

## 2018 HepCBC Facebook Posts

Great Story about access in Florida  
Updated Jan 2, 2018, 7:30 PM

Some good stories here!  
Updated Jan 10, 2018, 11:31 AM

Have you taken the survey?  
Updated Jan 16, 2018, 1:57 PM

Great Read!  
Updated Jan 20, 2018, 10:20 AM

The new report found that the number of inpatient hospital stays for patients seeking treatment solely for hepatitis C rose by nearly 49% from 2005 to 2014. In addition, hospital stays for hepatitis C patients also seeking treatment for hepatitis B, HIV, or alcoholic liver disease rose by about 11%. Overall, adults ages 52 to 72 years saw a more than 67% increase in hepatitis C-related hospitalizations –the most of any age group –while those ages 18 to 51 years saw a nearly 15% decrease in hospitalizations. Hospital stays involving hepatitis C were also longer, more expensive, and more likely to result in death than stays that did not involve hepatitis C. <http://www.contagionlive.com/news/hepatitis-c-related-hospitalizations-rise-by-almost-50>  
Updated Jan 23, 2018, 9:59 AM

Big Boo!!! 😞  
Updated Jan 25, 2018, 5:24 PM

Yikes!!!! 😞😞  
Updated Jan 28, 2018, 11:08 AM

Here's a great story!  
Updated Jan 31, 2018, 10:16 AM

#HCV #compensation Last chance for Hepatitis C victims to receive compensation from class action settlement  
<http://hepcbc.ca/2018/02/01/last-chance-hepatitis-c-victims-receive-compensation-class-action-settlement/>  
Updated Feb 1, 2018, 10:51 AM

#HCV Uh-oh!  
Updated Feb 2, 2018, 10:22 AM

Year of the Peer Events, February - March, 2018  
Updated Feb 5, 2018, 11:22 AM

In Victoria Tues., Feb. 13th? HepCBC will have a VIRAL HEPATITIS info booth again at this great LIFESTYLE SENIOR 55+ event! 😊  
Updated Feb 6, 2018, 10:21 PM

Good read!  
Updated Feb 7, 2018, 8:13 PM

In Victoria Tues., March 13th? HepCBC will have a VIRAL HEPATITIS info booth again at this great LIFESTYLE SENIOR 55+ event! 😊  
Updated Feb 8, 2018, 10:12 AM

Honouring the many special women who are leading Canada's war on the opioid overdose epidemic:  
[https://www.vice.com/en\\_ca/article/43amwg/why-so-many-women-are-saving-lives-during-canadas-opioid-crisis?utm\\_source=vicetwitterca](https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/43amwg/why-so-many-women-are-saving-lives-during-canadas-opioid-crisis?utm_source=vicetwitterca)  
Updated Feb 10, 2018, 2:40 PM

We could use a few of these in BC!!

Updated Feb 10, 2018, 7:13 PM

#HCV #hepatitisC This is so sad!

Updated Feb 11, 2018, 3:10 PM

Place: Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) (48.45568049, -123.38886919)Address: 231 Regina Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V8Z 1J6

From Feb 15, 2018, 9:00 AM to Feb 16, 2018, 4:30 PM

LGBTQ2 Two Spirits, One Heart, One Mind, One Nation. FREE Aboriginal Youth Conference at Victoria Native Friendship Centre. Welcoming Youth, ages 12 - 24. Lunch & Transportation Provided. To register please contact Debbi Boylan, <debbi.b@vnfc.ca> or call 250-384-3211.

Register as soon as possible. Presentation "Information on Hep C in Today's World" Thursday, 3:00

- 4:30 pm. On Friday, visit the HepCBC info table and check out our new game!

Updated Feb 12, 2018, 8:56 PM

Place: Camosun College (48.447886343882, -123.32373225755)

Address: 3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, BC, Canada V8P 5J2From Feb 22, 2018,

10:00 AM to Feb 22, 2018, 2:00 PM

HepCBC will have information about viral hepatitis at Heart Your Parts! Event is in FISHER FOYER,outside FISHER 100.

See you there!

Updated Feb 12, 2018, 8:56 PM

Place: 4331 Dominion St, Burnaby, BC V5G 1C7, Canada (49.25674, -123.00728)From Feb 27, 2018,

9:00 AM to Feb 27, 2018, 5:00 PM

Join Positive Living Fraser Valley, Pacific Hepatitis C Network, and HepCBC in the 1st of THREE (!)"YEAR of the PEER" hepatitis C conferences in 2018. A day of learning, collaboration, and innovation regarding the health and well-being of our HCV community including: Experts in the field

Updated Feb 12, 2018, 8:57 PM

Beware of this product!

Updated Feb 20, 2018, 12:04 PM

Yikes!

Updated Feb 20, 2018, 12:39 PM

#HCV #hepatitisC Yippee!!!!!! Way to go Ontario!

Updated Feb 21, 2018, 2:03 PM

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites Surrey (49.152367540219, -122.76209200398)Address: 8255 166 St #

8255, Surrey, BC, Canada V4N 5R8

From Mar 14, 2018, 9:00 AM to Mar 14, 2018, 5:00 PM

Join Positive Living Fraser Valley, Pacific Hepatitis C Network, and HepCBC in the 3rd of THREE (!)"YEAR of the PEER" hepatitis C conferences in 2018. A day of learning, collaboration, and innovation regarding the health and well-being of our HCV community including: Experts in the fieldInteractive talks FREE registration FREE lunch. 3 venues: Burnaby (Feb. 27), Chilliwack (Mar. 7), &Surrey (Mar. 14) TO REGISTER: RSVP Email to Becky: becky.edwards@student.ufv.ca

CORRECTION of LOCATION! Surrey's "Year of the Peer" Conference will be held at the Comfort Inn & Suites (March 14th). Register through becky.edwards@student.ufv.ca - see you there! Note the other 2 great conferences in Burnaby Feb. 27th, and Chilliwack March 7th.

Updated Feb 25, 2018, 11:22 AM

Place: Coast Chilliwack Hotel (49.168446014305, -121.9540866412)Address: 45920 First

Avenue, Chilliwack, BC, Canada V2P 7K1 From Mar 7, 2018, 9:00 AM to Mar 7, 2018,

5:00 PM

Join Positive Living Fraser Valley, Pacific Hepatitis C Network, and HepCBC in the 2nd of THREE (!)"YEAR of the PEER"

hepatitis C conferences in 2018. A day of learning, collaboration, and innovation regarding the health and well-being of our HCV community including: Experts in the field Interactive talks FREE registration FREE lunch. 3 venues: Burnaby (Feb. 27), Chilliwack (Mar. 7), & Surrey (Mar. 14) TO REGISTER: RSVP Email to Becky: becky.edwards@student.ufv.ca

In Chilliwack March 7th? Interested in the latest ways to fight the hep C epidemic? Register for this wonderful (FREE) conference ASAP through becky.edwards@student.ufv.ca . See you there!

Updated Feb 25, 2018, 11:28 AM

This is good news!

Updated Mar 6, 2018, 7:09 PM



[Weekly Bull for March 2 - March 9, 2018 Now Online!! http://hepcbc.ca/2018/03/09/the-week-in-review-march-2-march-9-2018/](http://hepcbc.ca/2018/03/09/the-week-in-review-march-2-march-9-2018/)

Mar 9, 2018, 11:28 AM

Great article from @[1330770831:2048:Lucinda K. Porter]

Updated Mar 9, 2018, 1:12 PM

Help the World Hepatitis Alliance Find the Missing Millions! Please help by completing a globalsurvey on the barriers to diagnosis.

The survey links are:

English: [bit.ly/WHASurvey](http://bit.ly/WHASurvey)

French: [bit.ly/WHASurveyFR](http://bit.ly/WHASurveyFR)

Spanish: [bit.ly/WHASurveyES](http://bit.ly/WHASurveyES)

There is also a resource to help you spread the word which includes sample social media posts and text for websites and newsletters [http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/sites/default/files/resources/documents/find\\_the\\_missing\\_millions\\_survey\\_-\\_communications\\_guide.pdf](http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/sites/default/files/resources/documents/find_the_missing_millions_survey_-_communications_guide.pdf)

Updated Mar 13, 2018, 11:21 PM

FINALLY! The Day We Have All Been Waiting For!!! #HCV #hepatitisC

Updated Mar 13, 2018, 12:33 PM

Four of HepCBC's legendary volunteers: Rosemary, Cheryl, Leon and Fran (from the Northern Vancouver Island Road Trip, 2018 ;)



Mar 14, 2018, 12:06 PM

Greed knows no limits!! 😞  
Updated Mar 14, 2018, 3:42 PM

Oh Sad.. He had hep C and liver transplant. And we now know that hep C really damages the heart!! RIP  
Updated Mar 18, 2018, 2:58 PM

Great interview. Way to go @[697160578:2048:Daryl Luster]  
Updated Mar 20, 2018, 3:58 PM

Yikes!!! HepC and children in the US  
Updated Mar 22, 2018, 10:52 AM

Good news for New Jersey  
Updated Apr 2, 2018, 10:18 AM

Very good article  
Updated Apr 6, 2018, 8:53 PM

Very interesting!  
Updated Apr 9, 2018, 9:59 AM

Good news!  
Updated Apr 10, 2018, 11:21 AM

On March 14, 2018, Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), a nonprofit organization, asked the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to investigate an alleged failure to report NIH funding in U.S. Patent No. 7,964,580, which is listed in the Food and Drug Administration's Orange Book for all Gilead sofosbuvir-based hepatitis C drugs. If HHS finds that the original funding recipient failed to provide attribution of the NIH developmental funding in the underlying patent application, KEI has further requested that the government take ownership of the patent based on the BDA's reporting and disclosure provisions and conclude that Gilead forfeited its title to the patents—a boon for patients and insurance companies, and a bust for Gilead. Of course, with billions at stake, Gilead is likely to defend itself aggressively, as it has in other high-profile battles surrounding the '580 Patent.  
Updated Apr 14, 2018, 10:47 AM

Interesting!  
Updated Apr 15, 2018, 10:05 AM

Brilliant article, somewhat reminiscent of Jonathon Swift's "Modest Proposal" - in this case, bemoaning potential problems with drugs that work "too well". Read, laugh, cry...  
Apr 18, 2018, 8:40 AM

Yes please!!!!  
Updated Apr 18, 2018, 8:15 PM

Weekly Bull for April 13 - 20, 2019 Now Online! <http://hepcbc.ca/2018/04/20/the-week-in-review-april-13-april-20-2018/>



Yikes!!! You mean they haven't learned yet? Sheesh!!! Updated Apr 20, 2018, 11:09 AM

Pacific AIDS Network (PAN) is opening up to expanding their "Nothing About Us Without Us" governance policy from HIV-only to including those with hepatitis C. PAN started this process years ago in responding to the HIV/HCV co-infection epidemic, and are now expanding their mandate to include those mono-infected with HCV. There will be growing pains and challenges, mainly due to critical differences between the two ailments "including complexity of living with HIV; the differing stigma; HCV having a cure while HIV does not". HepCBC recently became a member of PAN, and has consistently advocated that people mono-infected with HCV should have a dedicated place on the PAN board if the organization wants to speak on behalf of HCV-infected people, or to accept funds and develop programming aimed at this population. Read more: <https://pacificaidnetwork.org/2018/04/20/community-perspectives-on-governance-at-pan/>  
Updated Apr 24, 2018, 9:34 AM

Fascinating!  
Updated May 11, 2018, 9:27 AM

Very interesting post from the HCV Advocate! Be sure to read Alan's comments!  
Updated May 18, 2018, 11:25 AM

Good Read! <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/05/why-egypt-is-at-the-forefront-of-hepatitis-c-treatment/561305/>  
Updated May 30, 2018, 9:40 AM

This is important! A lot of frozen fruit is picked in less than rigorous sanitary conditions. Be careful when you purchase frozen fruit!  
Updated Jun 6, 2018, 10:26 AM

HepCBCFace's social media volunteer is back following some personal and health challenges, and today posted 6 new photo albums of recent activities. Thanks to Chaim-David Mazoff for "holding down the fort" during that period by continuing to post important news from the news media. If anyone out there has the time, interest, and ability to help HepCBC with social media, please consider letting us know. Thanks, hope you enjoy and forward - and of course let HepCBC know if you want to volunteer for future events! See our website [www.hepcbc.ca/about-hepcbc/volunteer/](http://www.hepcbc.ca/about-hepcbc/volunteer/)  
Updated Jun 28, 2018, 7:40 PM

Got Hep C from transfusion, blood product, or transplant between 1986 and 1990? Haven't applied for compensation yet? This news is for you. Good luck! <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1324976>  
Updated Jul 4, 2018, 11:10 AM

This is from the USA... but! What is the state of liver cancer screening in Canada?  
Updated Jul 13, 2018, 11:02 AM

Excellent Story!  
Updated Jul 18, 2018, 5:50 PM

This is just so wrong!  
Updated Jul 20, 2018, 8:56 AM

Shameful! Greed and Racism and Systemic Poverty!!  
Updated Jul 23, 2018, 6:21 PM



Jul 24, 2018, 4:34 PM

List of HepB and HepC Treaters in BC  
Updated Aug 19, 2018, 6:06 PM

Incredible day, thanks everyone who stopped by!  
Updated Aug 21, 2018, 8:39 AM

HepCBC's North Vancouver Island HepC HepB Roadshow! PART 3 of 3:  
March 19 - 21, 2018  
Updated Aug 21, 2018, 8:56 AM

HepCBC's North Vancouver Island HepC HepB Roadshow! PART 2 of 3: March 17 - 19, 2018  
Updated Aug 21, 2018, 8:58 AM

HepCBC's North Vancouver Island HepC HepB Roadshow! PART 1 of 3: March 12 - 17, 2018  
Updated Aug 21, 2018, 8:59 AM

#HCV #HBV This update includes Nurse Practitioners (NPs)  
Updated Aug 21, 2018, 10:17 AM

#HCV #HBV Yikes! Read this and weep! When are they going to learn?  
Updated Sep 5, 2018, 8:09 PM

HepCBC - Eventsfacebook.com

3 great events are coming up this month will have HepCBC Info Booths! We're looking for volunteers, or just come by to say hello! We'll be at the Carnegie Centre on Sept. 13th for a belated World Hepatitis Day 2018, then on Sept. 16th we're headed over to the annual SUCCESS Chinese Health Fair at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby. Finally, Sept., 25th we'll be at the DTESALLEY Health Fair at intersection of Hastings and Columbia. Hope to see you at the FAIRS! At all the events we'll be partnering with the Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre, which will be doing hepatitis C screening and testing, also offering Fibroscan.  
Updated Sep 6, 2018, 10:54 PM

Thank you @[577479851:2048:Joan King] and @[697160578:2048:Daryl Luster]  
Updated Sep 8, 2018, 9:25 AM

This is would be very good for the HAV epidemic NOW occurring among PWID and the Homeless. But I doubt that the current US gov would pay for it. It is not yet available in Canada :(  
Updated Sep 15, 2018, 10:07 AM  
Excellent Article.  
Updated Sep 18, 2018, 9:48 PM

This Stinks!  
Updated Sep 21, 2018, 9:46 AM

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) also had a contaminated blood scandal. Hemophiliacs were compensated, but women given transfusions after childbirth were not. This may be about to change.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-45590203>

Updated Sep 21, 2018, 3:07 PM

Shameful!

Updated Sep 21, 2018, 4:35 PM

This is terrible!!! What kind of soul-less greedy person does this?

Updated Sep 24, 2018, 10:17 AM

Wow!

Updated Sep 24, 2018, 12:50 PM

This is an amazingly disturbing post...(the gist is that Russia has been spreading fake news about Georgia's successful HCV eradication program. How sick!!

Updated Sep 25, 2018, 10:37 AM

Once again HepCBC and Vancouver Infectious Disease Centre joined forces at the Chinese HealthFair (HepCBC's 4th year at the fair). VIDC conducted HCV screening again, using the oral swab tests.

Updated Sep 27, 2018, 11:04 PM

Hon. Carole James, MLA Victoria-Beacon Hill and Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier, visited HepCBC's Info Booth at Recovery Day 2018.

Updated Sep 27, 2018, 11:06 PM

World Hepatitis Day 2018, an all-day event at the Carnegie Centre, was organized again by John Cameron of the Consumer's Board. Many speakers, info booths and movies were there, and two meals were served to several hundred people.

Updated Sep 27, 2018, 11:09 PM

World Hepatitis Day 2018, an all-day event at the Carnegie Centre, was organized again by John Cameron of the Consumer's Board. Many speakers, info booths and movies were there, and two meals were served to several hundred people.

Updated Sep 27, 2018, 11:26 PM

What a shame this is still happening. Oh, wait . . . but there's trillions for war and buyouts and goldenhandshakes!!! Ain't Freedom and Liberty grand? Boo!

Updated Oct 11, 2018, 10:22 AM

Ask the Experts: Decisions in the Clinic: Treating Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma

<https://www.cancertherapyadvisor.com/aiwu-ruth-he-md-phd/section/8332/>

Updated Oct 13, 2018, 9:34 AM

To honour the sacrifice and courage of all ORGAN DONORS and DONOR FAMILIES, this Idaho hospital shows its deep gratitude and respect.

Updated Oct 15, 2018, 12:53 PM

This is good!

Updated Oct 24, 2018, 6:45 PM

Warning: Green Tea Supplements Can Damage Your Liver

Updated Oct 25, 2018, 9:48 AM

# Universal HCV Screening in Pregnant Women

## WHY CHANGE THE RECOMMENDATIONS?

### RISK-BASED SCREENING DOES NOT CAPTURE ALL HCV CASES

A recent study<sup>5</sup> in a large hospital system showed that:

- 64% of pregnant women with a risk factor for HCV were not tested
- 10% of pregnant women who tested HCV-positive had no reported risk factors

### UNIVERSAL SCREENING CAN IDENTIFY HCV IN WOMEN UNAWARE OF THEIR INFECTION



Women diagnosed during pregnancy can be linked to:

- harm reduction and other services during pregnancy
- HCV treatment after delivery

UNIVERSAL SCREENING HELPS ENSURE THAT BABIES BORN TO HCV-INFECTED MOTHERS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP CARE



## MOVING TOWARD CHANGE

Universal HCV screening during pregnancy is now recommended by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Disease Society of America.<sup>6</sup>

In April 2018, Kentucky became the first state to require HCV testing for all pregnant women during prenatal care. Lawmakers passed Senate Bill 250 in response to statewide increases in HCV largely attributed to the opioid epidemic.<sup>7</sup>

### NEXT STEPS

Other public health agencies including the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are reviewing their HCV recommendations in consideration of universal screening for pregnant women.

For more information about how you can show support for universal HCV screening for pregnant women, contact us at [info@nvhr.org](mailto:info@nvhr.org).



1. [www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2017/hepatitis-c-and-opioid-injection-press-release.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2017/hepatitis-c-and-opioid-injection-press-release.html)
2. Patrick SW et al. (2017). MMWR, 66(18):470-473.
3. Ly KN et al. (2017). Ann Intern Med, 166(11): 775-82.
4. Kuncio DE et al. (2016). Clin Infect Dis, 62(8): 980-985.
5. Boudova S et al. (2018). Open Forum Infect Dis, 5(3).
6. [www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/pregnancy](http://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/pregnancy)
7. [www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18RS/sb250.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18RS/sb250.htm)



Universal HCV screening of pregnant women - is there a case? Read this (from USA but relevant to Canada)...  
<http://nvhr.org/sites/default/files/users/u27/HCV%20Screening%20in%20Pregnancy%20FINAL.pdf>

Oct 29, 2018, 10:11 AM



# EXPANDING HCV TREATMENT AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

Hepatitis C affects over 5 million Americans and is the leading cause of death by an infectious disease in the United States.<sup>1,2</sup> Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections are on the rise, and most new cases are associated with injection drug use.<sup>3</sup>

New, highly-effective HCV medications (called direct-acting antivirals or DAAs) are available, and HCV can now be treated with a daily pill taken for just 8-12 weeks.



But these medications are often not offered to people who inject drugs because of **stigma** and **misconceptions** about treating this population. It's time to address barriers to care and demand access to life-saving medications for all. **Here are the facts:**

## HCV is increasing among people who inject drugs



- HCV is transmitted through contact with infected blood.
- Certain activities associated with injection drug use, such as sharing needles or other equipment, increase a person's risk of infection.
- Harm reduction services, such as syringe exchange programs, reduce the risk of HCV transmission, but such **services are not available in many communities.**
- The rise in HCV is related to increased drug use associated with the opioid crisis.<sup>3</sup>

## HCV treatment is highly effective for people who inject drugs



- **HCV treatment is safe and just as effective for people who inject drugs as it is for others.** People who inject drugs have a 90% cure rate, even if they actively use drugs during treatment.<sup>5-6</sup>
- **People who inject drugs stick to treatment plans.** Healthcare providers may worry that people who use drugs will miss appointments, forget to take pills, or sell their medicine. But studies show that adherence to treatment is high among people who inject drugs.<sup>6</sup>
- **Chances of HCV reinfection are low.**<sup>7</sup> Utilization of harm reduction strategies can help prevent reinfection among individuals at high risk.

## Current medical guidelines recommend treatment for all



- Medical experts agree that individuals should be treated for HCV regardless of their drug use. In other words, current (or recent) **drug use is not a reason to withhold treatment.** Current treatment guidelines can be found at: <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/unique-populations/pwid>
- Insurance requirements to abstain from alcohol and/or drugs prior to treatment vary by state. Check the requirements in your state: <https://stateofhepc.org/>

## Treating people who inject drugs is necessary to stop HCV



It is estimated that **40 – 74% of people who inject drugs are infected with HCV.**<sup>8-9</sup> Treatment reduces the risk of ongoing disease transmission. It is impossible to eliminate HCV without addressing the epidemic in this population.



1. Edlin BR, et al. (2015). *Hepatology*; 62:1353-63.  
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p0504-hepc-mortality.html>  
3. Zibbell JE, et al. (2018). *AJPH*; 108(2): 175-81.  
4. Degenhardt L, et al. (2016). *Lancet Infect Dis*;16(12):1385-1398.  
5. Eckhardt BJ, et al. (2018). *Open Forum Infect Dis*;5(4).  
6. Grebely J, et al. (2017). *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol*; 14(11):641-51.  
7. Falade-Nwulia O, et al. (2018). *J Viral Hepat*; 25(3): 220-7.  
8. Grebely J, et al. (2018). *Addiction*. Epub ahead of print.  
9. Nelson P, et al. (2011). *Lancet*; 378(9791): 571-83.

Expanding HCV Treatment among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) Read this (from USA but relevant to Canada)...

<http://nvhr.org/sites/default/files/.users/u27/PWID%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL.PDF>

Oct 29, 2018, 10:12 AM

Slate of new Directors to be voted on at HepCBC AGM Nov. 3rd (2-3 pm at the Victoria Main HealthUnit, 1947 Cook Street). (Public welcome but only Members can vote). We'd love to see you there!

Oct 29, 2018, 10:17 AM

## HepCBC's Slate of Nominees for Nov. 2018 - Nov. 2019 Board of Directors



### **Susan Malloch, R.N. (Mill Bay) – RETURNING DIRECTOR (serving as President since Sept., 2016)**

Susan is a semi-retired orthopedic nurse. Her partner was our former Board Member Allen McCulloch who died recently while on treatment for hepatitis C. Susan knows both personally and professionally what it's like for family members advocating for loved ones with end-stage liver disease, and wants to do what she can to help prevent others from having to go through what she and Allen did. In Aug. 2016 she, along with a HepCBC peer advocate and Dr. Alnoor Ramji, met with the BC Ministry of Health to advocate for a new treatment for hepatic encephalopathy, which might have kept Allen alive long enough that he could receive a liver transplant. She is willing to share her experience by speaking publicly about hepatitis C and end-stage liver disease and advocating for its elimination.



### **Phillip Wilkin (Victoria) – RETURNING DIRECTOR (currently Chair of Prison Outreach Committee)**

I have 30 years of experience with the Criminal Justice System. For a number of years, I served on various committees designed to improve the health and welfare of prisoners within the Canadian Prison System. During my incarceration, I became aware that HEP C was becoming 'the scourge' of the prison system. I actively advocated for education, treatment, and prevention. I therefore, would like to stand for election as a member of the HepCBC Board. In addition to living with Hep C, I also am employed at AIDS Vancouver Island and PEERS Victoria, where I am often involved in discussions with clients about risk factors of transmission, treatment options, etc. I started the Prison Outreach program at HepCBC and got our first educational Colouring Book & Art Contest for hep B and C off and running! We're happy to hear recovery, rehab, and mental health programs are also requesting this book.



### **Rosemary Plummer, R.N. (Victoria) - RETURNING DIRECTOR (former President 2014 – 2016)**

I am Vancouver-born with several decades of nursing experience in large cities, small towns and isolated communities. I was living in northern BC raising my family when I met Cheryl Reitz, who introduced me later to HepCBC. As a young nurse, I went to a lecture by the visiting US liver specialist and Nobel-winning geneticist, Baruch Samuel Blumberg, on his then-new discovery, the Hepatitis B virus. How ironic that as I sat cross-legged on the floor of that crowded hall so many years ago, I didn't know I would later come to acknowledge his birthday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, now "World Hepatitis Day" every year, or why! I lived among and worked for years with many First Nations people – including many nurses, CHRs and patients - and treasure my years in the north. Since 2014, I have been on HepCBC Outreach trips to northwestern BC, the Kootenays, and northern Vancouver Island. I look forward to returning to rural and remote areas to do viral hepatitis educational outreach - to both medical personnel and patients - whenever I can.



### **Cheryl Reitz, M.A. (Tsawwassen) – RETURNING DIRECTOR (former Secretary 2013 –2017)**

I am a retired teacher and translation agent who became an HCV advocate. Diagnosed as HCV+ in 1992, I failed my first treatment. But in 2011 I joined a trial with the new DAAs which had no side-effects, and worked! In fact I was able to walk the half marathon in the middle of treatment. Volunteering through HepCBC and meeting so many wonderful HCV+ colleagues has been a huge part of my healing process. Now I am a grandmother of three, and my liver is rapidly recovering from cirrhosis. I participated in the founding of Action Hepatitis Canada, and represented HepCBC at the first World Hepatitis Summit held in Glasgow, Scotland. My hope is for the total eradication of viral hepatitis from the face of the earth, starting in BC. I will do whatever I can to get everyone tested - and make treatment accessible for all - particularly in immigrant, aboriginal, and other communities most at risk of HCV and HBV.



### **Anuradha Dhavan, MBBS, MD (Vancouver)**

Trained as a medical physician with specialization in medical microbiology, I am married and the proud mother of two children, both currently attending university. Along with my husband Sandeep, a gastroenterologist and hepatologist, I spent many years in Chandigarh, India, managing outreach clinics in which we did public awareness events, educational conferences, screening, linkage to care, treatment, and follow-up with diseases such as hepatitis A/B/C and HIV/AIDS. Now that I am in Canada, I wish to be involved in related activities such as the efforts HepCBC has been making in health navigation, knowledge translation, community and anti-stigma outreach, translation of materials, and education aimed at various at-risk communities including the South Asian immigrant community with which I identify. I look forward to working with colleagues to guide HepCBC in these efforts over the coming years.



### **Sofia Rose Bartlett, PhD (Vancouver)**

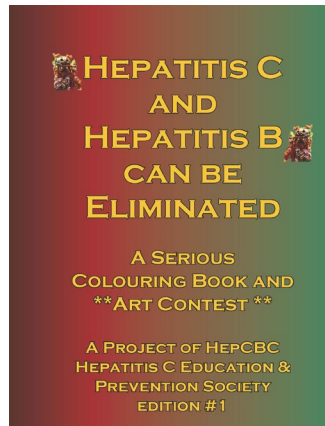
My dad Jack was diagnosed with hepatitis C infection in 1998. Dad lived with the infection for more than 30 years before he went on treatment and successfully cleared the virus in 2015. He says he has the best health of his life now in his 60s, and his liver is in great shape now too. Motivated partly by my family's experience, I did my PhD studying hepatitis C transmission, and I now work at the BC Centre For Disease Control doing hepatitis C surveillance and research. I believe peer and community groups like HepCBC are crucial to successfully eliminating viral hepatitis, and I look forward to bringing my personal and professional experience to contribute to this important work.

Amazing Map and Cascade of Care for hepatitis C in USA - we could really use this for Canada, too! Sponsor: AbbVie. It's easy to register: give them your email address and make up a PW. <https://mappinghepc.com/>  
Nov 10, 2018, 11:40 AM

It will be really interesting to see how this new shelter facility in Kamloops, BC, affects both the marginalized community now living there, and the city itself. We are ready to hear and report some good news! This shelter is based on the philosophy that addiction is the opposite of connection. It's hard to argue against that idea.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-shelter-kamloops-1.4900901>

Updated Nov 20, 2018, 9:14 AM



Saying such sad farewells today to our Board Member, Phil Wilkin, who passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Nov. 24th. Phil also was the Chair of the Prison Outreach Committee which started the Colouring Book project. Phil, if we'd known how short our time with you would be, we would have made far better use of it. With love and tears, rest in peace you dear man. We're going to miss you so much. In your memory: a favourite photo, the colouring book, a recent entry to the colouring contest, and a link to the colouring book...

[http://www.hepcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/20180919\\_ColouringBook\\_edition1b.pdf](http://www.hepcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/20180919_ColouringBook_edition1b.pdf)

Nov 26, 2018, 10:49 PM

Very interesting!

Updated Nov 30, 2018, 10:26 AM

Just saw this in NYTimes, about forced sterilization of aboriginal women in Canada. Paternalistic, colonialistic practices like this helped lead to a widespread fear or distrust of our health system among aboriginal communities. Something to think about when we examine barriers to linkage to care for hepatitis B or C!

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2018/12/04/end-forced-sterilizations-indigenous-women-canada/?utm\\_term=.c8f1cbd79183](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2018/12/04/end-forced-sterilizations-indigenous-women-canada/?utm_term=.c8f1cbd79183)

Updated Dec 4, 2018, 2:15 PM

Celebrating 25 Years of World AIDS Day in Vancouver! <https://wp.me/p7rc49-43y>

Updated Dec 11, 2018, 7:20 PM

This is a must read!

Updated Dec 12, 2018, 10:07 AM

Anyone who wants to donate to a COMMUNITY DINNER in honour of Phil Wilkin, to be held at OURPLACE Thursday, January 10th from 5-6 pm, here is your chance...400-500 guests are expected.

A reminder that Phil's memorial service will take place on Friday, Dec. 14th, 1 - 3 pm at the Victoria Odd Fellows Hall, 1315 Douglas Street, Victoria.

Updated Dec 12, 2018, 3:33 PM

This is bad!

Updated Dec 17, 2018, 4:26 PM

Fantastic News!

Updated Dec 17, 2018, 4:37 PM

\$400 to go!! Seeking a few more donations for Phil Wilkin's memorial dinner at Our Place. So far we have collected \$400 out of our \$800 GO FUND ME goal to sponsor the dinner. In honour of Phil, it will take place Thursday, January 10 at OUR PLACE in downtown Victoria, and will serve 400-500 people in the community. If you can help out with a donation, no matter how small, it will be so great! Thanks, Phil's friends at HepCBC. Instructions on donating, below...

Updated Dec 19, 2018, 12:03 PM