

**Annual General Meeting via ZOOM webinar (or phone connection)
Date and Time” Wednesday, Aug. 26th (noon – 2 pm) PST
Logistical problems? Contact info@hepcbc.ca OR 250-882-6024.**

NOTE: This is an optional live meeting in addition to the ELECTION BUDDY online election running from Aug. 12th (11:45 pm PST) through Aug. 25th (11:45 pm PST)

AGENDA

- Confirm Quorum of at least 6 participants total (*add number of ELECTION BUDDY voters to any voting members in the ZOOM meeting who did not participate in Election Buddy; quorum is 5% of total number of Voting Members [114]*).
- **Chair and Recording Secretary** Appointed
- Approve **2020 AGM Agenda**
- Approve Dec. 15, 2019 AGM **Minutes** (pg. 2)
- Explanation of Fiscal 2019-2020 **Financial Report** by Accountant, Brian Ritchie
- Approve 2019-2020 **Financial Report** (pgs. 3-7)
- Present and Approve 2019-2020 **Combined President’s and Activities Report** by President, Douglas Laird (pgs. 8-9)
- Present and Approve 2020-2021 **Looking Forward Statement** by HepCBC Board Nominee and PHCN President, Daryl Luster and PHCN ED Deb Schmitz (pgs. 10-11)
- Discuss **Memorandum of Understanding** with current Board and Nominees.
- Vote on Resolution to Accept **Memorandum of Understanding** (pg. 12-14)
- **Set # of Directors** to 5 people for coming year
- **Election of Directors** (non-secret oral ballots taken from anyone who did not participate in Election Buddy). Add each person’s votes from Election Buddy to these oral votes. Everyone who gets more than 50% YES votes will become a Director. (**Slate of Nominees**, information, pgs. 15-16)
- **Discussion** among Participants. Looking backwards and taking ideas for future direction.
- Adjournment
- New Board continues **post-meeting after adjournment** to determine Officers for 2020-2021 year, select date of first Board Meeting, and name its Convenor.

Current 2019-2020 HepCBC BOARD of DIRECTORS:

- Douglas Laird, President (Victoria)
- Susan Malloch, RN, Vice President (Mill Bay)
- Anuradha Dhavan, Secretary (Vancouver and Punjab, India)
- Cheryl Reitz, Treasurer (Delta)
- Sofia Rose Bartlett, PhD, Director at Large (Vancouver)
- Ronald Larsen, Director at Large (Victoria and Vancouver)

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DEC, 15, 2019
HEPCBC HEPATITIS C EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SOCIETY
Meeting via CHIME Webinar software

PRESENT (14 out of 109 voting members):

■ **Voting members present for CHIME meeting (6)**

Susan M., Rosemary P., Cheryl R., Anuradha D., Douglas L. and Ronald L.

■ **Members not present for CHIME meeting who voted via Election Buddy online system (8)**

Leon A., Sofia B., Craig D., Sandeep D., Alan H., CD M., Shakuntala S., Robin T.

12:00 Noon CHIME Meeting called to order by President, Susan Malloch

1. **QUORUM** confirmed (add Election Buddy participants to any voting members in this meeting who did not participate in Election Buddy; quorum is greater number of either 5 or 5% of total number of Voting Members [5% of 109] = 5.5). We needed 6 and actually had 14 present.
2. **AGENDA (2019)** – Douglas moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Ron, motion carried.
3. **MINUTES OF 2018 AGM** – Rosemary moved to approve the minutes, 2nd by Anuradha, motion carried
4. **2018-2019 Combined PRESIDENT'S and ACTIVITIES Report** – Douglas moved to accept as presented by Susan, 2nd by Cheryl, motion carried.
5. **2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT** Susan moved to approve the financial report as presented by Cheryl, 2nd by Anuradha, motion carried.
6. **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**
 - Number of directors for the year: six (6) moved by Susan, 2nd by Cheryl, motion carried.
 - Slate of nominees for board membership: Susan Malloch, Cheryl Reitz, Anuradha Dhavan, Sofia Bartlett, Douglas Laird, and Ronald Larsen.
 - Results: Out of 14 votes possible, all nominees received 11 or more votes so a majority was attained by all. Thus the proposed slate will form the new Board.
7. **ADJOURNMENT**
 - 12:30 pm Rosemary moved to adjourn, second by Ron, passed.

New officers were chosen right after the meeting:

President, Douglas Laird

Vice President, Susan Malloch

Secretary, Anuradha Dhavan

Treasurer, Cheryl Reitz

Directors-at-Large for now: Sofia Bartlett and Ronald Larsen

Douglas has agreed to remain as the Action Hepatitis Canada representative for now.

All Directors mutually pledged to help Douglas and Anu in particular through the coming year.

Minutes taken and submitted by Anuradha Dhavan and Cheryl Reitz



HepCBC Hepatitis C Education & Prevention Society

www.hepcbc.ca info@hepcbc.ca +1 (250) 595-3892 or +1 (844) 268-2118

Date : July 28, 2020 **WORLD HEPATITIS DAY!**

Subject : HepCBC's Annual Activities and President's Report for 2019-2020

Dear HepCBC Members and Friends,

As the President of HepCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 2020 Annual General Meeting and report on our activities of this past year.

HepCBC is a registered Canadian charity, founded and operated primarily by volunteers, family members and health professionals with lives affected by viral hepatitis. We have been offering "grass-roots" hepatitis C education, support, prevention, and advocacy programs since the late 1990s throughout British Columbia, and added hepatitis B to our official mandate two years ago. Our outreach extends in particular to people who have untreated viral hepatitis - many of whom do not know it. Our end goal is the elimination of Viral Hepatitis in the world by 2030, starting in BC.

This past year continued last year's pattern of major challenges for our small but active organization. At least three of our key volunteers continue to struggle with liver cancer (update: Dr. CD Mazoff lost this battle Aug. 9th, 2020) while several others continue to face various long-term effects of hepatitis C, even following treatment. We have continued working from our "kitchen tables" on a 100% volunteer basis. This year, assuming your approval today of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**, HepCBC will be joining forces with our sister organization, Pacific Hepatitis C Network. If we can do this, we have far greater hope for our future success in combating viral hepatitis.

Though this has been a difficult year - with COVID and the continuing opioid/overdose crises plus funding lapses - HepCBC volunteers have continued to run our essential viral hepatitis education, patient support and advocacy programming among BC communities at risk for hepatitis B or hepatitis C: seniors, prisoners, residents of indigenous and rural or remote communities, members of immigrant and newcomer communities, men-who-have-sex-with-men, and those in marginalized communities including homeless, prison-experienced, mentally ill, sex-workers, and those suffering from addictions. We have continued anti-stigma, risk-factor, and prevention education to the broader population as well.

Our primary way of operating now is to work with whomever we can, to do whatever we can to **help provide a more unified and efficient response to eliminating viral hepatitis in BC and Canada:**

- As part of our outreach to immigrant and newcomer populations, this year we have greatly expanded our webpage with links to materials about viral hepatitis in many different languages (see www.hepcbc.ca/languages-translations/),
- We've continued our twice-yearly "Community Resource Expo (CRE)" weeks in all of BC's federal prisons. In particular this year, our prison-targeted Viral Hepatitis Colouring Book, the monthly prison and half-way house Colouring Contest, and the posters we have created from contest entries have been popular! Since Positive Living BC is no longer doing prison visitations, we have been bringing HIV information to prisons as well. Our toll-free help line is now officially listed as free on

the list posted at all the federal prisons. Our June, 2020 CRE was cancelled due to COVID, of course. You can see our Prison Outreach Committee members at www.hepcbc.ca/prisons/.

- With sponsorship by AbbVie Pharmaceuticals, we published several hundred more Colouring Books as well as hundreds more of two other pamphlets.
- When requested by LGBTQ inmates, Sofia and Cheryl organized a joyous, informative "AntiViral UnBirthday Party" at BC's only federal women's prison on Feb. 24th. Participation included an indigenous peer/elder and an academic researcher, both from the CGSHE/SHAWNA Project.
- After we sent samples of Colouring Books and pamphlets to nursing staff at provincial prisons (noting possible upcoming changes to the posted contact info.), we began receiving orders for more of these items. We recently found out HepCBC's toll-free viral hepatitis peer-support number is now posted in all the provincial prisons as well. So far we have not received many calls, however.
- In an April 28th PASAN online national seminar, when asked about using our Colouring Books, we told participants that these are available for any group in Canada to use at no charge, and that we are willing/able to contribute design work, replacing our contact info., logos, etc. with theirs. We met again online July 15th and hope to continue cooperating even during COVID with PASAN at federal level plus with local prisoner allies such as West Coast Prison Justice Soc., John Howard Soc., Elizabeth Fry Soc., treatment facilities, Friendship Centres, and various halfway houses.
- HepCBC met individually with Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) officials in Vancouver Dec. 9, 2019 and submitted patient group feedback on Feb. 14, viewable on their [website HERE](#). Our submission was complimented by PMPRB as an 'independent' patient voice.
- Both Sofia (talking about findings from BCCDC's cohort study) and Cheryl (demonstrating hepatitis BINGO) spoke at Pacific AIDS Network's Mar.3rd -4th Aboriginal Educators' Forum in Vancouver.
- President Douglas Laird, and Volunteers Sofia Bartlett, Cheryl Reitz, Leon Anderson, Ron Larsen, and Rosemary Plummer manned info tables at various events such as Intl OD Action Day in Victoria' Aug. 31 (2019), the annual DTES Alley Health Fair Sept. 24th, the LIVER FORUM Oct. 4/5th, World AIDS Day at Carnegie Centre Nov. 28th, a luncheon at the Aboriginal Mother Centre on Nov. 7th, and with VIDC and PHCN together on World Hepatitis Day, today!
- Volunteer Leon Anderson has been working closely with Coast Mental Health Clubhouse to bring HCV peer navigation and advocacy to its Vancouver members.
- President Douglas Laird has been working closely with AVI, SICORN, and VIHA to bring HCV peer navigation and advocacy to marginalized communities on Vancouver Island. He also presented a poster at the Canadian Symposium on Hepatitis C on May 25th that suggests hep C may be a significant piece of the current overdose epidemic.
- Ron Larsen and Cheryl Reitz shared their experiences with participants at an HIV/HCV testing event Jan. 21st at SFU hosted by "Out on Campus" group with VIDC and SUCCESS staff.
- On June 8th we were one of 10 BC disease-oriented organizations participating in the online Bilateral meeting with BC PharmaCare. We advocated for more streamlined HCV test protocols.
- Sofia and Cheryl helped PAN and BCCDC organize a WHD 2020 webinar on July 16th about special considerations for patients and medical personnel regarding "Women and Hepatitis C". Cheryl joined PHCN speakers Emma and Jessica, and others. PAN hosts this [webinar HERE](#).
- We continue to serve on the Action Hepatitis Canada Steering Committee (continually since its founding). Sophia Bartlett has represented HepCBC at AHC meetings over the last year.
- In the next few weeks, we will be updating our website, in preparation for its content being curated and made available within a new website.

This brings us to the exciting new chapter of HepCBC which is now being planned as the current Board either retires or steps back into a volunteer and/or advisory role. We've had a "Help Wanted!" sign up for a couple years now, but no one has answered this call until recently when Pacific Hepatitis C Network and HepCBC started talks about how to work together in a good way. We will be presenting the results of this discussion for your consideration today.

Warmly,

Douglas Laird, President of HepCBC

Like our Facebook page ([HepCBCFace](#)); follow us on Twitter ([@hepcbc](#)) and YouTube channel [hepcbc!](#)

2020 – 2021 Looking Forward

Here we are, at a place many groups arrive. It's momentous. I believe all of us – members and staff of HepCBC and PHCN – share the conviction that we can reach the 2030 goal of eliminating viral hepatitis. We have so much of what is needed to do so here in BC and within the hep C and wider hepatitis community.

Long before almost anyone (including those in health care professions) was talking about hep C, a small group of dedicated, determined people living with hep C was. For over twenty years, HepCBC (and iterations prior) has brought and kept hep C (and later hep B) information, news, education and support to so many individuals. Others living with the virus but also health care providers sought and found answers and connection in the Hep C Bull and Peppermint Patti's FAQs. This was at a time when readily available and reliable information about hep C barely existed anywhere else – certainly not in Canada – and no one was talking about it.

With those accomplishments, HepCBC members have two choices before you by current long-serving board, at this 2020 AGM. Regardless the direction you chose, you absolutely should – and I hope you do - look back on these two decades plus of service and contribution to the lives of people living with and affected by hep C with immense satisfaction and pride. We know that the future of hepatitis work in BC is something you all hold with great hope for the very best outcomes.

A word about one of those potential directions, as is presented to you in the MOU and reflected in the board slate, and that is that in entering into the discussion with the HepCBC board of directors and volunteers, which culminated in the proposed MOU before you, PHCN has two aims:

- Continue to strengthen and mobilise the community-based response to hep B and hep C in British Columbia, including Federal Prison programming, along with broader education and support
- Preserve the role and history of HepCBC

We want to clarify, too, that any possible changes to HepCBC purposes and bylaws, or name, have to be approved by members. Any changes to purposes or bylaws would be towards the best language describing what we do, keyed to current legal requirements. A name change would reflect the hep B and hep C mandate and likely with 'network' included. We are not planning substantive changes and again, any bylaw, constitution or name change/s we feel are necessary go to the membership for vote.

As outlined in the MOU, changes and updates on the transition process overall would be communicated to members via email through the 2020-2021 year (AGM – AGM). Any member can be in touch during that year with questions and feedback. Opportunities to participate in working groups and advisories would be communicated to members as well (and there may be a survey or two).

We'd like to say also that PHCN's board membership has always been at least 80% people with lived experience. This has been without an explicit policy but a policy to that effect will be retained in the transition process. Policy or not, to discard the principle and practice of lived experience centrality to this work would be fundamentally wrong but beyond that, would damage and jeopardize our funding and key

stakeholder relationships. Likewise, employing only people without lived experience in paid positions would undermine our legitimacy and validity, again on all fronts. PHCN is fundamentally driven by the voice and efforts of people with lived experience; that is the culture (as it is with HepCBC). Policy and procedure reflects that and a contrary policy couldn't change that.

Will there be changes? Undoubtedly. Will those changes take us off-course from our vision of a BC free from new hepatitis infections with the best possible care and support for those living with hep B and/or hep C? It would make no sense to do so.

To be clear, whatever changes come about, in the coming year and beyond, will strengthen and more fully enable our progress and our ability to provide support and connection.

And, of course, if the HepCBC membership votes to dissolve HepCBC, PHCN will continue the community-based work towards the elimination of viral hepatitis and in our program areas of Peer Support and Navigation, Peer Mentoring and Training, Screening and Linking to Care, Advocacy and all of the activities that support and further our aims.

Sincerely,



Deb

Deb Schmitz, PHCN Executive Director



Daryl

Daryl Luster, PHCN Board President

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE TERM September 1 2020 - August 31 2021

Pacific Hepatitis C Network (“PHCN”)
And
HepCBC Hepatitis Education and Prevention Society (“HepCBC”)

Background

For twenty years, two provincial hepatitis C organizations have served BC. Now, both PHCN and HepCBC agree that a single hepatitis-focussed organization will best serve the community and our stakeholders.

Since 2000, Pacific Hepatitis C Network has established programs and projects that support and educate British Columbians living with or otherwise concerned about hepatitis C. PHCN has both the relationships with funders (public and private sector) and the administrative, management and governance structures to sustain its work. Since 1996, HepCBC has maintained a regional presence with a small, dedicated volunteer base providing viral hepatitis advocacy, information and support to a variety of affected populations. As this all (or mostly) volunteer model is no longer sustainable, individuals at HepCBC are now ready to retire or wrap-up their involvement and, therefore, cease activity of HepCBC.

HepCBC is a registered charity in Canada and, as such, cannot gift its assets to a non-charitable organization. PHCN at this point is a registered non-profit society in British Columbia but does not have charitable status.

Each organization wishes to preserve the charitable status currently attached to HepCBC, alongside PHCN’s programming and stakeholder relationships.

THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set out below, the parties agree as follows

HepCBC Board of Directors

- At HepCBC’s August 2020 AGM, PHCN’s board of directors will be elected to the HepCBC board, completely replacing the current board. If PHCN’s board of directors is not elected to the

HepCBC board by HepCBC members at the August 2020 AGM, no further action is required of PHCN, including PHCN Board of Directors.

The remaining content of this MOU assumes approval of this MOU by HepCBC membership at the August 2020 AGM

August 26 2020 – August 25 2021

PHCN Executive Director oversees transition of PHCN to HepCBC, including:

- HepCBC's accounts payable as itemized (Board Insurance, bookkeeping and accounting) will be paid by PHCN
- Executive Director ensures that PHCN and HepCBC contractual obligations, including reporting requirements, are met fully and on time
- HepCBC's Federal Prison program is retained and strengthened
- Hepatitis B remains part of the purposes
- Two PWLE policies are retained as-is or strengthened: #7g (hiring committee has minimum 50% people with living experience) and #7h (if all other qualifications are equal, preference in hiring is given to those with living experience).
- Existing HepCBC website content will be curated and included on new website in development from July – December 2020 (possibly extended to March 31 2021)
- In 2021, a single, provincial-scope hepatitis organization serving British Columbians in place

HepCBC Board of Directors (post-August 2020 AGM)

- Support and assist Executive Director in transition period
- Lead any required revisions to purposes and bylaws, and organization name change
- Adopt existing PHCN governance policy and procedure
- Strike required board committees, e.g.
 - Board recruitment
 - Policy development
 - Finance
- Strategic Planning and board development undertaken in the transition year
- Revise membership policy and procedure; implement new membership policy

HepCBC Volunteers

- Orient ED to existing contractual and operational obligations
- Introduce (via email) ED to funder and other key contacts to inform of change in staff

PHCN Board of Directors

- Ascertain readiness for and timing of, and then, ensure proper dissolution of PHCN by August 2021

Expectations and Outcomes

The PHCN and the HepCBC board of directors, and the Executive Director, will follow the terms of this MOU and report to members on progress and completion of responsibilities at the subsequent AGMs of each

- HepCBC's accounts payable as itemized (Board Insurance, bookkeeping and accounting) will be paid by PHCN
- Executive Director ensures that PHCN and HepCBC contractual obligations, including reporting requirements, are met fully and on time
- HepCBC's Federal Prison program is retained and strengthened
- Hepatitis B remains part of the purposes
- Two PWLE policies are retained as-is or strengthened: #7g (hiring committee has minimum 50% people with living experience) and #7h (if all other qualifications are equal, preference in hiring is given to those with living experience).
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HEPCBC Hepatitis C Education & Prevention Society

Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

March 31, 2020

NOTICE TO READER

We have prepared the statement of financial position and statement of operations for the HEPCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, based upon information provided to us by the management and directors of the Society. We have not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information.

Readers are cautioned that these financial statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Top Shelf Bookkeeping Ltd.

Victoria, British Columbia

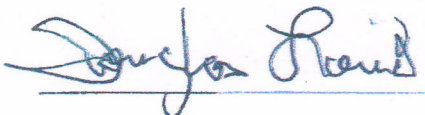
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian K. Ritchie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "R".

Brian K. Ritchie
July 21, 2020

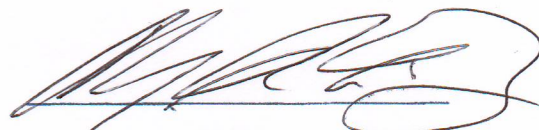
HEPCBC - Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society
Statement of Financial Position
(Unaudited)
March 31, 2020

	<u>31-Mar-20</u>	<u>31-Mar-19</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Deposits	\$ 27,996	\$ 17,860
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ 750</u>	<u>\$ 620</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 28,746	\$ 18,480
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment - Cost	\$ -	\$ 1,708
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (1,657)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 51</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 28,746</u>	<u>\$ 18,531</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,614	\$ 2,700
Deferred Revenue	<u>\$ 27,900</u>	<u>\$ 18,043</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 29,514</u>	<u>\$ 20,743</u>
Unrestricted Funds (Deficit)	<u>\$ (768)</u>	<u>\$ (2,212)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS EQUITY	<u>\$ 28,746</u>	<u>\$ 18,531</u>

On Behalf of the Board of Directors



Director



Director

HEPCBC - Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society
Statement of Operations
(Unaudited)
March 31, 2020

Revenue	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Province of BC Gaming Funds	\$ 11,742	\$ 21,557
Corporate Donations and Grants	\$ 4,420	\$ 5,500
Donations from Other Charities	\$ 162	\$ 40
Individual Donations and Gifts	\$ 74	\$ 7,186
Interest & Other	<u>\$ 18</u>	<u>\$ 8</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 16,416</u>	<u>\$ 34,291</u>
Expenses		
Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 93
Dues and Fees	\$ 217	\$ 880
Insurance	\$ 550	\$ 993
Meetings	\$ 285	\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,232
Office Supplies	\$ 926	\$ 387
Wages, Professional & Contract Fees	\$ 7,713	\$ 27,948
Program Materials	\$ 752	\$ 862
Rent	\$ -	\$ 5,676
Telecommunications	\$ 1,458	\$ 2,489
Travel	\$ 1,940	\$ 422
Volunteer & Staff Development	\$ -	\$ 100
Disposal of Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 51</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 14,972</u>	<u>\$ 41,082</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 1,444</u>	<u>\$ (6,791)</u>

The attached notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

HEPCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited – See Notice to Reader)

March 31, 2020

INCORPORATION AND MISSION

The Society is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia. Its mission is to provide education, prevention and support to those living with or affected by hepatitis C. The Society is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act effective December 5, 2001.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Society uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions and deferred revenue are recognized as revenues in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Membership fees are recognized as revenue in the year in which they are received.

The Society receives its operating funds from fund-raising, government grants and from individual and corporate donations. Although there is no absolute certainty of the continuation of this funding, the Board of Directors believes the Society can continue to meet its cash flow requirements for the 2021 fiscal year.

The unrestricted operating fund accounts for the Society's surplus from fundraising, bequests, grants and program operations.

Obsolete computer equipment has been removed from the financial statements.

The previous year figures have been adjusted to recognize the deferred portion of Gaming Funds received during the year.

GAMING FUNDS

The Society receives Gaming Funds from the Province of British Columbia which are restricted and for which revenue is recognized in the year in which related expenses are incurred.

These notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

HepCBC Board Slate – 2020 AGM

August 26 2020



Emma Currie My name is Emma Currie and I am a current Hepatitis C and HIV Health Navigator and Health Educator in beautiful Kamloops, BC and also a survivor of the hepatitis C virus (along with many, many other hats!) Although I have not been my current role long, my passion for advocacy has been lifelong, especially in the field of addiction, harm reduction, domestic violence, immigrant rights and neurodivergent brain disorders. I feel most at peace when I know I am helping others, and my current position at the AIDS Society of Kamloops has allowed me to discover my advocacy potential and maximize it with the numerous opportunities I have been given. I am honored and grateful to be given the opportunity to sit on the board of an organization that has helped myself and so many others in their times of need, but I am even more grateful for the chance to be a part of building a better world for those with hepatitis C!



Alicia Kobeck My name is Alicia Koback, I live in Langley BC. I have worked in Healthcare for 30 years, and after diagnosis and successful treatment for Hepatitis C, I found great fulfillment when volunteering with PHCN or working with the Hepatitis C Leadership Committee. I am excited to be a part of this Board, that works together to enable the vision for no new viral hepatitis infections and the best possible care, treatment and support for people in BC living with hepatitis B or C. It is now my vision as well.

Jessica Lamb

My name is Jessica Lamb, and I am a person with lived experience. I focus my professional activities as a harm reduction advocate and peer navigator. I was introduced to harm reduction while living with a substance use disorder, entrenched in the cycles of homelessness, IV drug use, and survival sex work.

I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 2017 and a year later had completed treatment and cured the infection. By implementing a personalized community-based approach combining resources including plant medicine, peer-based support groups, counselling and western medicine I have been able to heal my soul from the effects of living with an untreated substance use disorder.

Today I live in self-love and believe in meeting people where they are at. I support people with substance use disorder, infectious diseases, homelessness and mental health diagnoses using the

principals of harm reduction. I started an Instagram page in December 2019 (@harm.reduction.saves.lives), as a space to share information about substance use, harm reduction, safe supply, sex work, infectious diseases, community events, and anything relating to the life of people who use drugs. My mission is simple — empower people who use drugs. We are people and our lives matter. I see being on the board as way of enacting my mission specific to the impact of hep C on people who use drugs, and all people impacted by viral hepatitis.



Daryl Luster As a person who lived with hep C for years it was clear that there were many others who were not well informed about the need for testing and linkage to care. This is what has inspired me to devote my time to improving the lives and outcomes of all people affected by hep C. This is why I want to be on the board, so that I can share in my knowledge and experience to help others.



Erica Thomson Erica is Executive Director for BC Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors and a key partner in hep C work. Her experience with Hep C comes not only from a personal place, but also through her work and connection with many other people experiencing hep C. Erica has established strong working relationships in many areas: peers, health care providers, activists, community-based groups, funders, policy-makers and key influencers both within and outside government. Erica has been on the PHCN Board of Directors for 7 years and believes that serving on the board of a hepatitis-focused organization strengthens mutual support, capacity and success for everyone.