



# AIDS ACTION NOW!

AIDS ACTION NOW! is an organization of People Living With AIDS or HIV infection and our friends who are fighting together to ensure the best possible care and treatment for everyone suffering from HIV related illness.

HIV is not a death sentence. AIDS is not a death sentence. If we come together to take advantage of newly developing therapies, AIDS can become a chronic but manageable illness.

We believe that all those suffering from life-threatening illnesses such as AIDS have the right and the responsibility to make important decisions about their treatment. While many of us will wish to help science by participating in research, we are not guinea pigs. We have

the right to access experimental treatments which may prolong our lives and improve our health.

**AAN! started a car lift to Buffalo to help people purchase aerosolized pentamidine when Federal officials denied us access in 1988. We fought for and won access to a range of experimental AIDS treatments through the Emergency Drug Release Programme in 1989.**

AAN! is an activist organization. Many of the barriers to proper care for people living with HIV infection are political not scientific.

We pressure the government by any means necessary – demonstrations, civil disobedience, lobbying, negotiations and building public opinion through the media.

**In 1988 we made AIDS a national issue by burning an effigy of then Minister of Health Jake Epp at Toronto City Hall. In June 1989 AAN! members and other activists stormed the stage of the International Conference on AIDS in Montreal. In July 1989 AAN! members sat in and were arrested at the offices of Bristol Meyers Canada which was refusing to release DDI to PLWAs in desperate need of the treatment. But AAN! does far more than demonstrate. We also participate in meetings with health officials, help formulate policy and take part in countless other less high-profile activities.**

AAN! believes that information is an important key to access treatment.

**We have established the Treatment Information Exchange (TIE) in Toronto to gather and distribute information on treatment to people living AIDS and HIV and to doctors. We publish Treatment Update to keep doctors and our members abreast of new therapies. Our newsletter, AIDS ACTION NEWS! keeps our community informed about political developments.**

AAN! is an open, democratic organization. Our steering committee is elected every year by members at our annual general meeting. The steering committee co-ordinates the work of standing committees such as Fundraising, Media, Membership and Recruitment, and the Treatment Information Exchange. Committees focusing on specific issues, like anonymous testing, research on women or federal policy, are formed as needed.

AAN! is you. With no paid staff, our achievements are the product of the volunteer work of our members. Become an active member of AAN! There is much to be done. Your involvement can suit your interests, your ability to be public and your schedule. Take a moment to drop us a note or give us a phone call. We have orientation sessions for new members to help you decide how you can become involved. If you aren't able to commit your time right now, we'll be happy to put you on our mailing list. It is your energy and ideas that keep us alive - that keep us all alive.

**SILENCE = DEATH  
ACTION = LIFE  
AIDS ACTION NOW!**

You can contact AIDS ACTION NOW! by writing to : AAN!

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