

RCV BY: XEROX TELECOPIER 7010 : 4-22-94

1:16PM :

CCITT G3+

:H 2

04/22/94 12:31

S 902 422 6200

NSPWA Coalition

P.02

Nova Scotia  
PWA Coalition

2004 Government Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada B3H 3B2

Telephone: 902-422-6200  
Fax: 902-422-6200

April 22, 1994

Mr. Gilbert Daye  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
5281 Duke St.  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3M1

Dear Gilbert:

The Nova Scotia Persons with AIDS Coalition has been consulting with AIDS Nova Scotia, the Black Artist Network of Nova Scotia and the Irondale Ensemble project to develop an AIDS show that is culturally sensitive to the needs of the African Nova Scotian community.

In 1992, the Association of Black Social Workers, the N.S. Department of Health and the Halifax Housing Authority sponsored a project titled Project Hope/AIDS Outreach. The objective of the project was to provide information and education to the African Nova Scotian community on HIV/AIDS. The target group was African Nova Scotian youth at the junior high school level. Through the use of theater, the young people were actively involved in learning about the issues regarding HIV and AIDS and developed a theater piece that raised the consciousness and awareness of youth, parents and seniors regarding this issue. Due to a lack of funding, "Black teens against AIDS" (the name of the theater group) was unable to continue their initiatives.

We see the Irondale Ensemble project initiative as a very positive step in helping to educate the African Nova Scotian community on HIV/AIDS in a way that is creative and participatory. The idea of popular theatre has already been introduced to students at the junior high school level through B.T.A.A., but we need to reach the people in our African Nova Scotian communities. We see the goals of the Irondale Ensemble proposal doing just that. In our opinion, "theater as education and community expression" as outlined in the Irondale Ensemble project proposal will be an excellent way to stimulate discussion and analyze the issue of HIV/AIDS in the African Nova Scotian community.

We sincerely hope that you take these factors into consideration when making your decision to fund this project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Deena Noseworthy at the NSPWA's offices.

Yours Truly,  
*Kim Bernard*  
Kim Bernard  
Community AIDS Educator  
Black Outreach Project

A Member of the Canadian AIDS Society

