



MEDIA RELEASE



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Celebrating the AIDS Walk for Life

Vancouver BC – Over 2000 people came out to the 22nd Annual AIDS Walk for Life held in Stanley Park on September 23, 2007 and hosted by the British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA). Together they raised over \$350,000- all of which will go to providing direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Unlike many walks, which fundraise for research or international causes, the AIDS Walk directly benefits people in the Lower Mainland. This year 15 community partners participated in the walk. All funds raised support these local organizations, which provide such necessities as subsidized housing for women with HIV/AIDS, prevention programs in First Nations communities, and support groups for youth. All funds raised for BCPWA go to our complimentary health fund, which reimburses members for the HIV/AIDS related treatments and supplements not covered by provincial health care or other resources.

“We are thrilled to have a diverse and enthusiastic crowd out to enjoy the sunshine and celebrate life,” says Glyn Townson, Chair of BCPWA. “It’s great to see community groups and individuals coming together to support people with HIV/AIDS, and to continue to create awareness about AIDS in our community.

The opening ceremonies for the Walk included presentations from Members of Parliament Hedy Fry, Libby Davies and Bill Siksay, as well as presentations from MLAs Lorne Mayencort and Shane Simpson, and Vancouver City Councilor Tim Stevenson. The crowd was entertained throughout the seven kilometer rout by a variety of entertainment. By noon the party was in full swing with live music from SPYGIRL, the Kitchen and Brickhouse.

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The British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA Society), a non-profit, consumer-driven organization is in its 21th year of operation, is dedicated to empowering persons living with HIV disease and AIDS through mutual support and collective action. As western Canada's largest AIDS organization, with a membership of more than 4,400 HIV+ individuals, the Society provides support and advocacy services, treatment information, and volunteer opportunities to its diverse membership.