



## **The Green Party's Position on Seven Key Questions on HIV/AIDS: prepared for the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

### **1. Funding HIV prevention research**

*Will your party increase funding for Canadian and international research on new HIV prevention technologies, including microbicides and vaccines?*

The Green Party is committed to proactive solutions to help prevent the dissemination of HIV. We are assured that investments to support coordinated research efforts via the International Partnership for Microbicides and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative will pay for itself by reducing long-term treatment costs and improving the productivity of future generations of Canadians and global citizens. Consequently, the Green Party would support increased funding for research on new HIV prevention technologies.

### **2. Strengthening health systems in developing countries**

*Will your party set a timetable to deliver on this commitment?*

The Green Party believes that Canada must meet its commitment to allocate 0.7% of GDP to overseas development assistance (ODA). This level of funding is essential to meet the most basic of goals: to make poverty history, cure disease, foster democracy, and support ecologically sustainable economies. This will make the world a better and safer place for everyone.

We will ensure our commitments for the provision of HIV/AIDS anti-retroviral drugs for Africa is fulfilled, and that Africa will be a significant focus of our development priorities. This will include support for African plans for adaptation to the increasingly devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS coupled with climate change in Africa.

- Increase ODA by 0.05% of GDP (\$650 million in 2007) to reach the target of 0.7% of GDP by 2016.
- Revamp the Canadian International Development Agency to alleviate poverty with an integrated, multi-pronged approach by focusing on (1) developing community-based green economies, (2) strengthening health systems and (3) programmes to mitigate and adapt to climate change, especially strengthening its Partnership Branch for the delivery of ODA.

- Fulfill our commitments for the provision of HIV/AIDS anti-retroviral drugs to Africa.

### **3. Supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

*Will your party commit Canada to contributing, in each of the next five years, five percent of the resources needed to fund developing countries' efforts as identified by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through its technical review process?*

The Green Party recognizes the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria as a critical mechanism to combat three of the world's most devastating diseases by effectively funneling the financial resources to where it is needed most. The Green Party would support this initiative with resources earmarked from our ODA as part of our commitment to promoting the eradication of these diseases overseas.

### **4. Fixing Canada's Access to Medicines Regime**

*Will your party streamline Canada's Access to Medicines Regime to create a simple one-license process so that developing countries have access to life-saving medicines through a sustainable and straightforward process?*

As part of the Green Party's overseas development initiative, the Green Party will support Canada's Access to Medicines Regime, whilst balancing Canada's trade and intellectual property obligations with the urgency of the humanitarian objective.

### **5. Funding the response to HIV/AIDS in Canada**

*Will your party commit to restoring full funding, at the level of at least \$85 million per year, to the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada?*

The Green Party is committed to increasing support to the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada, which include programs that will:

- Reduce the stigma associated with having HIV. This stigma is the significant barrier to delivery of effective, non-judgmental prevention and treatment programs.
- Put greater resources into the treatment and delivery of antiretroviral therapies to HIV positive drug users, a marginalized group in Canada which is receiving third-world medical support.
- Put greater resources into harm reduction, prevention and education efforts directed towards high-risk populations.

### **6. Harm reduction services to protect and promote health**

*Will your party commit to supporting harm reduction services, including supervised injection facilities, as one important component of an overall federal strategy on drugs and as part of efforts to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) associated with unsafe injection drug use?*

The Green Party has been a longtime supporter for increased numbers of safe injection clinics and needle exchange programs to help mitigate drug use and the transmission of HIV and HCV.

**7. Protecting prisoner's health to protect public health**

*Will your party implement needle exchange programs in Canadian prisons to stop the spread of deadly viruses and to protect public health?*

Although the Green Party does not currently have policy to deal with this specific issue, we are committed to supporting socially responsible, pro-active initiatives that promote healthy communities. As such, the Green Party is eager to develop partnerships with the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, along with concerned stakeholders, to refine and improve the health of prisoners and the public at large.