



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

NEWSLETTER

PLEASE POST

Wear the red ribbon on December 1- World AIDS Day

December 1, 2009 marks the 20th year of World AIDS Day – the day to remember as this deadly epidemic still infects tens of thousands across the globe.

Action is needed to remind Prime Minister Stephen Harper about Canada's commitment to help prevent Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and work to reduce its devastating effects on workers, their families, the economy and communities worldwide.

"I urge HEU members to stand up and speak out on behalf of all the women, men and children suffering from HIV/AIDS", says HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy. "The government needs to be reminded that concrete support for the fight against HIV/AIDS in Canada and abroad is required now. Please call, write or email your Member of Parliament (MP) to say you want Canada to live up to our commitment to help eradicate HIV/AIDS."

AIDS is on the rise in Canada. It is critical that the way we respond keeps pace with and overtakes the epidemic. Much has been achieved – improvements in treatment, medical research and social understanding – but there's still much work to do.

People living with HIV (the virus that attacks the body's immune system), still face discrimination in their workplaces and in their personal lives but treatment is improving and life expectancy is increasing.

There are many ways to show support for everyone affected by HIV/AIDS and to raise awareness. You, as an individual, can make a difference at home and at work.

Wearing the red ribbon (the international symbol of support for people living with HIV/AIDS) is a great way to raise awareness about the disease as well as to help break down the barriers of stigma and prejudice. As you wear the red ribbon on December 1, consider the statistics available on the following websites and then act to help end HIV/AIDS here and around the world.

For more information about HIV/AIDS, go to B.C. Persons with AIDS Society <<http://bcpwa.org/>>; World AIDS Campaign <<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/>>.

November 30, 2009

