

# People Living With HIV/AIDS: A Positive Force for Prevention

“Prevention in Context of  
Sero-Divergent Relationships”

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Board of Directors, BCPWA

Chair, Positive Prevention Standing  
Committee



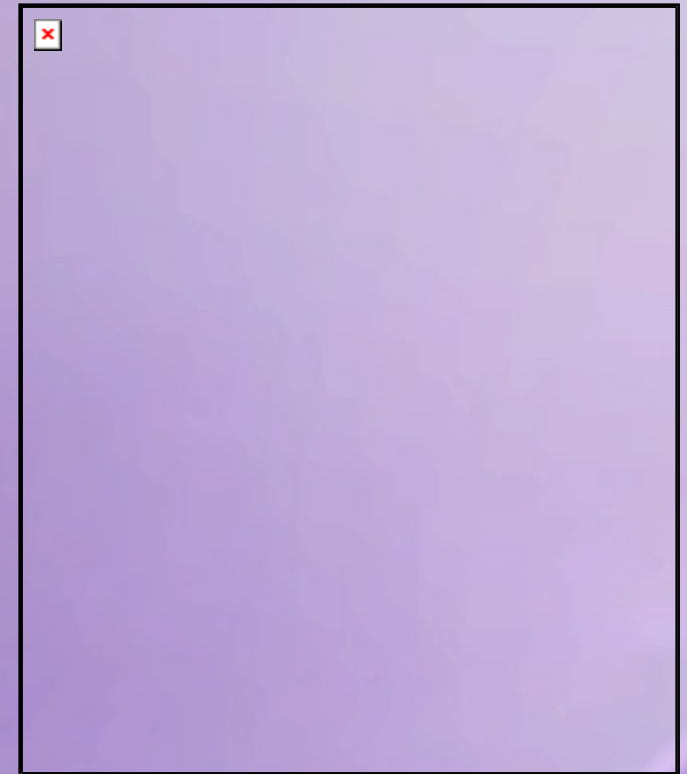
# BCPWA and Positive Prevention

- Largest HIV/AIDS Organization in Western Canada - > 4,300 members.
- Board of Directors are all HIV positive.
- Focuses on **Tertiary prevention** - efforts are directed toward people living with HIV/AIDS and are intended to reduce the negative or challenging effects of the illness and maximize quality of life.
- **It's Complicated Campaign**



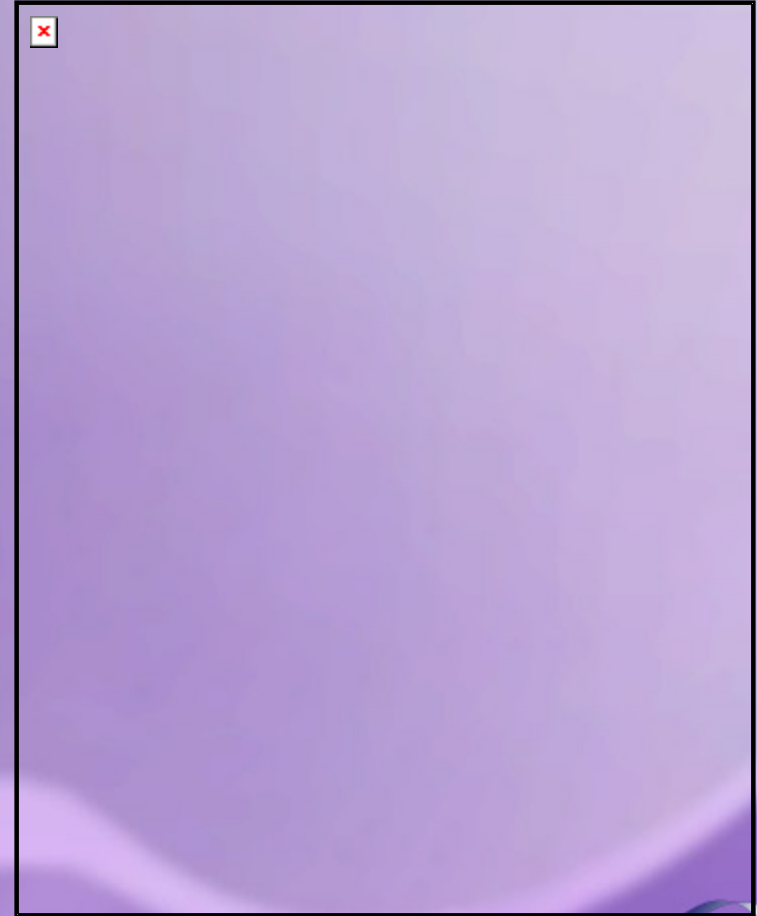
# Sero-Divergent Relationships

- Few supports & services.
- Prevention campaigns aimed at sero-divergent couples?
- Yet....Sex Now Survey (CBRC, 2002) found that half of positive gay men that were in a relationship were in sero-divergent relationships!



# BCPWA Response – SeroSupportive Workshop

- Designed, coordinated and implemented by a team of HIV positive individuals.
- Some specialized outside help – Pinnacle Pursuits (husband and wife team), Bodywork practitioners, HIV negative counsellor, Sex Positive facilitator.
- Initial Response – launching pad for other initiatives.



# Needs Assessment – Significant Issues?

N=36 (18 Couples)

- My Partner's Health
- My Health
- Quality of Life
- Fear of Becoming HIV+ / My Partner Becoming HIV+
- Intimacy and Sexuality



# Peer Based Programs – Providing Role Models and Inspiring Couples

- “Magic Moment”
- Younger couples were “inspired” by long time couples.
- Reciprocal – “reinvigorated our relationship”
- Retreat Team as Role Model.



# SeroSupportive Workshop

## Outcomes Delivered.

1. Delivered Formal Prevention Session
2. Established Informal Prevention Dialogue – Role Modelling.
3. Consciousness Raising
4. Community Building
5. Informal Social Network
6. Support Group Potential.
7. Advisors on Future SeroSupportive Workshops (Leadership Building)

# SeroSupportive Workshop Poster Presentation

Thursday, 17 August

12:30 – 2:00

Poster Exhibition Area

Level 800 – South Building MTCC

THP0664

