



Canadian
HIV/AIDS
Legal
Network

Réseau
juridique
canadien
VIH/sida

The National Advocacy Committee
Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
Comité d'action national
Campagne de grands-mères à grands-mères



Media Advisory

For immediate release

GRANNIES HOLD VIGILS URGING PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO MEDICINES BILL

Events planned across Canada to mark World AIDS Day

Canada-wide, November 30–December 3, 2010 — Grandmothers and grand-others across the country are holding vigils outside of the offices of Members of Parliament to mark World AIDS Day. They are urging MPs to amend and support Bill C-393, on which the final stage of debate will soon resume in Parliament. Bill C-393 aims to streamline Canada's Access to Medicines Regime, which was created by Parliament in 2004 with the goal of getting lower-cost generic medicines for AIDS and other public health problems to developing countries but has failed to deliver. With more than 1.8 million people dying of AIDS in 2009, including 260 000 children, the opportunity presented by the proposed legislation must be seized.

These vigils are organized by the National Advocacy Committee of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in support of African grandmothers who are raising millions of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, as well as other civil society groups and concerned Canadians.

Local vigils being held include:

Organizers: Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

When: Tuesday, November 30, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: (1) One vigil is at the constituency office of Conservative MP Rod Bruinooge at Unit 27, 2855 Pembina Highway, **Winnipeg, MB**; and (2) another vigil is at the constituency office of Conservative MP Joy Smith at Unit 13C, 1795 Henderson Highway, **Winnipeg, MB**

Contact: Linda Watson, watson1@mymts.net

Organizers: Greater Van Gogos Advocacy Committee and representatives of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines from Simon Fraser University

When: Tuesday, November 30, 10:30 a.m.

Where: On the sidewalk outside the office of Cabinet Minister James Moore, 2603 St. John's Street, **Port Moody, BC**

Contacts: Kathleen Wallace-Deering, kathleenwd@gmail.com; Roz Johns, (604) 272-7720

Organizers: Grandmothers of Steel

When: Wednesday, December 1, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Gore Park, **Hamilton, ON**

Contact: Dorothy Johns, d3grannyjohns@yahoo.ca

Organizers: Grandmothers of Fergus/Elora

When: Wednesday, December 1

Where: **Elora, ON**

Contact: Cinda Richardson, cindar@hotmail.com

Organizers: Oomama-Milton and students from Milton High School

When: Wednesday, December 1

Where: Conservative MP Lisa Raitt's office, 86 Main Street East, **Milton, ON**

Contact: Irene Clarke, iclarke@pathcom.com

Organizers: Burlington Ubuntu Grandwomen

When: Wednesday, December 1, 5:00 p.m.

Where: Walk a block along the main street (Brant Street) to City Hall (candlelight vigil), **Burlington, ON**

Contact: Linda Rafuse, Lrafuse@cogeco.ca

Organizers: Omas Siskona of Kitchener-Waterloo

When: Wednesday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.

Where: South end of the skating rink at Waterloo Civic Square (King Street at Willis Way, uptown Waterloo) for a time of reflection and prayer, then walk to the nearby riding office of MP Peter Braid, **Kitchener-Waterloo, ON**

Contact: Bonnie Cole-Arnal, bacole@sympatico.ca

Organizers: Grandmothers to Grandmothers Calgary

When: Wednesday, December 1, 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: Constituency office of PM Stephen Harper, Glenmore Landing Mall, 1600–90th Ave SW, **Calgary, ON**

Contact: Hilary Elliott, (403) 283-9147, hilary.elliott@gmail.com

Organizers: Ottawa Region Grandmother Groups

When: Wednesday, December 1, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Begins outside offices of Rx&D at 55 Metcalfe Street from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., then moves to the Human Rights Memorial at the corner of Elgin and Lisgar Streets at 11:00 a.m., **Ottawa, ON**

Contacts: Pat Evans, (613) 741-7920, pat_evans@carleton.ca

Additional events being organized by other civil society groups and concerned Canadians to mark World AIDS Day and support access to medicines include:

What: Global Access: A World AIDS Day Event

Hosted by Oxfam, University of Toronto Chapter

When: Thursday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
Room 2212, 252 Bloor Street West, **Toronto, ON**

Speakers: Richard Elliott, Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network;
Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlik, founder and Director of the Masai Center for Local, Regional, and
Global Health; Aria Ilyad Admad, Universities Allied for Essential Medicine

What: Let's Talk AIDS

Hosted by Dignitas Youth @ U of T St. George

When: Tuesday, November 30, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Medical Sciences Building, Room 3153, University of Toronto, 1 King's College
Circle, **Toronto, ON**

Speakers: James Fraser, co-founder and Executive Director of Dignitas International;
Paul Hamel, Director of the University College Health Studies Program at the University
of Toronto; Alexis MacDonald, Director of External Relations for the Stephen Lewis
Foundation.

What: World AIDS Day Breakfast

Hosted by AIDS Thunder Bay and a coalition of local civil society groups

When: Wednesday, December 1, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., \$10

Where: Victoria Inn, 555 W. Arthur St., **Thunder Bay, ON**

What: World AIDS Day Open Mike Night

Hosted by Victoria College Students' Administrative Council, University of Toronto

When: Friday, December 3, 8:00 p.m., \$3

Where: The Cat's Eye, basement of Wymilwood building, 95 Charles Street West,
Toronto, ON

For more information about CAMR and Bill C-393, see www.aidslaw.ca/camr.

Contact:

Christopher Holcroft

Principal, Empower Consulting for the Legal Network

Telephone: +1 416 996-0767, chris_holcroft@yahoo.com