

## Announcement of Executive Director Transition

I am writing to announce the impending retirement of Regional HIV/AIDS Connection's (RHAC) Executive Director, Brian Lester.

Brian has announced his planned departure from his role as Executive Director to begin retirement effective March 31, 2023, following sixteen (16) years of dedicated work to advance RHAC's mission, vision and values. Brian has led the organization through two strategic planning cycles during his tenure, bringing solution-focused approaches forward to catalyze significant organizational growth and realize positive community impacts. Some of the many accomplishments achieved through his skilled leadership and the engaged support of successive Board, leadership, and frontline staff members include:

- Regional service mandate expansion (covering Perth, Huron, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford Counties) and associated rebranding of the former AIDS Committee of London (ACOL) in 2012
- Legal amalgamation with the John Gordon Home in 2015
- Coordinated response to the 2016 HIV outbreak among people who use substances through continued growth of RHAC's harm reduction services and related community partnerships
- Leadership support and service delivery planning for London Cares' initiative during its transitional journey to not-for-profit status in 2016
- Opening Ontario's first Ministry of Health-approved overdose prevention site in 2018 and the subsequent establishment of RHAC's Carepoint Consumption and Treatment Services program
- Significant relocation initiatives delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic, culminating in occupancy at two new sites in 2022: 602 Queens Avenue (new HUB model) and 446 York Street
- Expansive and innovative prevention work delivered both among diverse communities placed at increased systemic risk for HIV/HCV and accidental drug poisoning.
- Actioning RHAC's ongoing commitment to addressing inequities through the delivery of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) assessment and plan to implement identified recommendations

Brian has consistently honored the agency's community- and volunteer-inspired origins throughout his tenure with RHAC. His skill and passion for the work has been underpinned by strong and respectful trust relationships with funders, community partners, staff, volunteers, and supporters; all contributing positively to organizational health and community impact. Over the years, RHAC's value statement—*The Courage to Do What is Right*—has stood out as a strong reflection of Brian's belief in the advancement of social justice for people placed at the margins of our community. Brian's legacy is one of truly courageous leadership.

Serving Perth, Huron, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford Counties

Main Location | 201-602 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1Y8 | Tel: 519.434.1601 or 866.902.1601 | Fax: 519.434.1843  
Harm Reduction Services | 446 York Street, London, Ontario N6B 1R2 | Tel: 519.434.1601 or 866.902.1601 | Fax: 519.434.1843  
John Gordon Home | 596 Pall Mall Street, London, Ontario N5Y 2Z9 | Tel: 519.433.3951 | Fax: 519.433.1314

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Over the next six months, the Board will be conducting a thorough search to find RHAC's next Executive Director. It is our priority to find a dynamic leader with a true passion and capacity to further RHAC's mission: to positively impact the lives of individuals and diverse communities living with, at-risk for, or affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV). Notices seeking applications for the position will be published soon on the RHAC website and through several other channels. The process is expected to be completed with a new appointment announced March 1, 2023.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank Brian for his years of service to RHAC and wish him all the best in his next adventure.

Sincerely,



Chris Moss, Board Chair, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection

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