

EDITOR'S LETTER

Sharing stories is one way to put a spotlight on the challenges faced by people living with HIV (PHAs) in Canada. Sharing stories is also a powerful approach to finding ways to face those challenges. In this issue, we are proud to share the stories of PHAs who face their challenges and put the living in "living with HIV."

In this issue's cover story, "Path to Healing: Full Circle on the Prairies," we hear from a group that is increasingly affected by HIV—Aboriginal people. They have been struck hard by the epidemic but they have taken healing into their own hands, as we hear in the stories of three Aboriginal PHAs from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. And, as cover girl Krista Shore of Regina so radiantly shows, this face of HIV can be full of life, love and hope.

Long-term survivor Maggie Atkinson reports on a growing health concern among PHAs—declining neuro-cognitive function. In "A Mind of Her Own," she explains how HIV affects the brain and provides advice and insight gleaned firsthand.

Juno-award-winning musician Billy Newton-Davis, arguably one of Canada's most famous PHAs, has had to face life with HIV in a way few people have—literally in the spotlight. In an exclusive profile by Gerald Hannon, Newton-Davis talks about his life in showbiz and his life with the virus.

Finally, art posi+ive showcases some films created by a group of HIV-positive Montreal youth. Making these movies was so empowering that the young filmmakers started their own HIV film festival.

Thanks for picking up this issue of *The Positive Side*. In addition to enjoying our stories, we hope you find something that improves your life in some small way—from practical advice on how to handle a rash to an interesting website you didn't know about. As always, send your stars or cherry bombs to me at dmclay@catie.ca.

—David McLay

THE POSITIVE SIDE

www.positiveside.ca

Winter 2010

Publisher:

Canadian AIDS

Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)

505-555 Richmond St W
Box 1104

Toronto ON M5V 3B1
Canada

© 2010, CATIE.

All rights reserved.

ISSN: 1191-9809

Publications Agreement
Number 1707361

Editor-in-chief

David McLay

Editors

Alain Boutilier, Anna
Kohn, RonniLyn Pustil

Contributors

Albert Martin, Ann
Silversides, Beverly
Deutsch, Darien Taylor,
Derek Thaczuk, Diane
Peters, Maggie Atkinson,
Sean Hosein, Tim Rogers

Creative Direction
and Design

David Vereschagin,
Quadrat Communications

Cover Image

Krista Shore
photographed by
Keith Moulding
(www.keithmoulding.com)

From the Front Lines

What's happening across Canada:
Support from coast to coast

4

Chatty CATIE

4 PHAs reveal what's inside their medicine
cabinets (do you dare peek into yours?)

6

Tribute

James Kreppner, one of Canada's first
AIDS activists (1962–2009)

8

Web of Positivity

Resources from the personal to the political

11

The Best Decision I Ever Made

Juno award winner Billy Newton-Davis
opens up to Gerald Hannon about coming out
as an HIV-positive musician in the spotlight

12



Path to Healing: Full Circle on the Prairies

Cover girl Krista Shore and 2 other Aboriginal
PHAs talk about their journeys with HIV
Plus, resources for APHAs in
Manitoba and Saskatchewan

16

A Mind of Her Own

Long-term survivor Maggie Atkinson copes with
some cognitive issues and shares what she's
learned about protecting her brain

21

Ask the Experts

The skinny on skin—soothing your
blotches and rashes

26

Lights, Camera, Action!

9 Montreal youth with HIV pick up video
cameras for Positive Take—and fight stigma
and discrimination with their films

28

Get a free subscription to *The Positive Side* by visiting www.positiveside.ca or
calling 1.800.263.1638.