofosbuvir/ledipasvir + RBV 24 wks
21. **Peter A Walker** - (GT1a, treatment-naïve) SVR Jan 2014 - PegIFN/RBV+boceprevir (Eprex - for low RBC count from RBV.)
22. **Diane Stoney** - Transfused 3/21/79 (GT 1a treatment naïve) Feb 4 2014 - 12 wks placebo, then 12 wks on ABT-450/r+ABT-267+ABT-33+RBV. Dr. Tam, Vancouver, BC
23. **Coreen Kendrick** - (GT1a treatment naïve) Mar 10, 2014 MK5172/MK8742 12 weeks Dr. Ramji, Vancouver, BC.
24. **Jack Swartz**—(Treated 3 times) Apr 2014 IFN/RBV/Victrelis, Dr. S. Wong, WHSC.
25. **Del Grimstad** July 2014, 12 weeks simeprevir/Sovaldi
26. **Linda May** (GT1b transfused, treatment-naïve) 12 wks asunaprevir/daclatasvir, Dr. Tam, LAIR Centre.
27. **Robin Tomlin** (GT1 treatment-naïve) SVR12 May 4, 2014 --Harvoni 12 weeks-- Dr. Yoshida VGH.
28. **Bob** (GT1a/HIV relapser) SVR24 Nov 2014 pegIFN/RBV/Incivek 24 wks, Dr. Montaner, Salt Spring Island, BC.
29. **Nancy Neel [NEW]** (GT1a previous relapse IFN/RBV 48 wks) SVR 24 Mar 2015 MK-5172/MK 8742 12 wks. Dr. Ramji, Richmond, BC.

Please send your name and info to Joan at info@hepcbc.ca



Bronwen Black, Cool Aid Nurses, and HepCBC Volunteers at BC Legislature

(MLAs TEST-IN—Continued from page 1)
 George Heyman, Maurine Karagianis, Lana Popham, Jennifer Rice, Harry Bains, Katrine Conroy, Gary Holman, and Jenny Kwan.

These brave MLAs said they are starting to see hepatitis C as a seniors issue, an aboriginal issue, an immigrant issue, and an equity issue for those living in rural/remote areas. The fact that hepatitis C is both preventable and curable makes testing and treatment even more urgent.

Fortunately, hepatitis C, if caught in time, can be cured, in most cases, with a new treatment recently covered by BC Pharmacare. Yet, many folks – and their doctors – avoid hepatitis C testing. These

(Continued on page 6)

CONFERENCES

9th Annual World Vaccine Congress Asia

2-4 June 2015

Singapore

www.terrapinn.com/conference/vaccine-congress-asia/

5th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Diseases (ISVHLD)

26-28 June 2015

Berlin, Germany

www.isvhld2015.org/

National African American Hepatitis C Action Day

25 July 2015

Worldwide

www.nblca.org/national-african-american-hepatitis-c-action-day-2014/

The Viral Hepatitis Congress 2015

10-12 September 2015

Frankfurt, Germany

www.viral-hep.org/

AFEF 76th Meeting 2015 (AFEF 2015)

30 Sep-3 Oct 2015

Toulouse, France

www.afef.asso.fr/congres/afef2015/index.phtml

National Hispanic Hepatitis

Awareness Day

15 October 2015

Worldwide

www.hispanichepatitisday.org/

2nd International Hepatitis Cure & Eradication Meeting

November 2015

Vancouver, Canada

www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/2nd-international-hepatitis-cure-eradication-meeting-2015/

AASLD - The Liver Meeting

13 - 17 November 2015

San Francisco CA

www.aasld.org

APASL Single Topic Conference: HCV in India Conference 2015

18-20 December 2015

New Delhi, India

<http://apaslindia.com/index.html>



TREATMENT COVERAGE THROUGH CLASS ACTION SUITS

Patient support programs for accessing treatments for hepatitis C through the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement

See PDF:

www.hemophilia.ca/files/HT%20March%202015.pdf

People who are approved claimants under the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement may be reimbursed for treatment costs and generally accepted hepatitis C (HCV) medications that are not recoverable under any public or private health care plan.

Thanks to a collaborative effort between the CHS and Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc., the Gilead Momentum HCV Support Program could provide treatment upfront to those eligible for **Sovaldi (sofosbuvir)** while the claimants wait for a reimbursement from the 1986-1990 plan. Since then, treatment options have continued to evolve quickly in Canada with, among other developments, the approval of Harvoni (ledipasvir and sofosbuvir in a single tablet) by Health Canada in October 2014. This drug is now also included under the Gilead Momentum HCV Support Program (1-855-447-7977).

With **Holkira Pak** (paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir/dasabuvir tablets +/- ribavirin) having received Health Canada's notice of compliance in December 2014, the CHS collaborated with AbbVie Canada to ensure that their new treatment could be made available to 1986-90 class action claimants via a patient support program. We are pleased to confirm that this is now the case thanks to their AbbVie Care Program (1-844-471-2273).

Janssen's **Galexos (simeprevir)** received its Health Canada notice of compliance earlier, in November 2013. The CHS has also worked with Janssen to ensure that patients prescribed Galexos can be provided with comprehensive support, including financial assistance, through Galexos' Bio-Advance Patient Support Program (1-855-512-3740).

These patient support programs are designed to provide a wide range of customized services including reimbursement assistance, education and ongoing disease management support. They will not only support health care professionals but people living with HCV throughout their treatment journey to achieve a possible cure. This assistance will cover the entire treatment regimen that your doctor will prescribe, **including drugs from one or more pharmaceutical companies**. Part of the support is to help you and your health care provider determine if you qualify for treatment and medication cost reimbursement through the Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 - July 1, 1990 Class Actions Settlement. These programs offer assistance by providing drugs upfront to the 1986-90 claimants through their specialty pharmacy. Once the 1986-90 plan issues the reimbursement cheques to the patients for their treatment, they, in turn, must reimburse the pharmacy directly. To enroll in one of these programs, speak to your doctor or nurse or call the numbers listed above for more information. You may also go to www.hemophilia.ca/en/hcv-hiv/hcv-treatment-support-for-1986-1990-claimants for more information.

(MLAs TEST-IN—Continued from page 5)

BC legislators are attempting to inspire baby boomers and others to get tested for hep C by their actions today. In the USA doctors are advised to give a one-time test to all baby boomers, who could have gotten it through a long-forgotten medical procedure, tattoo, or even one teenage party in which needles or coke straws were shared. Perhaps the time has come to institute this "age-cohort" testing policy in Canada as well.

This event was preceded by BC MP Murray Rankin, Official Opposition Health Critic getting publicly tested for hepatitis C in Victoria on April 17, 2015 (see <http://hepcbc.ca/2015/04/mp-health-critic-murray-rankin-gets-tested-for-hepatitis-c/>), and by a discussion between Minister of Health Hon. Terry Lake and MLA Scott Fraser on May 15, 2015 (see <http://hepcbc.ca/2015/05/bc-legislator-questions-health-minister-about-hepatitis-c-treatment-testing-and-education/>). With a cure now available and covered by most provincial insurance agencies, to test and treat as many Canadians as possible – preventing thousands of Canadians from disability, disease and premature death – is emerging as a non-partisan issue. Politicians see the effects of hepatitis C cutting across the entire spectrum of our society, and this event demonstrates an emerging will among British Columbia's legislators to deal with it.

ABBVIE CARE

With the approval of HOLKIRA™ PAK, AbbVie is launching AbbVie Care, which is a program that will provide best-in-class solutions to improve outcomes for people living with hepatitis C.

Canadians prescribed HOLKIRA PAK will have the opportunity to request to be enrolled in AbbVie Care. The signature care program is designed to provide a wide range of customized services including reimbursement assistance, education and ongoing disease management support. AbbVie Care will not only support health care professionals but people living with genotype 1 hepatitis C throughout their treatment journey to achieve high cure rates in the real world.

For enquiries: 1-844-471-2273.

MERCK CARE™

MerckCare™ is a program to help people who have been prescribed PEGETRON™, VICTRELIS™ or VICTRELIS TRIPLE™. The program provides:

- assistance with reimbursement and/or insurance claims.
- financial assistance for co-pay/deductible for people who qualify.
- 24/7 nursing support by phone.
- multilingual assistance.
- home delivery of medication.

MerckCare™ provides all of these services free of charge.

To enroll in MerckCare™, you can call 1-866-872-5773 or your doctor or nurse can submit an enrollment form for you. Reimbursement specialists are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

IBAVYR™

Pendopharm has established the IBAVYR™ Patient Support Program. The program will assist patients who have been prescribed IBAVYR™ (ribavirin tablets) with reimbursement navigation, financial assistance and pharmacy services. Case managers will support patients with insurance-related matters and assess eligibility for financial support. Pharmacy services include adherence support, medication delivery and counseling.

To enquire or to enroll, you may call 1-844-602-6858 Monday–Friday 7am to 11pm EST.

BIOADVANCE®

JANSSEN's GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program can assist you in many ways during your treatment. This includes compiling and submitting, on your behalf, all the forms and documents required by your insurance company to request coverage of GALEXOS™, and following up with your insurer to get you the best coverage possible. If you don't have private insurance, the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program will investigate public assistance programs that can help pay for your treatment. Whichever type of coverage you have, if your insurance does not fully cover the cost of treatment, the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® program can usually coordinate and provide financial assistance to help you get treated. Finally, the program can offer many other types of support and your doctor and members of your healthcare team will work with the GALEXOS™: BioAdvance® Program to develop a customized approach to best support you throughout the course of your treatment. Contact: 1-855-512-3740

MOMENTUM™ SUPPORT

To learn more about SOVALDI™ or the Momentum Program™ in Canada, the patient should speak to his/her doctor or nurse or call the Gilead Sciences Canada medical information line at 1-866-207-4267. Eligible patients may receive an integrated offering of support services for patients and healthcare providers throughout the entire treatment journey, including:

- Access to dedicated case managers/reimbursement navigators to help patients and their providers with insurance-related needs, including identifying alternative coverage options through private, federal and provincially-insured programs.
- The SOVALDI™ Co-pay assistance program, which will provide financial assistance for eligible patients who need help paying for out-of-pocket medication costs.
- Medication delivery services.
- Compliance and adherence programs.

PEGASSIST

The PegAssist Reimbursement Assistance Program provides reimbursement coordination assistance for patients who have been prescribed Pegasys or Pegasys RBV. The program will assist in securing funding for patients to ensure that they can start, stay on, and complete their treatment successfully. PegAssist Reimbursement Specialists are available (Monday to Friday, 10 AM - 6 PM EST) by calling: 1-877-PEGASYS or 1-877-734-2797. Patients can also obtain a program enrollment form from their nurse/physician to gain access to the program.

The program provides financial aid to qualified patients, alleviating financial barriers which may prevent patients from starting treatment, i.e., deductibles and/or co-payments. In partnership with CALEA Pharmacy, the program can conveniently deliver the medication directly to patients' homes or to the clinics.

COMPENSATION

Class Action Suit Hotline: 1-800-229-5323 ext. 8296
Health Canada Compensation Line: 1-888-780-1111
Red Cross Compensation pre-86/post-90 Registration: 1-888-840-5764 HepatitisC@kpmg.ca
Ontario Compensation: 1-877-222-4977
Quebec Compensation: 1-888-840-5764

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR 1986-1990

Claimants may be reimbursed for costs of treatments and accepted hepatitis C medications not covered by public or private healthcare plan while they wait for reimbursement from the 1986-1990 plan.

Administrator 1-877- 434-0944
www.hepc8690.com
info@hepc8690.com

Pre-86/Post-90

Administrator 1-866-334-3361
preposthepc@crowco.ca
www.pre86post90settlement.ca

Settlement Agreement:

www.pre86post90settlement.ca/PDFs/SA/

NEUPOGEN

Amgen has a program for patients who have been prescribed Neupogen. Dependent on specific criteria, some patients may be able to obtain Neupogen on a compassionate basis free of charge **as long as it is prescribed and dosed in accordance with the approved product monograph.** This service is accessed through the Victory Program: 1-888-706-4717.

INCIVEK CARE

Vertex's Incivek Care Patient Assistance Program supports patients with the reimbursement process for Incivek (telaprevir) treatment (Incivek, pegIFN, ribavirin). It will give you an efficient assessment of your options and eligibility. You may qualify to receive co-payment and other financial assistance to supplement your private and provincial drug program coverage. The program also provides dispensing and home delivery options, and expert treatment advice. Call the Support Line at 1-877-574-4298. (Select option 2 for English, then 2 for Incivek Care.)

**HELP ERADICATE
HCV
THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD!!**

SUPPORT BC/YUKON

Armstrong HepCURE Phone support 1-888-437-2873

AIDS Vancouver Island The following groups provide info, harm reduction, support, education and more:

• **Campbell River:** Drop in, harm reduction, needle exchange, advocacy. 1371 C - Cedar St.

Contact leanne.wingert@avi.org 250-830-0787

• **Comox Valley** Harm reduction, counseling, advocacy. 355 6th St., Courtenay. Contact Sarah

sarah.sullivan@avi.org 250-338-7400

• **Nanaimo AVI Health Centre.** Counseling, advocacy. **NEW: 102-55** Victoria Rd Contact Anita for details. 250-753-2437

anital.rosewall@avi.org

• **Port Hardy** (Port McNeil, Alert Bay, Port Hardy, Sayward, Sointula and Woss) Drop-in kitchen. 7070 Shorncliffe Rd. Contact Shane, 250-949-0432 shane.thomas@avi.org

• **Victoria** Access Health Centre, drop in, disability applications, peer training. Support group Tues 12:30 PM, 713 Johnson St., 3rd floor, 250-384-2366 Hemi-one.jeffers@avi.org

ANKORS Hepatitis C Project

Hep C Info, support for prevention, testing, treatment and living well with Hep C.

• **Boundary, Nelson, West Kootenay** Women's gathering monthly. 101 Baker St. Nelson. Contact Laura 1-800-421-2437 250-505-5506 ankorshepc@ankors.bc.ca

• **East Kootenay** 209 16th Ave N, Cranbrook, Contact Michelle 250-426-3383 1-800-421-2437 ankorshcv@gmail.com

Castlegar Contact Robin 250-365-6137 eor@shaw.ca

Chilliwack PCRS Hep C Prevention, harm reduction. 45904 Victoria Avenue, Chilliwack. Contact Kim Lloyd 604-798-1416. lbirdsall@pcrs.ca www.pcrs.ca

Comox Valley Positive Wellness North Island Treatment/Pre & Post-treatment Support Group 2nd & 4th Wed., 615-10th St, Courtenay. Lunch. Contact Cheryl 250-331-8524. Cheryl.taylor@viha.ca

CoolAid Community Health Centre, Victoria. Meetings each Wed 10 AM and Thu 1:30 PM. 713 Johnson St. Support for all stages of treatment (deciding, during, after). Contact Roz rmilne@coolaid.org for treatment or group info.

Courtenay HCV Peer Support and Education. Contact Del 250-703-0231 dggimstad@shaw.ca

Cowichan Valley HCV Support Contact Leah 250-748-3432 r-lattig@shaw.ca

Haida Gwaii support. Contact Wendy wendy@wendyswellness.ca www.wendyswellness.ca

HepCBC info@hepcbc.ca, www.hepcbc.ca Call for office hours.

• **Victoria Peer Support:** 4th Tues. monthly 7-8:30 PM, Victoria Health Unit, 1947 Cook St. Contact 250-595-3892 Phone support 9AM-10 PM.

• **Fraser Valley** Support/Info: 604-576-2022

Kamloops ASK Wellness Centre. Chronic illness health navigation/support.

info@askwellness.ca 250-376-7558 1-800-661-7541 ext 232 or Merritt health housing & counseling 250-315-0098

www.askwellness.ca

Kamloops Hep C support group, 2nd and 4th Wed monthly, 10-1 PM, Interior Indian Friendship Society, 125 Palm St. Kamloops. Contact Cheri 250-376-1296 Fax 250-376-2275

Kelowna Hepkop: Phone support, meeting info.

Contact Lisa 1-866-637-5144 ljmortell@shaw.ca

Nanaimo - Central Island Hepatitis Service: Nurses & doctors available for info, support, treatment. Clinic located in Nanaimo. Doctor or self-referral. Contact 1-855-740-2607, sarah.hughes@viha.ca or shelby.munk@viha.ca

New Westminster Stride with Purpose "HepC" Support Group 1st & 3rd Fri monthly 10:30-11:30. BBP Nursing Team, refreshments/lunch. Contact: Stride Workers 604-526-2522, mail@purposesociety.org

Positive Wellness North Island-North Island Liver Service Info, support, treatment/pre-treatment groups. Doctor or self-referral. 1-877-215-7005 250-850-2605.

• **Courtenay:** 2nd Fri monthly 1PM, Drop-in, Comox Valley Nursing Centre (nurse)

• **Campbell River:** Treatment/pre&post-treatment support group 1st & 3rd Thu monthly 10-12 noon, Discovery Room, Sunshine Wellness Centre, Campbell River Hospital. Jody Crombie at 850-2620, jody.crombie@viha.ca

Penticton & District Community Resources Society, Harm Reduction Program, Meetings every 2nd Tues, 12:30-1:30 PM. 330 Ellis Street. Contact Melanie: 250-488-1376 or 250-492-5814

Positive Haven Info, harm reduction, support, drop in, clinic. 10697 135A St. Surrey. Contact Monika 604-589-9004.

Positive Living Fraser Valley (Abbotsford) Hep C support, Drop-in centre #108-32883 S. Fraser Way, M-F 10:30 AM-4:30PM. Info, support worker, rides to appointments in surrounding areas. Contact 604-854-1101 or plfvcentre@plfv.org

Powell River Hepatology Service Powell River Community Health, 3rd Floor-5000 Joyce Ave. Contact Melinda 604-485-3310 Melinda.herceg@vch.ca

Prince George Hep C Support Contact Ilse ilse.kuepper@northernhealth.ca

Sunshine Coast-Sechelt Healthy Livers Support Group Information/resources Contact Catriona 604-886-5613 catriona.hardwick@vch.ca or Brent 604-740-9042 brent.fitzsimmons@vch.ca

VANDU The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users. 380 E Hastings St. M-F 10-4 Contact 604-683-6061

vandu@vandu.org www.vandu.org

Vancouver HCV Support Contact Beverly 604-435-3717 batlas@telus.net

Vancouver Hepatitis C Support Group Contact 604-454-1347 or 778-898-7211, or call 604-454-1347 (Terry), to talk or meet for coffee.

Vernon telephone buddy, M-F 10-6 Contact Peter pvanbo@gmail.com Tel. 250-309-1358.

YouthCO HIV and Hep C Society of BC. Call for appts or drop in M-F 10-6. 205-568 Seymour St,

Vancouver 604-688-1441, 1-855-YOUTHCO Stewart info@youthco.org, www.youthco.org

Whitehorse, Yukon—Blood Ties Four Directions Contact 867-633-2437 1-877-333-2437 admin@bloodties.ca



OTHER PROVINCES

ONTARIO:

Barrie Hepatitis Support Contact Jeanie for info/ appointment

jeanievilleneuve@hotmail.com

Hamilton Hepatitis C Support Group 1st Thurs. monthly, 6-7 PM, Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre, 71 Rebecca St, Hamilton. Contact Maciej Kowalski, Health Promoter 905-522-3233 mkowalski@hucchc.com

Hep C Team, AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area. Education, outreach, treatment, individual & group support, harm reduction, needle exchange. 269 Main St. W, Suite 201, North Bay. Contact 705-497-3560, 1-800-387-3701 or hepccommcoord@gmail.com, www.aidsnorthbay.com

Hepatitis C Network of Windsor & Essex County Last Thurs. monthly, 7 PM, Teen Health Centre-Street Health Program Office, 711 Pelissier St., Suite 4, Windsor. Contact Andrea Monkman 519-967-0490 or hepcnetwork@gmail.com, <http://hepcnetwork.net>

Kingston Hep C Info HIV/AIDS Regional Service. Contact 613-545-3698, 1-800-565-2209 hars@kingston.net www.hars.ca

London Hepatitis Hep C Support 186 King St, London. For those infected as well as affected by Hep C. Contact: 519-434-1601, 1-866-920-1601 www.hivaidconnection.com

Niagara Health System - Hepatitis C Care Clinic (HCCC) Clinics:

New Port Centre-Port Colborne, 4 Adams Street - St Catharines, Niagara Falls Hospital. Education, counseling, individual/group support, treatment, outreach, and harm reduction. Contact 905-378-4647 ext 32554 and HCCC@niagarahealth.on.ca www.niagarahealth.on.ca/services/hepatitis-c-care

Oshawa Community Health Centre Hepatitis C Team Drop-in, lunch provided each Thurs. 12-1 PM, 79 McMillan St. www.ochc.ca Contact 1-855-808-6242

Owen Sound Info, support. Contact Debby Minielly dminielly@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca 1-800-263-3456 Ext. 1257, 519-376-9420 Ext. 1257, www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Peel Region (Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon) 905-799-7700

healthlinepeel@peelregion.ca

St. Catharines Contact Joe 905-682-6194

Toronto CLF 1st Mon. monthly Oct.—June, 7:30 PM, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street. Contact Billie 416-491-3353, ext. 4932.

bpotkonjak@liver.ca www.liver.ca

Thunder Bay Hep C support. Contact Sarah Tycholiz 807-345-1516 (or for 807 area only 1-800-488-5840)

Unified Networkers of Drug Users Nationally undun@sympatico.ca

York Region Hepatitis C Education Group 3rd Wed. monthly, 7:30 PM, York Region Health Services, 4261 Hwy 7 East, B6-9, Unionville. Contact 905-940-1333, 1-800-361-5653 info@hepcyorkregion.org www.hepcyorkregion.org

QUEBEC:

Quebec City Region

Contact Renée Daurio

418-836-2307

reneedaurio@hotmail.com

CAPAHC support group meetings 3rd Thurs. monthly 6-8PM, 5055 Rivard St., (Montreal) Contact 514-521-0444 or 1-866-522-0444

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Hepatitis Outreach Society of NS. Info and support line for the entire province. Call 1-800-521-0572, 902-420-1767

Online Peer Support: info@hepns.ca www.hepns.ca

PRAIRIE PROVINCES:

Manitoba Hepatitis C phone and email support and outreach. Contact Kirk at info@mbhepc.org. Direct line: 1-204-231-1437

Manitoba CLF each Thu 1:30-3. 375 York Avenue, Suite 210, Winnipeg, Contact Bianca 204-831-6231 bpengelly@liver.ca

Medicine Hat, AB Hep C Support Group 1st & 3rd Wed. monthly, 6:30 PM, HIV/AIDS Network of S.E. AB Assoc, 550 Allowance Ave. Contact 403-527-7099 bettyc2@hivnetwork.ca

To list Canadian groups here, please send details to info@hepcbc.ca by the 15th of the month. It's free!