



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

Chief Public  
Health Officer

Administratrice en chef  
de la santé publique

JAN 18 2019

Mr. Andrew Sorfleet, President  
Triple-X Worker's Solidarity Association of B.C.  
Box 3075, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 3X6

Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

Dear Mr. Sorfleet:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of November 28, 2018, regarding the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (CGSTI) (2010) and the Pan Canadian Framework for Action on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBI). Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and I sincerely regret the delay in responding.

Your comments are timely as the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is currently reviewing and updating the CGSTI. The revised guidelines focus on the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of STBBI based on behavioural risk factors and not population groups. The referenced CGSTI "Sex Workers" chapter is out-dated and will be removed.

The Pan-Canadian Framework was developed through a consultation process that engaged a large number of partners and stakeholders. This included community-based organizations that work with people engaged in the sale and/or purchase of sex, including sex workers. These stakeholders communicated the importance of including this population in the Pan-Canadian Framework to improve their access to STBBI prevention, testing, treatment, care and support.

PHAC's HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund supports a number of community-based projects that work to improve access to health and social services, reduce stigma and strengthen the capacity of sex workers and service providers to prevent infections and improve health outcomes. More information about the projects funded under the Community Action Fund can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/hiv-hepatitis-community-action-fund-next-steps.html>.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

*Theresa Tam*

*for:* Dr. Theresa Tam, BMBS (UK), FRCPC  
Chief Public Health Officer

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