

An Annotated Chronology of the History of AIDS in Toronto: The First Five Years, 1981-1986

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Abstract. The purpose of this annotated chronology is to help provide a framework for research into the history of the first five years of the AIDS epidemic in Canada but especially as it unfolded in Toronto, Canada. The chronological entries can be used to identify the order and relationship of particular themes, while the sources listed in the chronology can be used as points of reference for further investigations. This chronology is primarily derived from reports in key newspapers based in the Toronto region. Each chronological entry lists the sources which reported on the particular event.

Résumé. Cette chronologie annotée a pour objectif de fournir un cadre pour des recherches sur l'histoire des cinq premières années de l'épidémie de SIDA au Canada, et plus spécifiquement à Toronto. Les entrées chronologiques peuvent être utilisées pour identifier l'ordre et les relations de thèmes particuliers, alors que les sources listées dans la chronologie peuvent être utilisées comme point de références pour des investigations futures. Cette chronologie est issue de rapports des principaux journaux de la région de Toronto. Chaque entrée chronologique nomme les sources rapportant les divers événements.

INTRODUCTION

It has been over 20 years since the advent of AIDS in North America. The first American cases were reported in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* in early June 1981.¹ Although the first Canadian case was reported nine months later in March 1982,² epidemiologically AIDS in Canada

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seems to have lagged approximately two years behind that in the United States during the early years.³

One could argue that even (or perhaps especially) in the early days there was always a general recognition among the affected communities of the historical significance of the epidemic and the responses through activism and community organizing—that these years were experienced as “history in the making.” It seems incongruous then that even after more than 20 years so little has been written on the history of AIDS in Canada.⁴ The purpose of this annotated chronology is to help provide a framework for research into the early days of the epidemic in Canada, especially as events unfolded in the city of Toronto. The chronological entries can be used to identify the order and relationship of particular themes (for instance, the response from the gay community, issues concerning the blood supply, public hysteria, and media coverage), while the sources listed in the chronology can be used as points of reference for further investigations. This chronology is derived from reports in key newspapers based in the Toronto region (primarily the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Sun*, and the gay and lesbian monthly the *Body Politic*⁵). Each chronological entry lists the sources that reported on the particular event. There are doubtless significant events in this history, which went entirely unreported at the time, but these are not reflected in this project. The chronology is derived primarily from the reporting of mainstream primary sources.

This chronology is not national in scope. The intention is to cover the events as they were experienced and reported in Toronto. This was simply a practical consideration; a great many more resources would have to be consulted to create a national framework. The chronology is not, however, restricted to events that occurred in or are relevant only to Toronto. Most of the provincial governmental responses to the epidemic occurred in Toronto, and as one of the major urban centres in Canada many of the developments in the city had impacts far beyond its boundaries. Likewise, reports of key events elsewhere in Canada (and beyond) have been included as part of the context of what was happening in Toronto. For instance, the simultaneous appearance of cases in other Canadian urban centres such as Montreal, Vancouver, and Windsor have been included, as have major international events such as the discovery in the United States and France of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and the announcement of Rock Hudson’s illness. The emphasis of this history is also on the political and social impacts of the early years of AIDS. Scientific and epidemiological developments have only been selectively included.

ANNOTATED CHRONOLOGY

5 June 1981

The *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* publishes a report of a cluster of five cases of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia discovered among “active homosexuals” in Los Angeles. (*MMWR* 1981;30:250-52)

14 June 1981

A girl in Montreal is born with what is later believed to be AIDS. Her Haitian mother dies six weeks later from AIDS-related symptoms. This appears to be the first case of perinatal transmission in Canada. The case is not reported until several years later. (15 February 1983, *Toronto Star* Newbery E8)

1 September 1981

First mention of “gay cancer” in the Canadian gay press. Reports not so much on the cases of cancer among gay men, but on the way in which the American media has created panic by sloppy and biased reporting. (September 1981, *Body Politic* 19)

10 December 1981

One hundred and eighty cases of a mysterious condition, which impairs the body’s defenses, have been reported in the United States in the preceding six months. These cases include one man from Montreal. Seventy-four have died, all of whom were homosexual or bisexual. Of the 180, 92% are gay men. (11 December 1981, *Toronto Star* Dunlop A4)

27 March 1982

The first Canadian account of what would later be known as AIDS is published in the *Canada Diseases Weekly Report*. The 43-year-old gay Windsor man had been ill since returning from Haiti and died of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia on 19 February 1982. (*CDWR* 1982; 8[13]: 65-7)

July 1982

Four cases of the “gay plague” have surfaced in Canada (Montreal, Vancouver and Ontario). (21 July 1982, *Globe and Mail* 9)

July/August 1982

First use of term AIDS [ACIDS: Acquired Community Immune Deficiency Syndrome] in the *Body Politic*. (July/August, 1982 *Body Politic* 16)

November 1982

AIDS is discussed at the First National Conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases held at the Prince Hotel in Toronto. Dr. Marc Steben notes that gay men are passing information amongst themselves, and suggests that while the cause of AIDS is unknown, poppers, promiscuity and specific sexual acts need to be considered as candidates. Of 14 reported Canadian AIDS cases, 10 people have died. None survived more than 20 months from the onset of symptoms. Eleven cases have been found in Montreal, and one each in Vancouver, Windsor and Toronto. Four more cases are suspected. (26 November 1982, *Toronto Star* Newbery C21)

Two seminal articles appear in the *Body Politic*. Michael Lynch publishes "Living with Kaposi's" in which he profiles gay men in New York living with Kaposi's Sarcoma and the community's eager but ill-advised embrace of the medical community and discourses of pathology. He calls for a specifically gay response to AIDS. This article is accompanied by a shorter piece by Bill Lewis entitled "The real gay epidemic: panic and paranoia." (November 1982, *Body Politic* 31-37; 38-40)

January/February 1983

Dr. Lawrence Mass (a writer for the *New York Native*) and Dr. Daniel William (an outspoken physician from New York) have letters published in the *Body Politic* defending themselves from accusations made by Michael Lynch and Bill Lewis (in the November 1982 issue of *Body Politic*) that they are fanning the flames of hysteria in the gay community. Lynch and Lewis respond. (January/February, 1983 *Body Politic* 427)

10 March 1983

The Canadian Red Cross asks "active" gays, bisexuals, IV drug users and Haitians to cease donating blood in an effort to curb the spread of AIDS, although it is still not known how AIDS is transmitted. The *Body Politic* is asked to help publicize this plea. (10 March 1983, *Toronto Sun* 13; 10 March 1983, *Toronto Star* A4; 10 March 1983, *Globe and Mail* Gadd 1,2)

The Canadian Red Cross proposes a more detailed screening questionnaire to ascertain more thoroughly the state of a donor's health. (15 March 1983, *Toronto Sun* 32)

30 March 1983

The Red Cross is accused of racism in their attempt to screen out Haitians from donating blood. (31 March 1983, *Toronto Star* Emerson A1, A4)

April 1983

American AIDS activist Michael Callen writes a nasty letter to the *Body Politic* criticizing Lynch and Lewis' articles (see November 1982). Bill Lewis responds with article entitled "AIDS: discounting the promiscuity theory." (April 1983, *Body Politic* 5-6; 11)

4 April 1983

Dr. Stan Read of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children says the incidence of AIDS infection in Canada could double in the next year. He also announces that his research team has applied for \$1.6 million in federal grant money to study cures for AIDS. (5 April 1983, *Toronto Sun* 23)

5 April 1983

The Hassle Free Clinic and Gays in Health Care sponsor a forum at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. Over 300 people attend. This meeting provides the impetus for the eventual founding of the AIDS Committee of Toronto. (14 December 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery B4)

5 May 1983

Health and Welfare Canada sets up an Ad Hoc Task Force on AIDS to be chaired by Alastair Clayton, Director-General of Health Canada's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control. (June 1983, *Body Politic* 14)

1 June 1983

Ontario Health Minister Larry Grossman announces the formation of a six-member committee (later named the Ontario Advisory Committee on AIDS) to advise him on issues related to AIDS. (2 June 1983, *Toronto Sun* Goldstein 38; 2 June 1983, *Toronto Star* D25; July/August 1983, *Body Politic* 12)

7-12 June 1983

A manifesto entitled the "Denver Principles" is adopted at the 2nd annual National AIDS Forum in Denver, Colorado, marking the beginning of the People with AIDS (PWA) movement in the United States. A copy is reprinted in the *Body Politic*. (October 1983, *Body Politic*)

9 June 1983

AIDS is a major topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association. In an address, Dr. Jenny Heathcoate cautions against AIDS hysteria, citing the presence of only 21 cases in Canada since 1979. She condemns the Red Cross's practice of preventing gay men and Haitians from donating blood as "gross discrimination." Dr. Gordon Kerbel forecasts that AIDS will become an epidemic in Canada. (10 June 1983, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon 5; 10 June 1983, *Toronto Sun* 33)

27 June 1983

Dr. Norman Lapointe tells a meeting of the Canadian Pediatric Society that 70% of AIDS cases have been homosexuals, although it has also been reported in Haitians, hemophiliacs and drug addicts. In Canada, four children have died and several others are being monitored at St. Justine's Hospital in Montreal. This raises questions about the route of transmission of AIDS. (28 June 1983, *Toronto Star* 1; 28 June 1983, *Globe and Mail* 10; 11 July 1983, *Globe and Mail MacKenzie* 9)

28 June 1983

Ontario Health Minister Larry Grossman says he has no evidence of AIDS deaths among children in Ontario. (29 June 1983, *Toronto Sun* 42)

29 June 1983

Two fundraising marathons are announced with the goal of raising \$1.8 million for AIDS research. Seventeen people will run a relay between Montreal and Toronto, and 33 will run a relay between Vancouver and Calgary. Both marathons are planned for 1 October 1983. (30 June 1983 *Toronto Star* A6)

30 June 1983

At a press conference at the Toronto City Hall, the Toronto Public Health Department announces a seven-point strategy for dealing with AIDS. This includes informing the gay community of risks and symptoms associated with AIDS (pamphlets and posters are to be ready in three weeks), informing the health department staff on how to advise the public on AIDS, supporting universal precautions in hospitals, establishing a liaison with hospitals to ensure staff deal with AIDS patients appropriately, reassuring the public about the low risk of getting AIDS, and staying connected with local, provincial and federal governments, as well as other health departments. The Department worries that without better education, Canadians may develop the same AIDS hysteria as seen in places in the US. (1 July 1983, *Toronto Star Pigg* A13; 1 July 1983, *Globe and Mail Hollobon* 5; 26 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 6 Editorial)

Peter Evans, a 28-year old theatre designer from Ottawa, becomes the first Canadian with AIDS to speak publicly about his experiences, when he presents with another person with AIDS, Robert Cecchi from New York City, at the City Hall press conference. (1 July 1983, *Globe and Mail Hollobon* 5)

Ontario Health Minister Larry Grossman announces the creation of a seven-member Ontario Advisory Committee on AIDS to be headed by

Dr. Mary Fanning, a specialist from Toronto General Hospital. They will consider whether to set up special clinics to deal with AIDS, and how to communicate information to the professionals and the public. Dr. Fanning also says the Ministry of Health is proposing that AIDS be included on the list of diseases that must be reported by law. (1 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon 5; 26 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 6 Editorial)

7 July 1983

Michael Lynch writes a letter to the *Toronto Star* criticizing Larry Grossman for omitting from the Ontario Advisory Committee any representation of the population most directly affected from AIDS—gay men. (7 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 7)

18 July 1983

Article explores how new areas of law have been charted as gay men have had to use the courts to hold on to their jobs in response to AIDS discrimination. (18 July 1983, *Toronto Star* A8)

19 July 1983

At a press conference at the Toronto City Hall, the formation of the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) is announced. Bill Mindell (Toronto's Public Health Department), Roslyn Herst (Canadian Red Cross), Peter Evans (first public Canadian with AIDS), and members of ACT are present. The initial funding of \$62,400 will come from the Canada-Ontario employment. ACT has already raised \$8000 of the \$9290 that they must raise under the employment program. Three full-time employees will carry out a community education project. There are seven known AIDS cases in Toronto. (20 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon 4; 20 July 1983, *Toronto Star* A6; 25 July 1983, *Toronto Star* Louttit C18; 21-27 July 1982, *Now*, Nick Sheehan; July/August 1983, *Body Politic* 12; September 1983, *Body Politic* 15, 19)

At the ACT press conference, Dr. Rosalyn Herst, director at the Toronto Centre Red Cross, ignites a controversy by stating that it is now unofficial Red Cross policy to discourage all gay men, Haitians and drug users from donating blood. (20 July 1983, *Toronto Star* A6; 20 July 1983, *Toronto Sun* Lukasewich 4, 8; 25 July 1983, *Toronto Star* Louttit C18)

Also at the City Hall press conference University of Toronto researcher Colin Soskolne says that he will need \$1.7 million to conduct a four-year study of hemophiliacs and gay men, which will investigate why some people and not others progress quickly to AIDS. (20 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon 4; 26 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 6 Editorial; 25 July 1983, *Toronto Star* Louttit C18)

At another press conference, newly appointed Ontario Health Minister Keith Norton announces \$500,000 for AIDS research. Of this, \$100,000 is earmarked for Colin Soskolne's research (see above). (20 July 1983, *Toronto Sun* Lukasewich 4, 8; September 1983, *Body Politic*, 15, 19; 20 July 1983 *Globe and Mail* Hollobon 4; 25 July 1983, *Toronto Star* Louttit C18)

20 July 1983

ACT meets with the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service and the Toronto Public Health Department to clarify the policy on who may donate blood. (21 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 4)

22 July 1983

The Red Cross disavows Rosalyn Herst's statement that all gay men should avoid donating blood (see July 19), and clarifies that only those homosexuals and bisexuals with multiple partners or with sexual partners who may have been exposed to AIDS are being asked to refrain from donating blood. (23 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* S8)

July 26, 1983

An Ontario AIDS hotline is being set up for doctors needing information and support concerning AIDS. (26 July 1983, *Globe and Mail* 6 Editorial)

9 August 1983

Researcher Colin Soskolne accuses Monique Begin, federal Health Minister, of procrastinating on AIDS. He says Canada is two years behind the United States in identifying AIDS cases. (10 August 1983, *Toronto Sun* 5)

10 August 1983

Officials announce that a male nurse who worked at a hospital in Hamilton who died of AIDS posed no threat to safety. Thirteen AIDS cases in Toronto. (10 August 1983, *Toronto Star* Teshler A1, A4)

AIDS cases are doubling every six months. There are 33 reported cases of AIDS in Canada. (10 August 1983, *Globe and Mail* 14)

15 August 1983

Federal Health Minister Monique Begin announces the creation of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS. University of Toronto researcher Colin Soskolne is one of eleven medical experts on the committee. This body replaces the Ad Hoc Task Force on AIDS. (16 August 1983, *Toronto Sun* 15; 16 August 1983, *Globe and Mail* Montgomery 8)

16 August 1983

ACT says Canada needs a major educational program to correct misinformation on AIDS. (17 August 1983, *Toronto Sun* 16)

26 August 1983

Executive Vice-President of Chedoke-McMaster Hospital in Hamilton, R. C. Walker, writes an angry letter to the *Toronto Star* in response to an article about a male nurse who died of AIDS (see August 10). Walker is upset that the newspaper published the man's name, and implied that AIDS might be transmissible through the air. (26 August 1983, *Toronto Star* Walker A16)

The *Toronto Star* publishes an article highlighting the gay community's response to AIDS, discussing fundraising initiatives, education and the impact of AIDS on the gay community. (26 August 1983, *Toronto Star* Teshler A17)

31 August 1983

A newborn given a blood transfusion for a common ailment dies of AIDS in Quebec. Dr. Lapointe, a pediatric immunologist at Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal, asks the Red Cross to track down the five donors whose blood was used. (1 September 1983, *Toronto Star* A15)

September 1983

City of Toronto Department of Public Health poster "Are you playing the numbers game?" advises gay men to use condoms and reduce number of sexual partners.

1 September 1983

Bill Mole announces his intention to complete a fundraising walk from Montreal to Toronto to raise money for AIDS. (1 September 1983, *Toronto Sun* 30)

9 September 1983

Research suggests heterosexuals are also at risk for AIDS after an IV drug user infects his wife through sexual intercourse. (9 September 1983, *Toronto Sun* 76)

14 September 1983

Councillor Tony O'Donohue, a member of the Toronto's health board, recommends that Sandy Macpherson, the Medical Officer of Health, report on the disposal of all diseased blood samples and tissue. O'Donohue worries that AIDS may be transmitted from the hospital into the

water/sewer system. He also suggests that standards for waste disposal for funeral homes be revised (they were created in 1899). Dr. Colin Soskolne refutes O'Donohue's concerns and accuses him of encouraging AIDS hysteria. Toronto's Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Richard Fralick, says that contaminated blood is put in containers and incinerated. (14 September 1983, *Toronto Sun* OpEd 24; 14 September 1983, *Globe and Mail* 5; 15 September 1983, *Toronto Sun* 44; 21 September 1983, *Toronto Star* D22)

1 October 1983

Bill Mole holds a walkathon from Toronto to Montreal to raise money for AIDS. (November 1983, *Body Politic* 14)

9 November 1983

The Ontario Advisory Committee on AIDS removes "Haitians" from a list of high-risk groups. (December 1983, *Body Politic* 8)

December 1983

Rick Bebout publishes a long article in *Body Politic* summarizing and analyzing the safe sex advice being offered to gay men. He tentatively offers a set of safe sex guidelines. (December 1983, *Body Politic* 33-37)

3 December 1983

The Canadian Medical Association Journal states that doctors have an ethical responsibility to treat AIDS patients. (3 December 1983, *Toronto Star* A18)

7 January 1984

Peter Evans, a gay Toronto man who spoke out to the media about the realities of living with AIDS, dies at the age of 28. He was diagnosed in December 1982. (10 January 1984, *Toronto Star* A9)

12 January 1984

Only one new AIDS case has been reported since December 1983. Some speculate the disease may be levelling off. (12 January 1984, *Toronto Sun* 33)

17 January 1984

Dr. Noel Buskard of the Vancouver Red Cross Society says there is no evidence in Canada to link blood transfusions with AIDS. (17 January 1984, *Globe and Mail* 2)

3 February 1984

Federal Health Minister Monique Begin announces \$1.5 million for AIDS research and education initiatives. Immediately, \$290,000 will be given by

the Treasury Board with \$400,000 to follow over the next three years. Through doctors' offices 250,000 copies of a fact sheet on AIDS will be distributed to the public. (4 February 1984, *Toronto Star* A3; 4 February 1984, *Globe and Mail* Kelly 19)

March 1984

Michael Riordan releases his educational video "AIDS: After the Fear." The video discusses the social context of AIDS, and compares AIDS hysteria to panic during cholera epidemics in the past. (April 1984, *Body Politic* 13-14)

April 1984

University of Toronto's Dr. Colin Soskolne receives \$1.3 million from Ontario government for his study to monitor the health of 400 gay and bisexual men. (April 1984, *Body Politic* 13-14)

1 April 1984

Canadian actor Bill Kendall dies of AIDS. (6 April 1986, *Toronto Sun* 100)

9 April 1984

In San Francisco, Commissioner of Public Health, Mervyn Silverman, announces that he will be seeking an ordinance to close bathhouses and ban "all sexual activity between individuals...in public facilities in San Francisco where the transmission of AIDS is likely to occur." (May 1984, *Body Politic* 15)

23 April 1984

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Margaret Heckler, reports the discovery of HTLV-III, the virus causing AIDS. She also announces plans for the development of a test for infection. (26 April 1984, *Globe and Mail* M6; July/August 1984, *Body Politic* 23)

7 May 1984

Bryan Williams, a microbiologist of infectious diseases at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, is given \$42,732 by the Ontario Ministry of Health to develop a rapid test to measure an enzyme found at elevated levels in the blood of AIDS patients. (8 May 1984, *Toronto Star* A6)

Dr. Alastair Clayton from the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa says it is wishful thinking to believe an AIDS vaccine might be developed in the next two to three years. (8 May 1984, *Globe and Mail* M2)

Preliminary findings of a Gallup poll commissioned by the Canadian government reveal that 83% are aware of AIDS, and 59% believe their chance of getting AIDS is small. (8 May 1984, *Globe and Mail* M2)

19 May 1984

A public health brochure entitled "AIDS in Canada—What you should know" is back on supermarket display racks. Federal Health Minister Monique Begin withdrew the brochure two weeks previously, because it upset the Haitian community. The publication cost \$35,000, and was distributed to 830 supermarkets and health professionals across the country in an effort to reach the general public. (19 May 1984, *Globe and Mail* Mackenzie 11)

4-10 June 1984

The AIDS Committee of Toronto organizes the first AIDS Awareness Week. ACT holds panel discussions, benefits, and press conferences. The events are poorly attended. (5 June 1984, *Toronto Star* Darroch C11; July/August 1984, *Body Politic* 13)

29 June 1984

Dr. Norman Lapointe of the University of Montreal studies 12 families with AIDS babies and finds that most parents of these children also have AIDS, indicating that the AIDS virus can be transmitted during pregnancy. He announces his findings at the annual meeting of the Canadian Pediatric Society held in Toronto at the Westin Hotel. (29 June 1984, *Toronto Star* Dunlop C4)

Summer 1984

With its funding due to run out at the end of June, the AIDS Committee of Toronto secures \$30,000 from the Ontario government. MPP Susan Fish is instrumental in obtaining the funding. (4 July 1984, *Toronto Star* A6; September 1984, *Body Politic* 11-12)

8 August 1984

The first blood test for the AIDS virus is available in Canada, but it is unclear who will be tested and what the results will mean for people. Initially only 20,000 tests are available. (8 August 1984, *Globe and Mail* MacKenzie M6)

8 September 1984)

Mayor Art Eggleton speaks out against discrimination in Toronto against Haitians who are perceived to have AIDS. (8 September 1984, *Globe and Mail* Hickl-Szabo L11; 2 October 1984, *Globe and Mail* Orr 7)

1 October 1984

The first inquest in Canada into an AIDS death begins in New Westminster, BC. The inquest examines the death of hemophiliac Artibano Milito. (30 September 1984, *The Province* [BC] Horwood)

10 October 1984

After San Francisco authorities order 14 bathhouses to close, Kevin Orr responds on behalf of the AIDS Committee of Toronto saying that closing bathhouses makes AIDS education even more difficult by driving sex underground. (10 October 1984, *Globe and Mail* 14)

13 November 1984

The number of cases reported in Canada is 147. These statistics seem to indicate that the epidemic is two years behind the US. The total number of reported cases of AIDS in the City of Toronto is 22. (26 November 1984, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon M9)

15 December 1984

Federally funded research shows that Haitians are no more or less susceptible to AIDS than the general population. (15 December 1984, *Montreal Gazette* Reguish)

24 December 1984

The Federal Health Protection Branch issues a directive to the Canadian Red Cross to pasteurize blood-clotting products for hemophiliacs. (24 December 1984, *Globe and Mail* Hollobon)

29 January 1985

An article in the *Toronto Sun* describes the impact of AIDS on Toronto's gay community. John Bodis is profiled as well as a staff member at the AIDS Committee of Toronto diagnosed with Persistent Lymphadenopathy Syndrome (PLS). (29 January 1985, *Toronto Sun* Sonmor 31)

2 March 1985

An HIV antibody test is approved in the United States. Dr. Roger Perreault, national director of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, announces the Red Cross will not use the test until further studies about its efficacy are conducted in Canada. (3 March 1985, *Toronto Star* A20)

29-30 March 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto hosts a weekend public forum at the University of Toronto. Jim Black, health professionals, and members of ACT provide information about AIDS to defuse public panic. (1 April 1985, *Globe and Mail* 15)

15 April 1985

The Canadian Red Cross announces they will begin testing blood donations for HIV in the coming summer. (15 April 1985, *Toronto Star* A1; 16 April 1985, *Globe and Mail* M2)

Health officials begin to solicit blood donations from university students and 200 prostitutes to see if AIDS is spreading to heterosexuals. The federal government published 500,000 pamphlets about AIDS and they will be included in envelopes of coupons to be distributed to students in bookstores. (15 April 1985, *Toronto Star* A1; 15 April 1985, *Globe and Mail* 1,2)

9 May 1985

Canadian Red Cross confirms AIDS has been found in the blood banks, and tries to trace the tainted blood that infected two elderly transfusion recipients from Vancouver who died of AIDS the previous week. By August, all blood should be tested for HTLV-III. (10 May 1985, *Globe and Mail* Bowen M1, M3; 11 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A1, 12)

10-12 May 1985

"Tout ensemble / All Together," the first national AIDS conference is sponsored by the National Advisory Committee on AIDS at l'Université du Québec à Montréal. The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) (an umbrella organization of community-based AIDS organizations) is conceived at this conference. (May 1985, *Body Politic* 17; July 1985, *Body Politic* [long article] 13)

12 May 1985

The *Toronto Star* erroneously reports that a blood transfusion in Toronto resulted in a death from AIDS. (12 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Turner A1; 13 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Turner A2)

Dr. Alastair Clayton of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) estimates that 800 Canadians will have AIDS by 1987. (12 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A14)

15 May 1985

The World Health Organization announces that there are 11,000 cases of AIDS worldwide. In Canada 222 cases of AIDS have been reported. (15 May 1985, *Toronto Star* A3; 17 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A17)

Dr. Alastair Clayton (LCDC) says blood donors and others must be informed if they test positive for antibodies to the virus during routine screening. This is not yet current practice. The National Advisory Committee on AIDS sets up a task force to provide information to people who test positive for AIDS antibodies and to provide guidelines for doctors. (16 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A11)

16 May 1985

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control announces that it will begin monitoring blood samples of health care workers exposed to blood of people known to have AIDS. (17 May 1985, *Globe and Mail* Lipovenko M3; 12 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* 21)

17 May 1985

Dr. Alastair Clayton of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control says 80% of Canadian hemophiliacs who have swollen lymph nodes have tested positive for AIDS antibodies. The significance of the presence of antibodies remains unclear. Three of Canada's 1500 hemophiliacs are known to have AIDS. (17 May 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A17)

The AIDS Committee of Toronto is turned down in its bid for a grant of more than a quarter million dollars from Metro Toronto because health services are deemed to be outside the mandate of Metro Community Services and Housing Committee. (17 May 1985, *Globe and Mail* Fine M3)

5 June 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto pamphlet, "It's Raining Men, Do You Have Your Rubbers On?" comes under scrutiny for use of profanity. Mayor Art Eggleton and Ontario Environment Minister Susan Fish defend ACT at a press conference held to promote AIDS Awareness Week (June 10-16 1985) (6 June 1985, *Toronto Sun* Crittenden 19)

Metro Toronto hospitals receive dozens of calls from people wishing to donate their own blood to family members facing surgery. The panic stems from the news from the previous month that two people have developed AIDS as a result of a blood transfusion (May 9, 1985). (6 June 1985, *Toronto Sun* Chapman 42)

10 -16 June 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto hosts the second annual AIDS Awareness Week in Toronto. Eggleton proclaims AIDS Awareness Week. (31 May 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 64; 4 June 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery H1, H4; June 1985, *Body Politic* 18-19)

10 June 1985

At a news conference, Dr. Alastair Clayton of the LCDC reports that 13 women and 17 children have AIDS in Canada. (11 June 1985, *Globe and Mail* Hickl-Szabo M5)

14 June 1985

Metro council considers a \$40,000 grant to the AIDS Committee of Toronto. (14 June 1985, *Toronto Sun* Konecny 58)

19 June 1985

Metro Toronto Council awards the AIDS Committee of Toronto a grant of \$40,000. (August 1985, *Body Politic* 15-16)

The University of Toronto researcher Colin Soskolne releases a study reporting that 66% of 109 gay and bisexual men who had sexual contact with someone with AIDS have contracted the virus causing AIDS. (19 June 1985, *Globe and Mail* Hickl-Szabo A1, A2; 20 June 1985, *Toronto Sun* 27; 9 July 1985, *Medical Post* Murray)

2 July 1985

The Canadian Red Cross announces a national blood-screening program, which includes a screening questionnaire, testing protocol and notification of positive test results. A heating procedure is now use to kill the virus in blood products. (2 July 1985, *Toronto Sun* 8; 2 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly)

8 July 1985

The Laboratory Centre for Disease control announces the addition of a new group to the list of groups deemed to be at a high risk for AIDS. Heterosexual partners of people in a high-risk category (e.g., partners of hemophiliacs, female prostitutes exposed to bisexual men, etc.) are now also considered to be in this category. (9 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* Lipovenko 14)

14 July 1985

The Toronto Star publishes an article that raises the alarm about AIDS by suggesting that we are on the cusp of a national plague since AIDS has spread to the "general population." (14 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Greene D7)

18 July 1985

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control estimates that a third of the people with AIDS in Canada are unreported. Consequently there may be 70 additional cases in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal. Half of the cases that have been reported have died. (18 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* Hickl-Szabo M1, M4; 18 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A3; 19 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Flagella A2)

23 July 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto withdraws a promotional poster for their film "No Sad Songs" because it depicts a man with AIDS, Jim Black, wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "Choose Life." ACT is concerned that the slogan will be interpreted as being in support of a pro-life position on abortion. (23 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Werner E1, E3)

24 July 1985

Rock Hudson is reported to be seriously ill. He is rumoured to have AIDS. (24 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* A1, A2)

25 July 1985

Dr. John Derrick, AIDS Project Director of the Red Cross, and Dr. Alastair Clayton, from the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control call for the testing of all blood and blood products, organs, tissue and sperm donations. In Canada 274 cases of AIDS have been reported; 134 people have died. (26 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Bird A11)

26 July 1985

Rock Hudson is confirmed to have AIDS. (26 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* Ganley E5; 26 July 1985, *Toronto Star* A11)

Fifteen Canadian women are reported to have been impregnated with untested sperm from an American clinic that used homosexual donors. (26 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* 15; 28 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Ferguson A1, A18; 29 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* 4; 29 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Ferguson A1, A4)

The *Globe and Mail* publishes an article about the way AIDS is affecting gay culture and sexuality. (26 July 1985, *Globe and Mail* Hickl-Szabo 13, 15)

30 July 1985

The testing of sperm donors is to begin in Ontario by September 1985. (30 July 1985, *Toronto Sun* Comeau 18)

August 1985

Gerald Hannon profiles Jim Black, the subject of the ACT film "No Sad Songs." (August 1985, *Body Politic* 27-29)

The AIDS Committee of Toronto receives 250 calls this month, three times the number received in February. This increase in concern is likely due to the high profile revelations about Rock Hudson. (14 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Orwen A1, A12)

1 August 1985

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston announces that the province will begin antibody testing once a \$200,000 lab is set up in Etobicoke. The Ontario Ministry of Health will also give the Red Cross \$1 million for blood screening. (1 August 1985, *Toronto Star* Harrington A1; 2 August 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 30; 2 August 1985, *Toronto Star* A3; 2 August 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A1, A2; 3 August 1985, *Toronto Star* Dunlop A15)

4 August 1985

A *Toronto Star* editorial supports increased AIDS funding, including provincial support for the AIDS Committee of Toronto, more federal leadership in monitoring the disease, creation of an information clearinghouse, and funding for education and research. (4 August 1985, *Toronto Star* Editorial F2)

17 August 1985

The *Globe and Mail* publishes an editorial declaring the need for more AIDS education and information. (17 August 1985, *Globe and Mail* Editorial 6)

18 August 1985

La Cage aux Folles artists stage a benefit for the AIDS Committee of Toronto called Caring On with La Cage aux Folles Company. (23 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Hume E1)

3 September 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto film "No Sad Songs" premieres.

9 September 1985

In Queens, New York 12,000 students failed to report to first day of school on 9 September because of report of child with AIDS. (11 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi 15, 19; 13 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Chapman 2)

10 September 1985

Events in New York City schools (see above) trigger hysteria among Toronto parents despite the fact that there are no reported cases of AIDS in Ontario schools. The Toronto Health Department states that children with AIDS should not be barred from schools. The Toronto Board of Education considers creating a policy on AIDS. (11 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi 15, 19; 13 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Chapman 2; 13 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Editorial 10)

Phil Shaw from the AIDS Committee of Toronto criticizes the federal government for refusing to admit that homosexual activity occurs in

prison. (10 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Makin 16; 11 September 1985, *Toronto Star* A10; 14 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Orwen A1, A12)

The ACT sponsored film "No Sad Songs" directed by Nick Sheehan premieres at the Festival of Festivals. The film profiles a man with AIDS, Jim Black, and documents the gay community's response to AIDS. (3 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Anthony 53; 5 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Plews S4; 23 July 1985, *Toronto Star* Werner E1, E3; 3 August 1985, *Toronto Star* Westrop L1, 23 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Anthony 49; 16 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Hume F3)

11 September 1985

Dr. Rick Mathias, a member of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS, recommends that heterosexuals begin using condoms for casual sexual encounters, after an Inuit man in Montreal infects a woman. (12 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A3; 14 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Orwen A1, A12; 18 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A9)

Solicitor General Perrin Beatty responds to concerns raised by Phil Shaw of ACT that AIDS may become prevalent in prisons, by requesting recommendations from his department officials. (11 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* 19)

14 September 1985

A study by Dr. Anne Quinn from the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control estimates the cost of caring for a person with AIDS is \$37,000-\$42,000. Of 44 cases studied, she found the average hospital stay for the course of the illness was 75 days. (14 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silversides 17)

18 September 1985

Anne Johnson, the Chair of Toronto Board of Health, proposes a bylaw banning discrimination against people with AIDS. Mayor Art Eggleton and Jack Layton support the proposal. The proposed bylaw is based on an ordinance approved by the Los Angeles City Council in August 1985. (17 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* York 17, 19; 18 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bennett and Pazzano 32; 18 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Welch 34; 19 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Mandel 58; 23 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* editorial 6; 1 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Emmerson and Pigg A22)

Columnist Frank Jones writes an article responding to and refuting claims made by Rev. Sterling Clark that AIDS is the wrath of God. (18 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Jones A23)

19 September 1985

During a press conference, the Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston states that children with AIDS present no danger to other children in schools. (27 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* Pazzano 3)

Week of 21 September 1985

In an issue of the Canada Diseases Weekly Report, Beverly Campbell offers tips for caring for AIDS patients, calming fears that AIDS might be transmitted through casual non-sexual contact (21 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A3)

21 September 1985

Globe and Mail columnist Michele Landsberg defends parents in New York City who protest the presence of children with AIDS in public schools. Landsberg cites the opinions of several isolated physicians and scientists as justification for the public's fear. Later activist Michael Lynch responds in a letter to the editor. (21 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Landsberg A2; 7 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Lynch [letter in response] A6)

22 September 1985

The Laboratory Center for Disease Control announces a study of occupational exposure among hospital employees in over 187 hospitals across Canada. (22 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Steeves F8)

The Ontario Science Centre sponsors a public forum on AIDS as part of its "Behind the Headlines" series. The panel consisted of Dr. Alastair Clayton (LCDC), Thomas Alloway (Chair of ACT), Norbert Gilmore (Chair of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS), and John Derrick (Canadian Red Cross). At the public AIDS forum at the Ontario Science Centre, Thomas Alloway, Chair of ACT, announces that a Toronto group is planning to establish a hospice in Toronto for people with AIDS. Alloway cannot provide details. (23 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Win-trob 17; 23 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A2)

24 September 1985

The Ontario Public Health Association sponsors a public symposium on AIDS in its Toronto office. The panel includes a public health official, an epidemiologist, doctors and representatives of various organizations, such as the AIDS Committee of Toronto and the Canadian Red Cross. (25 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Tedesco 14; 25 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Harvey A2)

25 September 1985

Provincial and territorial health ministers meet in Toronto to discuss health policy issues. Much of the discussion focuses on coordinating AIDS policies across the country, such as disease reporting and patient confidentiality. (26 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* McQuaig 4)

Ontario Minister of Health, Murray Elston, estimates that AIDS cases are doubling every 7 1/2 months in Ontario. (26 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* McQuaig 4; 28 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Rosenfeld 17; 30 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Strauss 12)

27 September 1985

At a national meeting in Toronto of provincial and territorial health ministers, Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston announces \$300,000 in funding for AIDS education and support projects. To establish the Ontario AIDS Public Education Advisory Panel, \$200,000 will be used, which will identify the educational needs of the public, and to develop information for doctors and health workers. The other \$100,000 has been earmarked for the AIDS Committee of Toronto (less than half the requested funds). The panel will include representatives from the AIDS Committee of Toronto, the City of Toronto, the Ryerson School of Journalism, the Ontario Public Health Association, St. Elizabeth's Order of Visiting Nurses and the media. (28 September 1985, *Globe and Mail* Rosenfeld 17; 28 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A1, A13; 29 September 1985, *Toronto Sun* 26; November 1985, *Body Politic* 25)

28 September 1985

Rev. Tim Foley starts an ecumenical group to organize chaplain services for people with AIDS. (28 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Foley L14)

28, 29 September 1985

The Canadian Bar Association passes a resolution to examine the legal rights and duties of people with AIDS in Canada. The Association is divided on central issues such as quarantine. (1 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Emmerson and Pigg A22; 1 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Strauss A19)

Dr. Pindborg, speaking at the annual Canadian Dental Association meeting in Toronto, announces that recognizing "hairy" leukoplakia, an oral disease only found in AIDS patients, may enable dentists to diagnose AIDS. (1 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Hare A1, A2)

October 1985

Blood donations in Ontario drop 20% because of a fear of contracting AIDS from donation, causing a severe blood shortage. (8 October 1985,

Toronto Star Sutton A6; 8 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A1, A2; 11 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A1; 12 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A1, A2; 13 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* 21; 15 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Van Der Voort 24; 17 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Strauss A20, A26)

2 October 1985

Rock Hudson dies, age 59, of AIDS. (3 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Grafstein 11)

4 October 1985

Health and Welfare Canada expresses a willingness to help people with AIDS obtain experimental drugs not available in Canada on a case-by-case basis. (4 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* 156)

5 October 1985

Liberal Health Critic Douglas Frith asks the Commons Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs to hold a series of public hearings on AIDS this fall and winter to clear up misinformation on AIDS. (5 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A4)

7 October 1985

A study shows that health care workers who look after AIDS patients are at low risk for infection with the AIDS virus. Out of approximately 50 health workers that have been studied, only 15 have tested positive for the AIDS antibody. (7 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Strauss C6)

8 October 1985

Dr. Richard Fralick, an associate Toronto Medical Officer of Health, criticizes the Red Cross's inability to force those who test positive to seek medical attention. Douglas Elliot of the AIDS Committee of Toronto says that because the AIDS test is inconclusive, no one should be compelled to do anything. (8 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Holland A20)

10 October 1985

Toronto solicitor, William Callow, states that a bylaw protecting people with AIDS from discrimination is unnecessary because the Ontario Human Rights Code already provides this protection. (10 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A28)

John Burgess, a man who claims to be celibate, is criticized by the Canadian Hemophilic Society for placing a classified ad in NOW Magazine advertising the sale of his "AIDS-free" blood. The *Globe and Mail* claims to have rejected the advertisement. (10 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bohuslavsky 27; 30 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Taylor A18)

13 October 1985

Claire Hoy, a columnist with the *Toronto Sun*, writes an article advocating quarantine for people with AIDS. (13 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Hoy 16)

15 October 1985

Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, Alexander Macpherson, calls on the Canadian Red Cross to report cases of AIDS to the City's Department of Health. (16 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Bowen A15; 16 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bennett 27; 16 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Pigg and Monsebraaten A2)

16 October 1985

The Canadian Red Cross rejects the idea of reporting cases of AIDS to the City's Department of Health. (16 October 1985, *Toronto Star* A2; 17 October 1987, *Globe and Mail* Downey A20, A26)

The Canadian Red Cross expands their screening questionnaire to include questions about swollen glands and other AIDS symptoms. They will also begin handing out pamphlets on AIDS at their blood donor clinics in Toronto. (16 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A21)

Toronto Sun columnist, Greg Parent, argues in favour of the quarantine and isolation of people with AIDS. (16 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 38)

It is revealed that an Ottawa man contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. The Red Cross has launched a record search for infected donations. The Red Cross claims that the Canadian blood supply is almost completely free of AIDS. The Red Cross begins to see a return to normal blood donation levels as a result of an information campaign reassures potential donors that they cannot contract AIDS from giving blood. (16 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* 36; 16 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A1)

17 October 1985

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston announces new screening procedures for blood donations. These new procedures include the use of the ELISA blood test. Results of positive tests will be shared with the donor, but kept confidential. The new procedures are to go into effect November 1 1985, six months after the adoption of similar precautions in the United States. (15 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A9; 17 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Smee 4; 18 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* 42)

19 October 1985

A Toronto Star article reports that the AIDS Committee of Toronto discourages people from taking the "AIDS test." ACT's Phil Shaw argues that the test indicates exposure, but does not necessarily mean AIDS will develop. A positive result may be unnecessarily alarming because it is ambiguous. (19 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Pigg A16; 23 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 45; 19 December 1985, *Toronto Star* Seiden B3)

21 October 1985

A Gallup poll reveals the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of Canadians concerning AIDS. Ninety-four percent of Canadians know about AIDS; 64% of Canadians are "greatly concerned" about AIDS; 62% of Canadians think that homosexuals are at the greatest risk for AIDS; and, 51% said that AIDS was spread through sexual contact. (21 October 1985, *Toronto Star* A3, A5)

23 October 1985

At a news conference, Thomas Alloway, Chair of the AIDS Committee of Toronto, responds to new provincial regulations requiring reporting of positive tests and AIDS cases. Alloway expresses concerns about the confidentiality and use of this information. He argues that many affected are unwilling to get tested for fear of being reported; reporting may further discourage people from testing. Alloway fears that quarantine may be the next step. Richard Fralick, associate Medical Officer of Health for Toronto is "astounded" at this last statement. (24 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bohnslawsky 59; 24 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A26; 24 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A11; 28 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Lipton D5; 30 October 1985, *Toronto Star* F14)

24 October 1985

Norman Bergeron, a guidance counsellor from Jarvis Collegiate and Gabrielle Roy public schools is discovered to have died of AIDS. This report results in calls for quarantine by parents and for complete disclosure of all AIDS cases in public schools. (24 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi A1; 24 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Lounder and Chapman 5; 24 October 1985, *Toronto Star* A3; 25 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* Matas A19; 25 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Welner and Ferguson A18; 29 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Chapman 24; 30 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 38)

25 October 1985

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston says that regional Medical Officers of Health reserve the right to ban teachers or students with AIDS from schools. (25 October 1985, *Toronto Sun* Lounder 19)

29 October 1985

Dennis Finlay, spokesperson for Correctional Service of Canada, says that Canada's first two prisoners with AIDS are being dealt with "calmly," but worries that without AIDS education in prisons, the situation may deteriorate. Condoms are not available to prisoners. (30 October 1985, *Globe and Mail* A14)

31 October 1985

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston recalls laboratory requisition forms for the AIDS antibody test, which require doctors to provide patients full name and risk group. Elston suggests that requisitions will be made anonymous by the use of codes instead of names. (1 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silversides A1, A2; 2 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Monsebraaten A11; December 1985, *Body Politic* 15, 17)

November 1985

Manufacturer's Life Insurance Co. begins to screen prospective clients by using the AIDS antibody test. Activists decry this practice and fear that insurance companies will request access to private medical records. (25 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silversides A1, A15)

1 November 1985

The Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston angers critics by suggesting that Medical Officers of Health are entitled to the names of people who test positive for antibodies to the AIDS virus. Elston also requests doctors no longer identify "risk group" of patient being tested. (2 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silversides A18; 2 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Monsebraaten A11)

The Canadian Red Cross begins a national blood-screening program, which will test all donated blood for antibodies to the AIDS virus. Positive tests will be referred to the donor's doctor and will be confidential. (7 September 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A1, A6; 18 October 1985, *Toronto Star* Walker A8; 3 November 1985, *Toronto Star* A2; 4 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* A17; 4 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* 8; 5 November 1985, *Toronto Star* D25)

4 November 1985

The Canadian Red Cross urges the provinces to create a national system for reporting positive antibody test results to public health officials. (5 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silversides A17)

5 November 1985

The Canadian Red Cross has discovered traces of antibodies to the AIDS virus in the blood supply. (5 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* 8)

The federal government considers screening immigrants for AIDS. (5 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Strauss A17)

8 November 1985

Merle Lee Vandine, a Toronto man arrested for fraud and theft is kept in total isolation in the medical wing of the Metro West Detention Centre because he has AIDS. He will not be sentenced until November 18. (8 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Oakes C17; 19 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Oakes A2)

11 November 1985

CTV airs the movie "An Early Frost" about a gay man who comes out to his family as gay and as having AIDS. (11 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Groen C11; 11 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Bawden D1)

Due to a fear of AIDS, Emergency Services personnel in several Ontario communities are using plastic masks for use during resuscitation. Toronto's fire department encourages their workers to use the masks for all resuscitations. In Canada 369 cases of AIDS have now been reported. (11 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Tedesco A15)

15 November 1985

David Roche's Toronto-made documentary about living with AIDS "No Sad Songs" opens at the Carlton Cinemas. (7 November 1985, *Toronto Star* B1; 22 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* Kirkland 99)

18 November 1985

Globe and Mail columnist Caitlin Kelly criticizes the government for relying on the media to disseminate information about AIDS, and notes that while Canadians have basic medical knowledge of AIDS, they do not understand prevention. She reports that Thomas Alloway, Chair of ACT, gives safe sex information in every interview he does, but that information is edited out. Kelly advocates a more open, less prudish approach to talking about AIDS and sex. (18 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A12)

19 November 1985

The Toronto Board of Education advises teachers and custodial staff to wear latex gloves when cleaning up body fluids like blood or vomit. (19

November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi A15, A20; 28 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Ferri A17; 29 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi A15, A20)

25 November 1985

McGill University law professor Ronald Sklar initiates a national debate by arguing that the Criminal Code could be used to prosecute those who spread AIDS or put others at risk by continuing to engage in sexual activity. (26 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* A8; 26 November 1985, *Toronto Star* A2)

In a letter the Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Borden Purcell, suggests that AIDS should be defined as a "handicap" and people with AIDS should be protected from discrimination.

27 November 1985

The AIDS Committee of Toronto, the Body Politic, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Right to Privacy Committee hold a press conference to protest against blood screening by insurance companies. Activists argue that the test is not specific enough to provide the basis for denying insurance coverage. (25 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Silver-sides A1, A15; 27 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Daw E1, E2; 27 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* Parent 34; 28 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bennett 56; 28 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* Delacourt A27; 28 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Smith A17)

The Right to Privacy Committee threatens to boycott Manufacturer's Life Insurance Co. and other insurance companies that require AIDS antibody tests. (28 November 1985, *Toronto Sun* Bennett 56)

Dr. Luc Montagnier, the French scientist who discovered the virus that transmits AIDS, addresses a meeting on infectious diseases in Toronto, and argues that those who have antibodies to the virus also have the virus itself. He says he is optimistic that a treatment for AIDS will be found before AIDS is widely spread through the heterosexual population. (28 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A1, A17)

28 November 1985

Doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children begin testing hemophiliacs for AIDS. (28 November 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A17)

December 1985

An article in the Body Politic, "AIDS: Double Exposure" calls attention to ethical issues raised by the ELISA antibody test. The article discusses

issues of anonymity, the meaning of the test, and the social uses of medical information. (December 1985, *Body Politic* 15, 17)

3 December 1985

Edward Keyserlingk, a director of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, warns that quarantine could hamper the care of people with AIDS in hospitals. He calls for more education for the public and at health care workers. (4 December 1985, *Toronto Star* Henton A12; 5 December 1985, *Globe and Mail* C11)

4 December 1985

At a public forum AIDS Committee of Toronto Chair Thomas Alloway argues that patients with AIDS should be concentrated in as few hospitals as possible to allow for specialized treatment. (5 December 1985, *Globe and Mail* C13)

9 December 1985

At a closed-door meeting federal and provincial health officials agree to ensure the confidentiality of AIDS antibody test results. Dr. Alastair Clayton from the LCDC says that Ottawa will not require names to be reported. (10 December 1985, *Toronto Sun* 8; 10 December 1985, *Toronto Star* Newbery A17)

13 December 1985

Federal Minister of Health Jake Epp meets with scientists studying AIDS and promises more money for research, but will not provide any details. (14 December 1985, *Globe and Mail* McIntosh A5)

19 December 1985

The federal government and the provinces meet to discuss various aspects of AIDS policy including the coordination of education and prevention initiatives as well as AIDS reporting. (15 November 1985, *Globe and Mail* A20)

28 December 1985

Dr. Alastair Clayton announces that the spread of AIDS is slower than expected, with cases doubling every 11 months, rather than every six months. (28 December 1985, *Toronto Star* A3)

In response to comments made by the *Toronto Star*'s Bruce McLeod (*Toronto Star* 3 December 1985, A15), January Nichols of the Ontario Funeral Service Association writes a letter to the *Toronto Star* stating that he knows of no funeral home in Ontario that refuses to deal with

people who have died of AIDS. The Ontario Funeral Service Association will be developing an official policy on AIDS. (28 December 1985, *Toronto Star* B3; [McLeod responds 14 January 1986, *Toronto Star* A19])

January 1986

Activist Michael Lynch defends the importance of obscenity in AIDS education in an article in the *Body Politic*. (January 1986, *Body Politic* 50-51)

8 January - 2 February 1986

"As Is," William Hoffman's play about AIDS runs at the Toronto Free Theatre. (4 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Crew F2; 9 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Crew H1; 10 January 1986, *Toronto Sun* Pennington 70; 11 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* Conlogue D3; February 1986, *Body Politic* 31)

9 January 1986

The Ontario Hospital Association meets to discuss legal, ethical, and medical aspects of AIDS. (10 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A12; 10 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A2)

After two months screening blood donations, the Canadian Red Cross reports only a 0.25% incidence of positive tests (45 of 182,324 donations). (9 January 1986, *Toronto Star* A2; 10 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* Clark A11; 10 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A2)

10 January 1986

Two fact sheets on AIDS are produced by the Ontario Public Education Panel on AIDS, one for parents and teachers, and one for the general public. Of these fact sheets 500,000 are being printed. (10 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* A12)

21 January 1986

The AIDS Committee of Toronto holds a press conference to announce plans for North America's first AIDS hospice, later to be known as Casey House. The hospice will hold ten beds and is projected to cost \$750,000. June Callwood is the Chair of the Hospice Steering Committee. (21 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Mercer A3; 22 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Mercer A18; 22 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* Polanyi A13; 27 January 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery C1; March 1986, *Body Politic* 15)

30 January 1986

Two cases of AIDS are reported by the Canadian Forces. (30 January 1986, *Toronto Star* A11; 30 January 1986, *Globe and Mail* A10)

11 February 1986

A Toronto Star article focuses on the AIDS Committee of Toronto's AIDS hotline. (11 February 1986, *Toronto Star* Fruman F1)

At a seminar on sexually transmitted diseases held at the Wellesley Hospital, Dr. Walter Pruzanski says that predictions of an epidemic have been overblown; Metro Toronto is seeing fewer cases of AIDS than expected. (13 February 1986, *Toronto Star* Dunlop A15)

13 February 1986

Tracy Teremayne-Lloyd, a lawyer working on AIDS policy, tells a House of Commons committee that the confidentiality of patient records may need to be loosened to control the spread of AIDS. She believes a new law requiring the reporting of AIDS cases is essential. (14 February 1986, *Globe and Mail* Montgomery A3)

19 February 1986

Art for AIDS kicks off a campaign of fundraising concerts and shows across Toronto to raise money for the planned AIDS hospice. (19 February 1986, *Toronto Sun* 33; 19 February 1986, *Toronto Star* Goddard E1, E5; 20 February 1986, *Globe and Mail* Allemang D6)

26 February 1986

The AIDS Committee of Toronto advises an Ontario legislative justice committee that people with AIDS need legal protection against discrimination. (27 February 1986, *Globe and Mail* A26; 27 February 1986, *Toronto Star* Walker A22)

At a professional conference dentists are advised that refusing to treat a patient they suspect of having AIDS is considered neglect. Dentists are trained in using protective masks, gloves and goggles to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus and hepatitis B. (27 February 1986, *Toronto Star* Taylor A22)

1 March 1986

New immigration guidelines take effect—allowing applications from people who have tested positive for AIDS antibodies but are asymptomatic. There will be no mandatory testing of applicants. (19 March 1986, *Toronto Star* A3)

14 March 1986

An article published in *The Lancet* shows improvements in people with AIDS taking the antiviral drug AZT. (14 March 1986, *Globe and Mail* A8)

7 April 1986

A team of medical researchers from across Canada announces that they will form their own fundraising team in the absence of adequate funds from federal and provincial governments. They hope to establish a clinic to research AIDS. (8 April 1986, *Toronto Star* A15)

7 April 1986

A spokesperson for the National AIDS Centre in Ottawa announces that the Ministry of Health and Welfare will likely be revising its projections of AIDS increases downwards. A professor of statistics from the University of Western Ontario, Ian MacNeill, criticized the Ministry's original estimate of 20,000 AIDS cases by 1990. (5 April 1986, *Globe and Mail* McLaren A1, A2; 8 April 1986, *Toronto Star* Adamick A15)

7 April 1986

Stephen Dreezer, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Health, announces that the provincial government is considering providing insurance to the Red Cross. (7 April 1986, *Toronto Star* Todd A15)

9 April 1986

The Toronto Sun's medical reporter Greg Parent dies of a heart condition. Parent reported on AIDS throughout the early 1980s. (10 April 1986, *Toronto Sun* Vezina 36)

9 April 1986

Anthony Graham, a doctor at the Wellesley Hospital, fears that lives are being endangered by the refusal of some health care workers to learn resuscitation techniques. (10 April 1986, *Globe and Mail* Wilson A17)

9 April 1986

Dr. Alastair Clayton, of LCDC, announces that the growth rate of AIDS cases is slowing, especially among gay men. (9 April 1986, *Toronto Star* A18)

25 April 1986

The Ontario division of the Canadian Bar Association releases a report on legal aspects of the reporting and treatment of AIDS victims. The report argues that compulsory testing should not be a condition of employment, and employers, school boards and school principals are not entitled to information whether someone has AIDS. The report does recommend that doctors report to the Medical Officer of Health anyone they think may expose the public to infection. (26 April 1986, *Globe and Mail* Strauss A18 ; June 1986, *Body Politic* 17-19)

30 April 1986

Dr. Alastair Clayton of the LCDC says that the AIDS antibody test is inconclusive and should therefore not be used to test those applying for immigration. (26 April 1986, *Citizen* 1; 26 April 1986, *Toronto Star* Halietchuk A3; 30 April 1986, *Globe and Mail* Strauss A13)

May 1986

Rick Bebout argues in the *Body Politic* that safe sex does not equate with monogamy and that in fact, such thinking can be dangerous. (May 1986, *Body Politic* 27-28)

1 May 1986

In a letter to the journals *Nature* and *Science*, scientists propose to change the names HTLV-3 and LAU to human immunodeficiency syndrome, or HIV. (1 May 1986, *Toronto Star* A2)

1 May 1986

Health Minister Jake Epp said that Ottawa will spend \$6.6 million on AIDS research and education during the fiscal year, and \$39 million over next five years. (2 May 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A20; 2 May 1986, *Toronto Star* Sears A2)

3 May 1986

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston reverses an earlier decision and now requires doctors to report tracking information when requesting an HIV test. (3 May 1986, *Globe and Mail* Silversides A14)

9 May 1986

Jim Black, the gay man with AIDS profiled in the documentary film "No Sad Songs," dies one month short of his 38th birthday. (10 May 1986, *Toronto Star* A15; June 1986, *Body Politic* 20)

12 May 1986

Dr. Joseph Losos of the LCDC announces that federal health experts are ready to begin a survey of the prevalence of AIDS among prostitutes in Canada. The LCDC is in negotiations with various prostitute groups to set up a system of surveillance. (13 May 1986, *Toronto Star* Rickwood C16)

16 May 1986

ACT says the \$700,000 allotted by Ottawa for community-based groups is not sufficient. (16 May 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A22; 16 May 1986, *Toronto Sun* Ganley 2; 16 May 1986, *Globe and Mail* A16)

17 May 1986

Dr. Alastair Clayton calls for confidential testing to be made available to prostitutes in Canada, and recommends that men who visit prostitutes wear condoms. (17 May 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A16)

26 May 1986

Ontario MPP Susan Fish calls for legislation to protect people refused life insurance after testing positive for HIV. (27 May 1986, *Toronto Sun* 22)

June 1986

People with AIDS lobby the government for quick approval of AIDS drugs. (August 1986, *Body Politic* 15; November 1986, *Body Politic* 15)

4 June 1986

At a news conference at City Hall, Metro Chairman Dennis Flynn proclaims June 8-15 AIDS Awareness Week in Toronto. This is the third annual Aids Awareness Week organized by ACT. Condom manufacturers are invited to attend the launch but do not. (5 June 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A6; 5 June 1986, *Globe and Mail* Baker A17; 5 June 1986, *Toronto Sun* Buckie 42)

4 June 1986

At a news conference Dr. Jack Nusbacher, medical director of the Red Cross in Toronto, states that blood tainted by the AIDS virus is no more prevalent in Toronto than elsewhere in Canada. Nusbacher believes this is in part because of ACT's active role in educating people at high risk not to donate blood. (5 June 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A6)

8 June 1986

"Starring Act: A Celebration," a benefit for the AIDS hospice in Toronto kicks off the AIDS Awareness Week at the Harbour Castle Hilton. Stars include Martin Short, Andrea Martin and the Supremes. Two gay restaurateurs are denied their request to present a \$1000 donation at the gala and introduce five guests with AIDS. Organizers are concerned that some attendees "[may] prefer not to meet the charitable cause face to face." (3 June 1986, *Toronto Sun* Train 57; 9 June 1986, *Toronto Sun* Mills 27; 9 June 1986, *Toronto Star* A7; 10 June 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A18)

11 June 1986

A public forum on AIDS is held in North York co-sponsored by ACT and the North York Public Health Department. (10 June 1986, *Toronto Star* N2)

13 June 1986

At their annual meeting the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) clarifies physician responsibility in reporting positive AIDS antibody tests. The OMA states that according to the Ontario Ministry of Health physicians have to report cases, but do not have to provide identities of individuals who test positive to health officials. (13 June 1986, *Globe and Mail* Todd A16)

13 June 1986

Lawyer Douglas Elliott presents a report on AIDS issues by the Ontario wing of the Canadian Bar Association to the Toronto Board of Health. The report opposes compulsory testing for hospital patients, the armed forces and convicts, but calls for testing of all immigrants to Canada. (13 June 1986, *Toronto Sun* Bennett 75)

24 June 1986

A group of 14 activists, including Warren Jensen and Kevin Brown of the Vancouver PWA Coalition, meet with federal Health Minister Jake Epp to urge him to make experimental drugs such as cyclosporine and suramin available to all people with AIDS. (27 June 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A9)

July 1986

A clinic for AIDS-related concerns opens in the psychiatry department at Mount Sinai Hospital. (2 April 1987, *Toronto Star* Newbery F1, F4)

7 July 1986

Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of HIV, speaks at the 6th International Congress of Immunology in Toronto. (8 July 1986, *Toronto Sun* Barnard 72; 8 July 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kelly A3)

7 July 1986

Thirty employees at a Toronto sewer maintenance yard file a complaint with the Ministry of Labour defending their right under the health and safety act to refuse to work with a colleague suspected of having AIDS. (23 July 1986, *Toronto Sun* Goldstein 33; 24 July 1986, *Toronto Sun* Lovering 24; 23 July 1986, *Toronto Star* A6)

21 July 1986

In its annual report, the Ontario Human Rights Commission releases its policy decision stating that people with AIDS are protected against discrimination just as are other handicapped people. This statement protects people with AIDS under the Ontario Human Rights Code. (22 July 1986, *Toronto Sun* Goldstein 18; 24 July 1986, *Toronto Star* A19)

24 July 1986

Ontario Ministry of Labour rules that the group of 30 workers at a sewer maintenance yard cannot refuse to work with a co-worker suspected of having AIDS, since he does not present a health risk. (25 July 1986, *Toronto Sun* Lovering 62)

12 August 1986

At a meeting of the general council of the Canadian Medical Association, doctors recommend that provincial health authorities should collect information about people with AIDS. (13 August 1986, *Globe and Mail* A4)

13 August 1986

The Canadian Medical Association hears a report that shows that 10,000 Canadians have been infected with HIV. The results come from people who have donated blood, and people who have taken part in studies through the LCDC and Canadian universities. (14 August 1986, *Toronto Star* Dunlop A3)

September 1986

Barrett House, a five-bed AIDS hospice, opens in Toronto. (10 June 1987, *Toronto Star* A31)

9 September 1986

An inmate at Millbrook with HIV will be kept in isolation for his one-year sentence after the guards' union files a grievance about workplace safety. (9 September 1986, *Toronto Sun* 29)

12 September 1986

Ontario Housing ministry rejects an application for funds to help start the Casey House Hospice. The Hospice Committee had asked for \$880,000 to help pay for the building. (12 September 1986, *Toronto Star* Dunphy B5)

17 September 1986

June Callwood writes an article in the *Globe and Mail* describing an ACT support group for people with AIDS. (17 September 1986, *Globe and Mail* Callwood A2)

23 September 1986

Jerald Moldenhauer, owner of Glad Day Book Shop, says that the seizure and censorship of gay erotica at the United States border endangers the lives of gay men by denying them information on AIDS. (24 September 1986, *Globe and Mail* Kingwell A16)

October 1986

Ontario's Provincial Advisory Committee on AIDS advises health units that it is not feasible to trace a large number of anonymous contacts among homosexual or bisexual men, but says it is essential to trace contacts in cases of tainted blood transfusions. (15 March 1987, *Toronto Star* Newbery B1, B4)

October 1986

The Toronto People with AIDS (PWA) Foundation is established.

3 October 1986

It is announced that the first Canadian tests of AZT are to begin in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. In the federally funded clinical trial, 100 Canadians will participate. (2 October 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A13; 3 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* A3)

8 October 1986

According to an Ontario Ministry of Health memo, the identities of teachers and students with AIDS will remain confidential. (8 October 1986, *Toronto Sun* McLeod 5; 8 October 1986, *Toronto Star* G12 [Final ed.]; 9 October 1986, *Toronto Sun* McLeod 5; 22 October 1986, *Toronto Sun* Goldstein 8)

Week of 13 October 1986

A Catholic parent group calls on the Metro Separate School Board to stop public health nurses from providing sex education to Grade 8 students. (24 October 1986, *Toronto Star* Jones F1)

16 October 1986

ACT chair Joan Anderson calls for AZT to be made available on a compassionate basis in Canada. Canadians with AIDS are being forced to cross the border to obtain the drug. Trials in Canada are set to begin January 1987. (17 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A16; 17 October 1986, *Toronto Sun* Barnard 49)

16 October 1986

Ontario government steps in with an interim grant to keep ACT solvent. The federal government only provides \$150,000 a year. (17 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A16; 18 October 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A10)

17 October 1986

Responding to pressure to make AZT available, the AIDS Centre of the LCDC states that it will not make AZT available to all patients until the

end of Canadian drug trials set to begin in January 1987. (18 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A13)

23 October 1986

At the annual convention of the College of Family Physicians and Surgeons Dr. John Frank of the University of Toronto insists that AIDS tests only be conducted with patient consent. (24 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A14)

29 October 1986

Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston reports that there were 111 new AIDS cases last year—fewer than expected. (30 October 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A22)

4 November 1986

Reversing his earlier position Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp announces that AZT will be available in Canada within a few days. (5 November 1986, *Toronto Sun* 18; 5 November 1986, *Globe and Mail* A5; 5 November 1986, *Toronto Star* A11)

13 November 1986

Television station CTV says that it will air commercials for condoms if they are in good taste. The CBC is undecided on the question. (13 November 1986, *Toronto Star* Adilman B1)

15-16 November 1986

The second annual Canadian AIDS Conference is held in Toronto. The conference is sponsored by the Canadian AIDS Society and hosted by the AIDS Committee of Toronto. Researchers say the government must put more money into AIDS research and education. Dr. Catherine Hankins, a member of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS, urges putting condoms in high schools and shutting down gay bathhouses. Seven men on a panel discuss their identities as people with AIDS. (16 November 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A4; 16 November 1986, *Toronto Sun* Barnard 72; 17 November 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A15; 17 November 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A15; 17 November 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A2 ; 17 November 1986, *Toronto Star* Newbery A2; 19 November 1986, *Toronto Sun* Barnard 54)

17 November 1986

At a news conference provincial NDP leader Bob Rae calls on the government to do more to educate the public about AIDS and increase support for people with AIDS. (18 November 1986, *Toronto Star* A14)

18 November 1986

The Ontario Public Education Panel on AIDS will produce fact sheets for students grade 7 and up. (18 November 1986, *Globe and Mail* McInnes A17)

20 November 1986

The United Church of Canada releases a statement rejecting the argument that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuals. (21 November 1986, *Globe and Mail* Downey A17)

December 1986

A Gallup poll for the Canadian Public Health Association shows that 25% of adults and 33% of 15-17 year-olds do not believe condoms reduce one's chances of getting AIDS. (26 March 1987, *Toronto Star* Newbery A18)

4 December 1986

Toronto fundraiser Bill Mole announces his second fundraising walk—this time from Windsor to Toronto—to raise AIDS awareness and money to produce “safe sex” stamps, the sale of which is intended to raise money for people living with AIDS and their families. (4 December 1986, *Toronto Star* D28)

10 December 1986

Tim Jocelyn, Toronto sculptor, surface designer and fabric artist, dies of AIDS. (11 December 1986, *Globe and Mail* C8)

10 December 1986

An WHO specialist announces that human testing of an AIDS vaccine is to begin next year. (11 December 1986, *Globe and Mail* A16)

16 December 1986

Mary Augimeri, a North York councillor and member of the Toronto Health Board, criticizes the Toronto Separate School Board's decision to prohibit public health nurses from providing sex education. She says that while the Ontario Public Health Association is developing an information package for schools on AIDS, its effectiveness is compromised if half of the students in the city do not receive the information. (16 December 1986, *Toronto Star* Ainsworth N25)

23 December 1986

ACT announces that it has received over \$100,000 from the Ontario government. The provincial government pledges another \$192,000. (23 December 1986, *Globe and Mail* McMonagle A12; 24 December 1986, *Toronto Star* A14)

23 December 1986

Murray Elston announces that he has extended the mandate of the Public Education Panel on AIDS for another two years. Since September 1985 the panel has produced fact sheets on AIDS, developed three audio-visual programs and set up a speaker referral bureau with 200 members across the province. (24 December 1986, *Toronto Star* A14)

23 - 29 December 1986

Customs seizes safer sex material that depicts anal sex. The resulting outcry leads customs to reverse its decision and make an exception for descriptions and depictions of anal sex in AIDS educational material. (24 December 1986, *Globe and Mail*; 30 December 1986, *Toronto Star* A20; 30 December 1986, *Globe and Mail* A4)

28 December 1986

There are 823 reported cases of AIDS in Canada. Federal Health Minister Jake Epp will investigate whether new mandatory blood testing by the life insurance industry is discriminatory. (29 December 1986, *Toronto Star* A2; 39 December 1986, *Toronto Star* A16 Editorial; 18 January 1987, *Toronto Star* Haliechuk A6)

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NOTES

- 1 "Pneumocystis pneumonia—Los Angeles," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 30 (5 June 1981): 250-52.
- 2 J. Doherty, "Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in a homosexual male—Ontario," *Canada Diseases Weekly Report*, 8, 13 (27 March 1982): 65-68.
- 3 Joan Hollobon, "AIDS on Rise: 51 Cases in 4 Months, Ottawa Says," *Globe and Mail*, 26 November 1984, p. M9.
- 4 One of the notable recent exceptions is Ann Silversides, *AIDS Activist: Michael Lynch and the Politics of Community* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2003).
- 5 For a bibliography and discussion of AIDS reporting in *The Body Politic*, see Mark L. Robertson, "AIDS coverage in *The Body Politic*, 1981-1987: An Annotated Bibliography," *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 32, 3 (2002): 415-33.