



**PERSONAL MESSAGE AND GREETINGS FROM
HONOURABLE TERRY LAKE
MINISTER OF HEALTH**

BRILLIANT! A SHOW OF LOVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH & HIV/AIDS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I would like to extend my best wishes and sincerest thanks to each of you in attendance at the second annual Brilliant! A Show of Love for Mental Health and HIV/AIDS. Tonight you will have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of British Columbians living with mental health issues and HIV/AIDS.

I know that this evening will be a celebration of love and a demonstration of unity and support for our friends and loved ones who are facing these challenges.

Our government is committed to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental illness. Our Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in B.C. – Healthy Minds, Healthy People – is a road map to further improving mental health, reducing problematic substance use and addressing mental illness for all British Columbians. Earlier this year, we also announced funding totalling \$18.4 million to support ongoing research and grassroots projects that will benefit individuals and families facing mental illness and substance use challenges. Together, we can reduce the stigma and pain connected with mental illness.

We are also committed to supporting and enhancing diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. As part of our vision of an AIDS-free generation, announced \$19.9 million in annual funding to support the provincial expansion of the STOP HIV/AIDS program throughout B.C. beginning April 1, 2013. British Columbia is recognized as a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS and is the only province in Canada showing a consistent decline in new HIV diagnoses.

Of course, all of this is made possible thanks to the work and expertise of St. Paul's Hospital, the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, with its exceptional director Dr. Julio Montaner, and the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation – and public supporters like all of you. Your dedication to making a difference in people's lives is to be commended. Thank you for attending this event, and enjoy the evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Lake".

Terry Lake
Minister of Health

Ministry of
Health

Office of the Minister

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