



MEDIA RELEASE

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June 24, 2008

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Lieutenant Governor named Honourary Patron for 12th Annual Okanagan Family AIDS Walk!

Kelowna – The 12th Annual Okanagan Family AIDS Walk, presented by Interior Savings at Waterfront Park in Kelowna on Sunday, September 21st, will be under the distinguished patronage of the Honourable Steven Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

The Honourable Steven L. Point was sworn-in as British Columbia's 28th Lieutenant Governor on October 1, 2007. In 2005, he was appointed Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. His Honour served as an elected Chief of the Skowkale First Nation for 15 years. He also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation Government, and he was honoured as Grand Chief by the Chiefs of the Stó:lo Tribal Council. His Honour was appointed a provincial court judge in February 1999. Point received an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley in June 2000 and is a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, also in 2000. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1985 and was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 1986.

This year's Okanagan Family AIDS Walk event will be chaired by Maxine DeHart, Director of Sales for Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre and author of the newspaper column "Straight from DeHart". Maxine is also known as an ardent supporter of community fundraising initiatives, having served as a former Campaign Chair for the United Way, and as host of the Maxine DeHart United Way Ramada Hotel Drive –Thru Breakfast, which has raised over half a million dollars since its inception nine years ago. She is the recipient of the 2007 United Way Award of Distinction, and in 2002 received both the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Community Leadership and Enhancement. Said DeHart, "I am honoured to have been asked to serve as Chair, and am absolutely delighted to welcome The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia as our Honourary Patron for this event. His Honour's pledge to help raise awareness of this devastating health issue reflects his profound compassion and commitment to improving the lives of the people of our province."



The Okanagan Family AIDS Walk is organized by Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan (LPRC) and Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society (OAAS) in Kelowna. LPRC is the agency responsible for HIV, AIDS and hepatitis support, prevention education and awareness events throughout in the Okanagan Valley. OAAS provides HIV, AIDS and hepatitis education and prevention services to the Aboriginal communities throughout the 7 member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

LPRC Executive Director Daryle Roberts says, "We know that it is important for all donors and supporters of this event to know where their money goes. We are committed to directing the dollars raised in smaller communities, including Vernon, Penticton, Oliver & Osoyoos, back to them to help support individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by HIV and AIDS, and to provide crucial educational and awareness programs to prevent the spread of this disease. Education and awareness are key and our most important tools in the fight against HIV and AIDS."

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