

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Maninder Sidhu
Minister of International Trade

The Honourable Randeep Sarai
Secretary of State (International Development)

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health

Nancy Hamzawi
President, Public Health Agency of Canada

David Lametti
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York

June 16, 2026

Dear Minister Anand, Minister Sidhu, Secretary of State Sarai, Minister Michel, Ms. Hamzawi, and Ambassador Lametti,

On June 22 and 23, 2026, Canada will join other United Nations (UN) member states at the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV and AIDS at the UN General Assembly in New York. The HLM is a critical accountability mechanism for an effective global HIV response, and the resultant Political Declaration will be essential in guiding the next five years of member states' efforts on HIV and AIDS.

We, the undersigned Canadian civil society organizations, call on Canada to continue showing leadership in global health, human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) by **supporting a strong Political Declaration at the HLM in June**. Specifically, we urge Canada to demonstrate leadership in negotiations on the draft of the Political Declaration by supporting language on human rights, community-led solutions, and financing to ensure that decades of progress are not lost and strong HIV responses continue in support of at-risk communities including key populations, adolescent girls and young women, newborns and young children and communities in humanitarian settings.

The 2026 HLM represents a **critical political and fiscal moment** as increasing pushback from governments and significant funding cuts to the global HIV response risk undermining global health improvements related to HIV. Recent statistics from the World Health Organization show that in 2025 there was an estimated 30-40 percent decrease in Official Development Assistance

for health compared to 2023. In order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to end AIDS by 2030, Canada needs to show strong leadership at the HLM.

During Political Declaration negotiations, Canada must:

- *Defend* language on human rights and on the full inclusion of Key Populations who are disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS;
- *Champion* community-led organizations who are leading the fight against HIV and recognize their significance to the global response to HIV;
- *Strengthen* financing and access to medicines language to reinforce previously agreed upon targets and Political Declarations;
- *Commit to ending* the harms of the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, including by defending language in the Political Declaration about reviewing and reforming legal and policy barriers; and
- *Advance* civil society feedback that makes the Political Declaration more inclusive of integrated and people-centred health responses that meet community needs, including adding or protecting language on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), SRHR, harm reduction, tuberculosis, and mental health.

At a time of increasing global uncertainty, this HLM is critical to ensuring a comprehensive and effective global response to HIV. It is a crucial global accountability mechanism for Canada and the world to renew its commitments to end AIDS by 2030. **We, the undersigned, are counting on your continued leadership to ensure that progress in fighting the AIDS epidemic is sustained and that millions of lives are protected.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HIV Legal Network
Stephen Lewis Foundation
ONE Campaign

Action Hepatitis Canada
AIDS Committee Newfoundland & Labrador
AIDS Committee of Durham Region
AIDS Committee of Ottawa
AIDS New Brunswick
L'Anonyme
Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIRN)
Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc.

BLITSS

CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks

Canadian AIDS Society

Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases

The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health

Canadian Public Health Association

Centre Action Solidarité Montréal

Centre for Sexuality

CHIC ART INITIATIVE UGANDA

Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA)

Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)

Connecting Queer Communities

Doctors of the World Canada

Dr. Peter Centre

GAP-VIES

Global Sentinels Movement

Grandmothers Advocacy Network

Health Equity Alliance of Nova Scotia

HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)

HIV West Yellowhead Society

iLINQ2

Intervention Régionale et Information sur le sida

Maison Plein Cœur

Maison Re-Né

Maple Leaf Medical Clinic

Nine Circles Community Health Agency

PAN (Pacific AIDS Network Society)

Planned Parenthood NL Sexual Health Centre (PPNLSHC)

Point de Repères

Portail VIH/sida du Québec

Positive Living North: No khēyoh t'sih'en t'sehena Society

RECAP Health Services

Réseau de la santé sexuelle des Sourds du Québec

Results Canada

RÉZO

SafeLink Alberta Society

Sidalys

Sex Information & Education Council of Canada (SIECCAN)

Stella, l'amie de Maimie

Stop TB Canada

St. Thomas University

Toronto Harm Reduction Alliance

University of Calgary

Uniphare

Village Lab; Faculty of Social Work; University of Manitoba

World Vision Canada