

AIDS ACTION NOW!

NO MORE EMPTY PROMISES!

During the recent federal election, David MacDonald promised to "act as the community's advocate - ensuring concerns are heard directly by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet."

"I will fight for the unrestricted right to treatments that physicians believe to be beneficial in the treatment of AIDS, for the discontinuation of placebos, and for additional funding for AIDS research."

-David MacDonald Campaign Leaflet

AIDS ACTION NOW! would like to commend David MacDonald on his commitments. We are here to remind him and his government that People Living With AIDS need and deserve immediate action.

MacDonald has joined a government whose record on AIDS is shameful. Health Minister Jake Epp promised over 27 months ago to move quickly on treatments. Instead, the federal government has denied access to promising drugs.

One drug that has shown promise in combatting AIDS-related pneumonia (the leading cause of AIDS deaths) is Aerosolized Pentamidine (AP). AP is readily available in the United States, and is standard care in some US cities.

The Canadian government could make this drug available with the stroke of a pen. Instead, it has directed an unnecessary and unethical double-blind placebo trial of AP. Though there is a limited "treatment arm" of the study, access to it is complicated and severely restricted.

AIDS ACTION NOW! is here today to call upon David MacDonald and his government to display some holiday spirit by releasing aerosolized pentamidine before the holidays. There is no excuse for further delay.

We also look forward to an announcement of a positive program of AIDS action in the next throne speech.

NO MORE SILENT NIGHTS!