

For immediate release

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AccolAIDS gala honours surprising array of HIV/AIDS activists and heroes

Vancouver, BC: What do the city's foremost social columnist, a Haida artist and a leading molecular diagnostic scientist have in common? A proud record of accomplishments and activism in British Columbia's HIV/AIDS community. Fred Lee, William Flett and Noushin Moshgabadi respectively, along with 32 other individuals and organizations will be honoured for their work on April 24, 2016 at Positive Living BC's biennial awards gala, AccolAIDS. Other nominees include well-known advocate Kecia Larkin, event producer Dean Thullner, philanthropist John Pedersen, and activist Susan Bhatti.

"This year's nominees represent a variety of ages, genders, ethnicities and sexualities; in other words, a cross-section of the kinds of exceptional individuals and organizations we encounter every day in the HIV community. We are grateful to them all," says Val Nicholson, Chair of Positive Living BC.

Along with an inspiring crowd, the evening will feature performances by musical dynamo DESTINEAK, cocktails, and a gourmet dinner. A treasure trove of items available through silent and live auctions will round out the night.

Proceeds generated from the event will support Positive Living BC's services and programs that help empower people living with HIV/AIDS. Says Nicholson, "All monies that we raise through AccolAIDS will be used to enhance the quality of life of our members who are living with HIV."

AccolAIDS takes place Sunday, April 24, 2016 at the Vancouver Convention Centre West, from 6 pm to 10 pm. Tickets are available at www.accolaims.ca.

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The Positive Living Society of British Columbia exists to enable persons living with HIV and AIDS to empower themselves through mutual support and collective action.