

Community Awareness on HIV/AIDS



August 20, 2007

Dear Principal and Vice-Principal,

The HIV/AIDS Awareness Week Planning Committee for Metro Halifax¹ is hosting a unique event during the week of November 24th to December 1st, 2007 (**National HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day**). This display will consist of 8000 flags that will create the image of a large AIDS ribbon (6400 white flags as background and 1600 red flags to make the red ribbon). They represent the number of deaths that occur globally from AIDS each day.

One of the main objectives of this project is to educate youth on HIV/AIDS and its human impact locally and globally. To this end, we are asking local schools to get involved by creating art work and messages about HIV and AIDS in our community and our world on the white flags. This project is supported by an educational resource package that identifies curriculum outcomes. We are asking schools to be involved this fall so that in late November, the entire 8000 flag display will be set up for AIDS Awareness Week in a prominent venue in HRM.

Committee members are contacting principals and vice-principals of junior and senior high schools in the HRM area to raise awareness of the project and to provide information on how their school can get involved. We will deliver all of the materials you need to make the flags and will also collect the completed flags in mid-November. Your students will have fun designing and decorating their flags while learning about HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Stephen Lewis has called on all Canadians to get involved, saying that together, we will make a difference - one life at a time. **We believe that Nova Scotian youth are ready to accept this challenge.** In the coming weeks, we will be in touch with you to see if you have any questions, but in the meantime, please feel free to contact us for more information at aids@gov.ns.ca

Thank you!

*The HIV/AIDS Awareness Week Planning
Committee for Metro Halifax*

*Please do circulate this message
to your Art teachers*



¹ AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, Atlantic Council for International Co-operation, Canadian Crossroads International, CanFar, Direction 180, Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Mainline Needle Exchange, NS Advisory Commission on AIDS, Nova Scotia Gambia Association, UNICEF – Atlantic Region.