



**The Scotiabank AIDS Walk Toronto benefiting ACT (the AIDS Committee of Toronto)
Media Fact Sheet**

What: The Scotiabank AIDS Walk Toronto
Where: Barbara Hall Park | 519 Church Street | Toronto, ON | M4Y 2C9
Duration: 5km Walk
Registration Opens: 10am
Opening Ceremonies: 11am
Walk Begins: 12pm
Closing Ceremonies and Entertainment: 1:30pm
Info: 416.340.9255(WALK)/www.aidswalktoronto.ca

ABOUT THE AIDS WALK:

- The Scotiabank AIDS Walk is a National Partnership between the AIDS Committee of Toronto, the Canadian AIDS Society and Positive Living British Columbia.
- The AIDS Walk Toronto will be a 5km walk, beginning and ending at Barbara Hall Park, walking through the streets of Toronto to raise funds for ACT.
- Funds raised through the AIDS Walk Toronto support the vital HIV prevention, outreach and education programs offered free at ACT.
- The AIDS Walk Toronto 2016 raised over \$270,000. 2017 marks 29 years of walking in support of ACT.

ABOUT ACT:

The AIDS Committee of Toronto was founded in 1983 by a group of volunteers. It was founded in response to a new disease that was being ignored by mainstream healthcare, media, and all levels of government.

ACT is a leading HIV service organization, supporting the more than 20,000 people living with HIV in Toronto. They do so by offering a range of comprehensive supports that help people living with HIV confront the stigma, physical and mental health challenges, and financial complexity of living with HIV.

ACT also works extensively towards preventing new HIV infections from occurring. Our goal is to reduce HIV transmissions through prevention. ACT works with gay men, women and young people to increase their knowledge of HIV.

www.actoronto.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACT's WORK

- HIV treatments have improved the life expectancy of those living with HIV. More people are aging with HIV and face new challenges such as income security. In response, ACT provides programming on HIV and aging through our "Planning for the Long term" workshop series.
- Through programs such as Employment ACTION, ACT helps people with HIV re-enter the workforce and find meaningful employment.

- **Stigma and discrimination still exist, so it can be a challenge for those with HIV to be open and honest about the fact that they have HIV. ACT works to reduce social isolation, build confidence and foster resilience in the face of stigma.**
- **HIV prevention is vital. There is no cure to HIV. ACT leads in producing innovative and effective strategies of preventing new HIV infections. Every \$1 invested in HIV prevention saves Ontario \$15 in future health care costs.**

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