

## Obituaries

# Gay, AIDS activist George Smith, 59 a 'brilliant man'

Prominent gay and AIDS activist George Smith was an extraordinarily generous person with a wonderful mind, said a friend and teaching colleague at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

He was widely appreciated for the help he provided people in an "absolutely unpretentious way," Dorothy Smith said. He was "a very brilliant man."

Mr. Smith died Sunday of complications due to AIDS at his Toronto home. He was 59.

He was chairperson of the Right to Privacy Committee, the community organization formed after Toronto bathhouse raids in 1981 to provide support and legal assistance.

In 1988, Mr. Smith helped start the group AIDS Action Now.

A year later, he was a founding member and director of the Toronto-based Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange.

He was instrumental in establishing the federally financed AIDS Treatment Information Service, which will begin providing services to doctors and patients across Canada early next year.

Mr. Smith was co-author of *Getting Hooked Up*, a study funded by Health and Welfare Canada on social service delivery and access for people with HIV and AIDS.

He also sat on a number of committees advising the federal and provincial governments on issues related to AIDS, including the Na-



**GEORGE SMITH:** Known for aiding others, he succumbed to AIDS.

tional Advisory Committee on AIDS.

He was born in Montreal, received a master's degree from McGill University and was a distinguished sociologist.

He taught school in Montreal and at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Mr. Smith was a research associate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education from 1985 to 1992.

He wrote numerous academic articles, including "Policing the Gay Community," published in the *International Journal of the Sociology of the Law* in 1988.

He leaves his partner, Sean Hosein, his mother, Florence, and his brother, Robert.

No funeral was to be held, but a celebration of Mr. Smith's life will be conducted later.