

### Provincial Government Delays New HCV Drugs

Nova Scotia Provincial Ministry of Health and Wellness has delayed approval of new HCV treatment drugs, Boceprevir and Teleprevir.

These new drugs, approved by Health Canada nearly a year ago as "life saving", have already been approved for use now in most provinces and territories across the country—but not in Nova Scotia.

"Hepatitis C is a terrible disease that happens to good people" says Dr Marie Laryea of the QEII Health Sciences Centre, "For many of my patients, time is ticking. They have a window to be treated before they are too sick and that window may already be closed for some of them. That is the heartbreaking truth. These Nova Scotians deserve better." Dr Marie Laryea is a Hepatologist and liver transplant specialist at the QEII Health Sciences Center, assistant professor at Dalhousie University and sits on the HepNS Board of Directors.

No word on when the province plans to approve the two drugs.

### WORLD HEPATITIS DAY JULY 28: GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

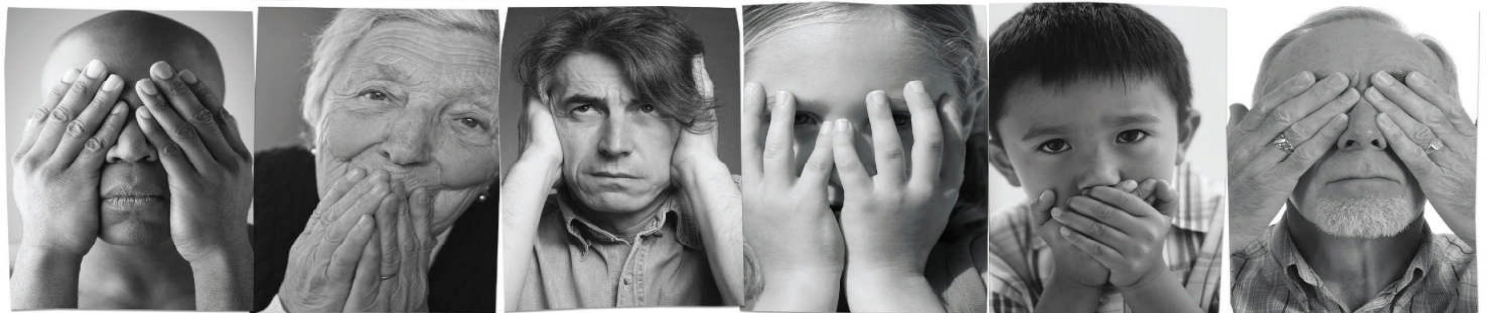
The Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia (HepNS) is joining the World Hepatitis Alliance and its members to set a Guinness World Record on World Hepatitis Day on Saturday, July 28th.

"In the past four years, over 1000 Nova Scotians have been diagnosed with hepatitis B and C. By participating in a world-wide Guinness Record attempt, we are able to involve as many people as possible in getting the message out about this life threatening illness and the effect it has on the people of this province"—Colin Green, Executive Director, HepNS

HepNS is proud to spearhead the local effort as the global hepatitis community and concerned citizens unite at multiple venues around the world to raise awareness of hepatitis on World Hep Day. HepNS invites Nova Scotians to join in their efforts to set a world record for the most people performing the "See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil" actions. These actions showcase the need for us open our eyes, mouths and ears to spread the word about hepatitis. By raising awareness of this serious disease we can reduce stigma, support those who have or are affected by hepatitis, and garner attention from government. HepNS joins with its members and the patient community to call on governments to do more to raise awareness, treat and reduce stigma of hepatitis.

We are pleased to have Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax, Dawn Sloane, city Councillor for downtown Halifax and Sunday Miller, Executive Director of the Africville Heritage Trust join our efforts as our official counters.

The HepNS Guinness World Record attempt will take place at the Helipad on the Halifax waterfront in front of Bishops Landing at 1475 Lower Water St. The location showcases our Maritime heritage and will be a great backdrop



to a YouTube video of the event. Gracious permission by the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd.

The record attempt will take place at 12 o'clock to highlight the fact that 1 in 12 people worldwide have hepatitis.

Other countries who will be adding their numbers to this effort include; Germany, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Malaysia, India, Romania, China, and the Ukraine.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Waterfront Development Corp, Councillor Dawn Sloane, Roche, Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) and Merck.

**This is hepatitis...**  
**Know it. Confront it.**  
**Get tested.**

For information about activities across Canada see [www.whdcanada.ca](http://www.whdcanada.ca)

## ABOUT HEPNS

HepNS is a charitable organization that reduces the impact of hepatitis through support, information and education.

Community Connections is a quarterly informative publication of the Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia. We welcome your comments and contributions.

If you would like to contribute to the work of HepNS, see the "Sponsors" page on our website: [www.HepatitisOutreach.com](http://www.HepatitisOutreach.com)

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### Our Staff:

Colin Green, Executive Director  
Carla Densmore, Program Coordinator  
Adam Dolliver, Workshop Facilitator



## Join Team HepNS on Sunday September 23rd for the AIDS Walk for Life

Sixty percent of all money raised by our team is kept by HepNS to provide workshops and information about HIV/HCV Co-infection.

The other forty percent goes to the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia—win, win!

To register and to join our team go to:

<http://www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Halifax.htm>

## NEW RESEARCH: INCREASED RISK OF HIP FRACTURES LINKED TO HCV AND CO-INFECTION

According to a new study in Hepatology by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, as a result of decreased bone mineral density, incidence rates of hip fractures increased with the presence of HCV and were highest among HIV/HCV co-infected individuals

See "<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22619086>" for the research abstract.

## HEPNS BOARD: WELCOME SALLY CAMPBELL

At the HepNS Annual General Meeting on June 2, 2012 the Board and Staff welcomed a new Board Member, Sally Campbell.

Sally joins seven existing and re-elected Board Members:

Sandra Low, Chair	Wanda MacDonald, Treasurer
Carla Burgess	Heather d'Entremont
Jeff Lewis	Juanita MacPhee
Dr Marie Laryea	

If you would like to sit in on a board meeting or have something added to the agenda, please contact Colin at 420-1767 or email [Director@HepatitisOutreach.com](mailto:Director@HepatitisOutreach.com)



HepNS Board President Sandra Low (left) and Treasurer Wanda MacDonald (right) welcome Sally Campbell (centre)