

Criminalization of HIV non-disclosure – Information and Updates

Criminal law out of step on HIV

– article in Law Times by HALCO's Ryan Peck

On March 17, 2017, the Law Times Speaker's Corner published an [article](#) by Ryan Peck, HALCO executive director and lawyer. In the article, Ryan addresses both the science in relation to HIV transmission and the criminal law in relation to prosecutions related to HIV non-disclosure.

The work of the Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure (CLHE) is also emphasized as is the CLHE demand for an immediate moratorium on HIV non-disclosure prosecutions, unless there is alleged intentional transmission of HIV, while law reform options are explored and sound prosecutorial guidelines developed in meaningful consultation with community.

The article includes the Law Times Poll about HIV non-disclosure prosecution – please vote in the poll (scroll down in the article to find the poll).

To support the CLHE demand, visit the CLHE website to send a message to the Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Yasir Naqvi: <http://clhe.ca/hiv-is-not-a-crime>.

You can access the Law Times article on the Law Times website:

www.lawtimesnews.com/201703276040/commentary/speaker-s-corner-criminal-law-out-of-step-on-hiv.

New Report – HIV Criminalization in Canada: Key Trends and Patterns

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network prepared this report to contribute to an informed public dialogue on the issue of HIV criminalization in Canada. The report provides a snapshot of the temporal and demographic patterns of HIV criminalization in Canada from 1989 to 2016. It also updates information on the outcomes of HIV non-disclosure criminal cases. Authors are **Colin Hastings**, **Cécile Kazatchkine** and **Eric Mykhalovskiy**. You can access the report on the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network website:

www.aidslaw.ca/site/hiv-criminalization-in-canada-key-trends-and-patterns/?lang=en.

New Brief: Exploring Avenues to Address Problematic Prosecutions Against People Living with HIV in Canada

HALCO and the Canadian HIV/ AIDS Legal Network prepared this brief to encourage the federal and provincial governments, in consultation with the community, to take action to limit HIV criminalization and, to bring the law in line with current science, human rights principles, and the public health response to HIV. The federal government is meeting with provincial and territorial counterparts on this issue in late March. You can access the brief on our website: www.halco.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HIV-Criminalization-ProblematicProsecutions-Brief-HALCOLegalNetwork-2017Mar.pdf.

HALCO: free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario

As always, HALCO provides free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario. We encourage you to refer everyone diagnosed with HIV to us for free legal services in relation to any legal issues, including criminal law, public health, human rights, income maintenance, immigration/refugee, tenancy, privacy, disclosure, or employment. People can call us at 416-340-7790 or toll-free at 1-888-705-8889. Our intake hours for new legal inquiries are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HALCO: public legal education workshops

Also, as always, HALCO staff provide public legal education workshops across Ontario. We would be pleased to work with you to provide a workshop for you, your colleagues and/or community. Our workshop topics include **HIV Disclosure and the Law: Criminal and Public Health Issues**. If you would like to discuss arranging a workshop on this or other legal topics, please contact Jill McNall, HALCO community legal worker, at extension 4043 at 416-340-7790 or toll-free 1-888-705-8889, or mcnallj@lao.on.ca.

(HALCO 2017March)