



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

# NEWSLETTER

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## Downtown Eastside organization recognized by HEU-sponsored award

The PHS Community Services Society, a non-profit association that provides a number of resources to socially and economically marginalized people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, was this year's recipient of the HEU-sponsored Social, Political & Community Action award at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AccolAIDS fundraising gala on April 19.

Benefiting the B.C. Persons with AIDS Society (BCPWA), the AccolAIDS awards are designed to recognize community groups, organizations and individuals for initiatives and achievements that advance the HIV/AIDS movement in British Columbia.

"HEU is proud to be associated with the BCPWA and to sponsor this award each year," says HEU's financial secretary Donisa Bernardo, who presented the trophy during a ceremony at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver's Pacific Ballroom. "Our union represents many health care workers who provide direct services to patients and residents battling this terrible disease.

"And we know the importance of treating people living with HIV and AIDS with the dignity and respect they deserve in these challenging times of funding cuts to social housing, health care services and PharmaCare. That's why we're recognizing the invaluable work, advocacy and commitment of the PHS Community Services Society."

Since 1993, PHS Community Services Society has assisted "hard-to-house" adults, including individuals with addictions and mental illness, with accommodations, nutritional support, counselling, medical treatment and recreational activities at four Downtown Eastside housing facilities.

This is HEU's sixth year sponsoring an AccolAIDS award.

*April 27, 2009*

