

April 18, 2013

Statement on the death of our friend and colleague Ken Buchanan

It is with great sadness that the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network informs you that Ken Buchanan, until recently a member of our Board of Directors, passed away on the afternoon of Monday, April 15, after a long battle with cancer.

Ken joined the Legal Network's board in June 2011 and served until his declining health forced him to resign in November 2012. However, his involvement with our work predated his term on the board, including collaboration with us, in his capacity as a representative of Positive Living BC, in challenging the unjust criminalization of people living with HIV in Canada.

As someone living with both HIV (since 2004) and hepatitis C, Ken knew first-hand the many challenges facing people living with the virus, as well as the stigma and discrimination it too often attracts. In his quiet, no-nonsense way, he was dedicated to the task of empowering people living with HIV to take collective action in demanding dignity and defending their human rights. Legal Network board members described Ken as "a bright light" and "an inspiration to all." Board president (on leave) David Eby described him as "a wonderful, very kind, very generous advocate for people."

He will be sorely missed around our table, but his example of cheerful determination will continue to inspire us. We extend our deepest condolences to his partner William, to his loved ones, and to the entire Positive Living BC family for this loss.

For more on Ken and some of his contributions to the AIDS movement in Canada, please see: http://www.xtra.ca/public/Vancouver/Former_Positive_Living_chair_Ken_Buchanan_dies-13413.aspx.

We will share additional details via our website, Facebook and Twitter once plans for Ken's memorial are known.

