

ONTARIO HAS TIME TO

KILL

The Ontario government has failed in its response to the AIDS epidemic. It has failed to provide leadership, coordination or adequate funding.

The government is now spending \$40 million on an early election. It has spent only \$60 million

on fighting AIDS since the epidemic began. Where are this government's priorities?

It's time for a comprehensive Ontario AIDS & HIV Strategy to improve prevention, deliver treatment, and fund therapies and services. 1,190 Ontarians have died of AIDS so far. **THERE IS NO MORE TIME TO KILL.**



AIDS ACTION NOW! calls upon the next government to immediately develop an Ontario AIDS/ HIV Strategy. This strategy would ensure equal access to a comprehensive plan to improve AIDS treatment and prevention, to fund therapies, and to coordinate services. The Strategy would recognize the important role of community-based AIDS organizations, particularly in addressing the needs of communities that have until now been neglected by public AIDS initiatives.

The Ontario AIDS/ HIV Strategy would include the following facets:

FUNDING

- The Ontario Government must commit to the development of a comprehensive HIV treatment funding policy which provides equal access to promising treatments, both conventional and complementary.

TREATMENT MANAGEMENT AND STANDARDS OF CARE

- The Ministry of Health must establish an HIV Standard of Care Unit to educate doctors and patients, upgrade hospital standards, and review the mandates and locations of HIV clinics.

PHYSICIAN SUPPORT

- The government must improve the working conditions and compensation for doctors with HIV patients.

ANONYMOUS TESTING

- The government must provide anonymous testing facilities across the province.
- The government must appoint a new Chief Medical Officer of Health who is willing to work with community groups

POVERTY

- The government must raise Ontario disability and welfare rates above the poverty level, expand access to Welfare Drug Benefit Cards, and increase the availability of non-profit housing to people living with AIDS and HIV

PROVINCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- The government should provide expanded treatment options, education, condoms, dental dams, and clean needle within provincial prisons and psychiatric institutions.

ACCOUNTABLE REPRESENTATION

- The government must commit itself to the involvement of people living with AIDS and HIV who are accountable to their various communities on all boards and committees involved in AIDS and HIV policy.

HOME SERVICES

- The Ontario government must provide a coordinated system of home services for people living with AIDS and HIV, including supportive housing, family housing, accessible day care, support services and counselling.

WOMEN

- The government must uphold all reproductive options for women living with AIDS and HIV, and fund information projects specific to women's experience of AIDS and HIV

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

- Funding to the Human Rights Commission must be increased in order to enforce human rights initiatives in areas relating to HIV and AIDS

AIDS ACTION NOW! is a Toronto-based activist group which focuses on treatment options for people living with HIV and AIDS.