

IMPACT 25 REPORT 25

TAKING ACTION TO REMOVE STIGMA SINCE 1988.

OUR MISSION

Trellis HIV & Community Care provides comprehensive services including education, prevention and support for people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV/AIDS and STBBIs in addition to advocating for broader social change to reduce stigma and discrimination.

OUR VISION

Trellis HIV & Community Care is a leader in providing service user advocacy and innovative, high quality services for people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV/AIDS.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With great respect, we acknowledge the lands we serve on as the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat Peoples. We are grateful for our collaborations with these Indigenous communities as we foster healing together.

A YEAR IN REFLECTION: A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

We began the 2024/25 fiscal year with high hopes – the Ontario Ministry of Health announced increases to HIV/AIDS program funding for the first time in many years, and provincial funding for the Integrated Care Hub went from term to base, meaning a measure of stability that was not there before. It seemed like all we'd been doing for the last many years was finally on solid footing financially, and it seemed our commitment to social justice and meeting people where they're at was being embraced in the broader community. But then just when we were feeling that greater confidence, our foundation started to show some major cracks.

- We faced a significant operating deficit at the ICH
- We lost our CRA charitable status
- Taylor Wilkinson and John Hood were murdered, and a third person was grievously injured, in the encampment adjacent to the ICH and the partnership governing it fractured
- Trellis was formally removed from the ICH consortium by the other partners
- That removal forced us to end employment for nearly 50 members of the ICH staff team
- We discovered long-standing reporting gaps with our two primary funders which had significant impacts on current year budgets

In short, it was a year of non-stop loss, challenge, frustration, heartbreak, and change.

But Trellis as a community is nothing if not resilient, and our ability to overcome all of these things showed anyone who doubted our strength and commitment the truth of about who we are.





Never once through all that we faced did we take our eye off our fundamental responsibility, namely continuing to support our community and all those who rely on the services we provide. Throughout the trials we faced, we continued to care for our community, we continued to advocate for the real social change that has been part of our mission since 1988, and we continued to combat the stigma and discrimination that constitutes one of the gravest threats to us all.

The Trellis Staff Team displayed the most remarkable strength and commitment, resolved as they are to continue fulfilling our mission despite any obstacles put in our path. They are heroes, each and every one of them. And in a world that seems to be unravelling in fundamental ways, we need more heroes like them, people dedicated to making a difference close to home, every day, despite the forces arrayed against them.

For 37 years, we have refused to be "OTHERED", we have said to the world "NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US", and we have supported ourselves unfailingly because we know that unity is the key to our survival. But beware - there are people around us who seek to fracture that unity. Let us never forget it is unity that has brought us to where we are, it is unity that will allow us to control our future, it is unity that gives us the strength to confront and overcome anything put in our way.

Our future is bright because we know, and live every day remembering, that what Margaret Mead said is true: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the one thing that ever has."

Ted Robinson Board Chair

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE: A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



While this past fiscal year has presented Trellis with many challenges, heartbreak, loss and uncertainty, it has also provided us with the opportunity to pause and reflect on the many lessons learnt to better understand how to create organizational health and sustainability to ensure we can continue the important work Trellis is best suited to provide and has been providing since 1988.

Despite how challenging this past year has been and all the changes it's brought, one thing ALWAYS remains the same and it is the true privilege I experience getting to share space, learn, and grow from the expertise, compassion, knowledge, perseverance and advocacy of those living with, affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS as well as the beautiful community of staff, volunteers and students who continue to show up and fight.

It is my commitment and the commitment of the organization to never lose sight of the many shoulders we are standing on, of those who came before us.

As the landscape and political climate shifts and the work becomes even more challenging it is more important than ever before to continue showing up for the community and to honour our roots and the movement we are part of.



These lessons learnt help us remain flexible and adaptable as an organization to best meet the changing needs of those we serve and better respond to emerging crisis, while striving for a future free of hate, stigma and discrimination.

This is reflected in the types of services delivered and programming offered at Trellis and the growing increase in demand across the board.

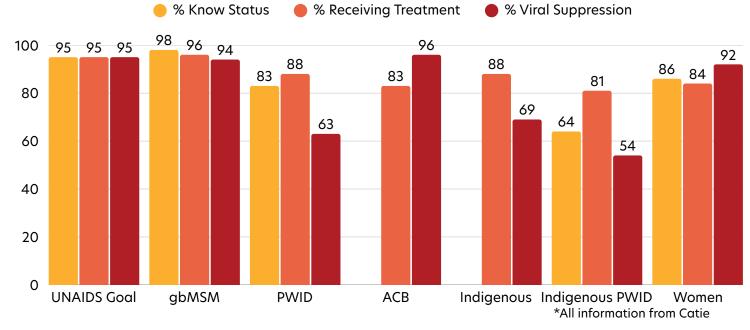
While we continue to provide innovative, comprehensive HIV Care, practical support assistance to those we serve, vast Harm Reduction programming to help combat the ever changing and worsening drug poisoning crisis as well as culturally competent and accessible programming that's designed to meet the specific needs of our communities most marginalized we must also continue the fight to dismantle systemic oppression that continues to disproportionately impact our communities, stay mindful of the power and privilege we hold, involve and engage people living with HIV, those who use substances and/or have lived experience on all levels of our work, seek feedback and trust the experts, advocate and stand together in solidarity.

Amanda Girling
Interim Executive Director

HIV IN 2025

Canada continues to push towards the UNAIDS goal of 95-95-95: 95% of people with HIV know their status, 95% of those diagnosed receiving anti-retroviral treatment, and 95% of people on treatment reaching viral suppression. These metrics shape our work and efforts, telling us where we are most needed. As we look at demographic information, we can see not only

the current state of HIV work in Canada, but also a sign of where we need to go next.



African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) people are an important community of focus - the evidence shows that those who are connected to treatment are experiencing great results, but testing and connection to treatment numbers are missing the mark. People who inject drugs (PWID) are being left behind in a very significant way, most noticeably when it comes to viral suppression. Indigenous Canadians are also struggling to reach viral suppression, and Indigenous people who inject drugs representing the most underserved and underreached population. Women are also underserved, with small differences in statistics representing significant shortcomings in programming. HIV data is a microcosm of the systemic and structural inequalities present in every aspect of Canadian society - laid out for us by the numbers.

When we look at those who are excelling, gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (gbMSM) steadily climb towards exceeded targets. A history of pain and loss has moved the community toward ongoing and effective action. This progress is hard fought and hard won, with decades of work, pain and passion showing us that reaching these goals is possible. We have a road map, but one that must be adapted to fit the people who are being left behind. There's good work left to be done; after nearly 40 years, we're still committed to doing it.

THE DRUG POISONING CRISIS

The drug poisoning crisis continues to ravage our communities, leading to the loss of far too many, far too soon. In 2024, Ontario lost 2231 people to drug poisoning deaths. While this is a 15.4% decrease from the year before, an important and hard won victory, each of these people represents another reason to keep fighting.

While Trellis is no longer distributing NSP supplies through the Integrated Care Hub (as of September 2024), we continue to reach the people we serve through our office at 844a Princess St., and the URWorx mobile harm reduction team, which visits sights across our catchment area.

This year*, we have distributed...

3530+

Naloxone Kits

13050+

Condoms

130,030+

Syringes

139,990+

Bowls, Straight Pipes & Foil

April 1 2024-March 31 2025

SUPPORT NOT STICMAL

WE REMEMBER.

We acknowledge all of the beautiful people our community has lost to HIV. You are loved, you are missed, you will not be forgotten.

We acknowledge all of the beautiful people our community has lost to drug poisoning. You are loved, you are missed, you will not be forgotten.

We acknowledge all of the beautiful people our community has lost while they were navigating systemic barriers in finding housing, accessing medical care, and/or adequate mental health support. You are loved, you are missed, you will not be forgotten.

We stand in solidarity with all who continue to struggle.

We honour the strength of the communities who continue to care for one another in the face of ongoing, intersecting crises.

We will continue to fight and advocate for better drug policy and dignified care for people who use substances.





With support from community partners and generous donors, Trellis is doing its part to help individuals access healthy food. These meals were distributed through our breakfast program and food stand.



2,200+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

We are grateful for the continued support of the dedicated individuals who help us deliver our vital services.

8654

NSP TRANSACTIONS

TO:

1871

UNIQUE CLIENTS

OUR IMPACT

REAFFIRMING AS OUR COMMITMENT

GIPA/MIPA - Greater
Involvement/Meaningful
Engagement of People
Living with HIV/AIDS

We acknowledge that greater involvement of people with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) is never achieved once and for all; it is a goal and commitment that must be continually renewed. GIPA is a practice, not a project, and is similar to all other accountabilities of healthy HIV organizing and service delivery. Our practices in AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) must be continually re-evaluated in light of the changing realities of HIV/AIDS and of those living with it. (from OAN.red)

Trellis HIV & Community Care is striving to do better: to hear the voices of lived and living experience and to better reflect the diversity of the communities we serve.

As such, we are affirming our commitment to the following principles and to participating in the process of reconciliation.

AR/AO - Anti Racism / Anti Oppression

Used as an umbrella term that includes activities, practices, policies, ways of thinking, and initiatives that address oppression in all its forms (e.g. racism, homophobia, classism, ablism). Key to anti-oppression is an understanding that inequality and oppression exist in the world, and that all of us participate in unequal power dynamics in a variety of ways. Anti-oppression involves reflection and making choices about how to give, share, wield, or withhold power to assist and act in solidarity with people who are marginalized. (from ORGWISE.ca)

TRC - Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Each of us has a role to contribute to the process of reconciliation. Public dialogue and action on reconciliation must extend beyond addressing the history and legacy of the residential schools. If Canada is to thrive in the twenty-first century, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples must also thrive. This requires healthy communities and real economic and social change. National reconciliation involves building respectful relationships at the community level. (from TRC.ca)

We invite our membership to affirm these principles and commit with us to doing this work.

PRIDE 2025

Pride month is always brings us back to the root of the HIV movement, and provides a much needed opportunity for community, celebration, and resistance. This year we attended pride parades and festivals all throughout our catchment area, including Kingston, Brockville, Napanee, and Belleville.

As members of and advocates for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Trellis is committed to standingalongside all of those who need support, protection, or comradery, especially in our current political landscape.

Pride began as a protest where people fought for their dignity, safety and respect. We are proud to continue that legacy.



CLINIC

Since its inception in 2021, the primary care clinic, offered in partnership with Queens Family Health Teams, has continued to grow. Thanks to the dedicated work of clinic staff, particularly Dr. Kathy Pouteau and Jo McAlpine, we have seen a steady increase in engagement with clinic services.

Having a consistent primary care provider has made a meaningful impact in the lives of the people we serve. Continuity of care has allowed people to be connected to ODSP, referred to other medical services including home care and surgery, and enabled people to build a medical history with one care provider.

The clinic offers dignified, compassionate care to the people we serve, tirelessly improving health outcomes. Each appointment, referral and connection empowers people to build health in all aspects of their lives, one step at a time.



DRAG IN THE PARK 2025



'Drag In The Park', an annual fundraising event that supports the work of Trellis HIV & Community Care and raises awareness about the Friends For Life Bike Rally, is a cornerstone of our year here at Trellis. This year, we were thrilled to host TWO Drag In The Park events - one in June and one in August.

The generous support from the Kingston community is always moving and inspiring. We appreciate everyone who took part in the event, from from the Drag performers who donate their time, to the volunteers who collect donations, and of course the audience members who come back year after year!



F4LBR 2025

The Friends for Life Bike Rally is the only volunteer-led ride, that brings people together for an inclusive, supportive, and life-changing challenge that inspires much-needed help for people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto, Kingston and Montréal.

Interested in riding next year? The 27th annual Bike Rally will take place August 3-8th 2025. There are 100KM and 300KM options, as well as our classic 600KM ride to Montreal.

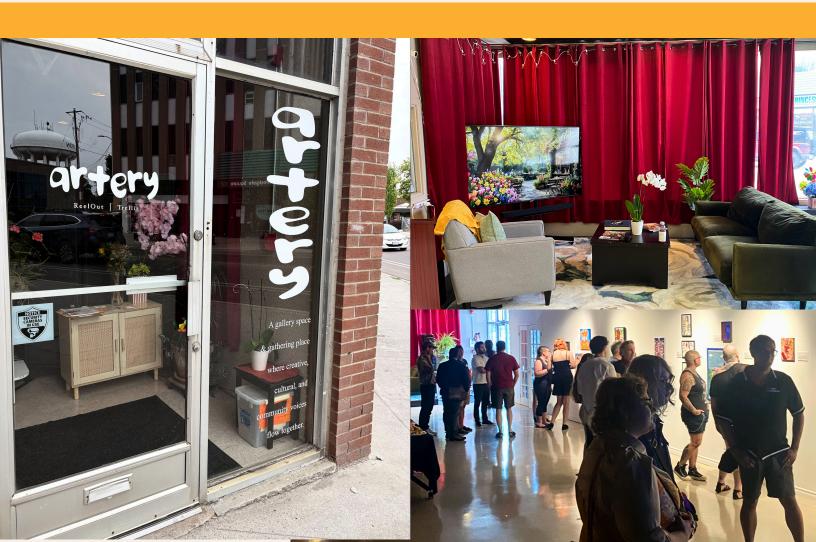


ARTERY

This year, in partnership with ReelOut we have enhanced our art gallery space, giving it a fresh new look, feel, and name! We proudly introduce... Artery!

Artery is a new community art space in Kingston, Ontario. Here you'll find rotating exhibitions, screenings, workshops, artist talks, and the occasional beautiful mess.

Artery is a gallery space & gathering place where creative, cultural, and community voices flow together. Our space is available to book for individuals or community agencies/organizations/clubs. Please contact us with inquiries to artery@trellishiv.ca



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 BOARD

Ted Robinson
April Stevens
Brian McNeely
Colin Ubdegrove
Carolyn Smart
Josh Roy
Tiff Idems
Nicole Brown

Board Chair
Secretary
Director
Vice Chair
Secretary
Director
Director - To be elected

Director - To be elected



On behalf of our staff & board, we want to express our deepest gratitude to every single one of our community partners, sponsors, volunteers, funders, and supporters.

And above all else, thank you to the people we serve for their support and trust in us.





THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR!

