

## Communiqué

Dear community partners:

Research has found that some newcomers to Ontario feel there is limited public education about HIV, resulting in the perception that it is not an issue in the province. Consequently, they are not always sufficiently aware of their risk for HIV acquisition, and may engage in behaviours that can lead to seroconversion. And while it is true that with advances in science and treatment HIV has become a manageable, chronic illness, it can still have health and social impacts, such as stigma, for those at risk, living with and affected by it.



Considering the socio-economic factors that increase HIV risk for newcomers to Ontario, **HelloOntario.info** is a resource created for those who have been diagnosed with HIV or are at risk of acquiring it. Comprising a website and pocket guide, the resource provides newcomers with information to help them access HIV prevention, testing, care and support services. It includes important information about the status of HIV in Ontario, how HIV may (or may not) impact their application to live in Canada, settlement & legal services, health care services and medication access, social programs and services, and more.

**HelloOntario.info** aligns with Ontario's [HIV/AIDS Strategy to 2026](#) goals of ensuring accurate information, early diagnosis, and access to prevention, treatment and support, as well as engagement in care for people living with HIV.

We hope you will share this important resource widely with newcomer clients (i.e., immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, students, people without status in Canada), partners and networks, especially those who work directly with newcomers to Ontario. Training webinars about this resource will be provided for service providers in the coming weeks.

To obtain free copies of the pocket guide, please contact any of the partner networks, which are listed below.

**HelloOntario.info** was created in partnership with the [African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario](#) (ACCHO), the [Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment](#) (CAAT), the [Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance](#) (GMSH) and the [Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative](#) (WHA), which are networks that focus on building capacity and strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS among Ontario's priority populations.

The development of this resource was funded by the AIDS & Hepatitis C Programs, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Ontario).

To find out more, go to [www.helloontario.info](http://www.helloontario.info).