



## Ten years in the spotlight

Ten years ago, shortly after Pivot had begun to take shape as a legal advocacy organization, an idea for a different kind of project began to emerge. We don't remember exactly who was present at those early brainstorming sessions but we do know that this group of people could see great potential in what they were imagining- a project that would use photography to empower people living in the Downtown Eastside to represent their neighbourhood on their own terms.

On June 2nd, we kicked off the 10th Annual Hope in Shadows photography contest at the Pivot office, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, VANDU and Carnegie as we distributed more than 200 contest cameras. We had lots of amazing volunteers on hand to pull off the event (including volunteers from some of our sponsors - notably Vancity and Salt Spring Coffee). As they headed out to snap their photos, we asked participants to reflect this year's contest theme - What I value about my Downtown Eastside community - back to us through their images.

This year's contest theme around values seemed to excite the participants. At the smaller camera handouts at VANDU and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre we had conversations about community values. Those who picked up cameras at the main handout didn't need any prompting to share their thoughts about community values as they inscribed them on a large piece of paper we hung up on our garage door. Participants made it clear that there are things about this low-income community that its members deeply value. The Downtown Eastside is a place where they feel accepted without judgment, it's a community that cares for its members and in particular for people who are suffering. It is a neighbourhood that fights for justice and people feel a strong affinity to this place and to one another.

We can't wait to see what the participants capture on film this year, and how they reflect their values using photographic techniques. Later in the month our panel of judges will help select the "Top 40" winning images and top photos in the categories of "Best Portrait", "Best Urban Landscape", "Best Colour", and "Best Black & White." Community members themselves will select four winning photos in the category of "Downtown Eastside Community Choice Award".

We are inviting you stay tuned as this landmark year unfolds.

1. Give to the Hope in Shadows 10th anniversary appeal
2. Come out the Hope in Shadows Community Vote
3. Listen to the Pivot Points Radio Show on CO-OP 102.7 FM
4. Check out our youth legal education videos at PivotLegalTV on YouTube
5. Visit Pivot's blog at [www.pivotlegal.org](http://www.pivotlegal.org)

**5 THINGS  
YOU CAN DO**





## Message from the ED

Peter Wrinch

Every year I take on introducing our newest crop of summer interns to the greater Pivot community and every year I start off by saying that it looks like we have the best summer interns ever. At the risk of repeating myself, it appears that we have the best summer interns ever!

Something feels different this year. Maybe it's the fact that we had over 100 applicants from all across North America (up from 60 last year); or maybe it is that we are welcoming interns into our open concept office (that we love); or maybe it is the extracurricular garden and baking activities that each of the interns and some core volunteers (looking at you Max and Georges!) have taken on.

Whatever it is, this is going to be a good summer. Our interns (Fathima, Kristina, Laila, Ryan, and Leo) will receive a crash course in legal advocacy, communications, and fundraising. They will also connect with residents of the Downtown Eastside through Hope in Shadows, legal clinics, community meetings and social events. Over the course of the summer, our 5 interns will add over 4500 hours to our social change campaigns! With this group of amazing interns - that will translate to extraordinary impact for Pivot.

## PIVOT PROFILES

**Andrew O'Sullivan**  
volunteer coordinator

Andrew O'Sullivan came into the Pivot orbit as an intern in 2010. Throughout that long, hot summer, I remember being struck by Andrew's natural ability with people, his leadership qualities, his honesty, and his humour. Since that time, Andrew has been a committed volunteer at Pivot, managing our volunteer and intern programs, organizing events, and keeping us all very entertained.

We are really happy to welcome Andrew to our staff team starting this month. Our hope is that Andrew will continue to build on the things he already does very well and, in turn, further build the capacity of our organization.

Here is a little bit of Andrew in his own words:

*I began my time with Pivot as an intern with the Child Welfare and simply never left. After graduating with a BA in Political Science and History from UBC, I was eager to find ways to address the inequalities I had studied and Pivot provided me with that opportunity. As volunteer coordinator I organize and administer volunteers and interns as well as lending a hand to whatever projects come my way. The level of talent, skill, and drive that Pivot attracts never ceases to amaze and energize me in my work.*

*When not at Pivot, I work reintegrating men post-release from Federal and Provincial incarceration. Rock climbing, wandering the city, and baking almost unreasonably tasty pies round out both my days and my caloric intake.*

I told you he was talented and very funny!

Peter Wrinch



# Community Solidarity for Harm Reduction week in Victoria



May 31, 2012 marked the fourth anniversary of the closure of Victoria's only fixed site needle exchange. Local drug user groups, public health advocates and activist commemorated the loss of this vital public health service with a series of public events, discussions for impacted communities and educational workshops. Victoria's Harm reduction week activities kicked off with a peer convergence that brought together drug users from around the Greater Victoria Area.

There are few opportunities for people who use drugs to get together, share experiences and strategize about how to make change in their community, the peer-convergence was an opportunity for some of those dialogues to get

started on the issues that most impact them. The next evening, Pivot's Scott Bernstein joined Liz Evans of the PHS Community Services Society, community activist Dean Wilson, and representatives from provincial and local health agencies in a lively public forum organizers called "Why Insite Won" looking at how community involvement, research, policy, and legal strategies led to the success of Canada's most discussed harm reduction service.

The final day of events featured a series of workshops, including a Pivot-lead Yes, in My Backyard workshop focused on addressing community opposition to harm reduction services.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- **Study finds that working indoors increases sex worker safety:** A recent research study released in May has shown that providing indoor venues for street-involved sex workers has a significant impact on their health and safety. The study, conducted by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, found that working indoors increases sex workers' control over the terms of transactions, including their ability to refuse certain services, negotiate condom use and avoid violent perpetrators. The study is based on interviews with 39 street-involved sex workers. The study found that once permitted to work indoors, women were able to build relationships with neighbours and support staff and develop personal violence prevention strategies to protect themselves and assist in protecting others. A copy of the abstract can be found at: [www.cfenet.ubc.ca/initiatives/gshi](http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/initiatives/gshi)
- **Pivot launches legal rights videos for youth:** On April 20, Pivot Legal Society launched five new legal education videos for young people at F\*in Rights, a free Hip Hop show focusing on helping youth understand and exercise their legal rights. The videos are targeted toward youth involved with the child protection or criminal justice system. The launch included performances by Banyen Roots, DJ Su Comandante, Ndid Cascade, Conscience and First Ladies Crew along-side facilitated discussion with the crowd about the concept of rights and the first public screening of the videos. Videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel: PivotLegalTV
- **Ontario Court of Appeal decision strikes down "bawdy house" law:** On March 26th, the Ontario Court of Appeal announced its ruling on the constitutionality of Canada's prostitution law and struck down the "bawdy house" provision of the Criminal Code as a violation of sex workers' right to liberty and security of the person. Pivot sees this decision as a partial victory because the Court did not strike down the law which prohibits communication for the purpose of prostitution in a public place. This remains an important concern for street-based sex workers in the Downtown Eastside and across the country. Pivot joined together with PACE Society and DTES Sex Workers United Against Violence Society (SWUAV) to intervene at the Court of Appeal, bringing the voices of DTES sex workers to the Court. Pivot is planning to once again join forces with PACE and SWUAV to file for leave to intervene when the decision is appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- **Pivot joins the call for harm reduction in Abbotsford:** Pivot appeared as part of a delegation before the Abbotsford City Council Executive Committee, adding its voice to the chorus of calls for the City to repeal its ban on harm reduction services. In 2005, under the leadership of Mayor Mary Reeves, the Council amended the City's zoning bylaws to effectively outlaw harm reduction services in Abbotsford. Council argued that needle exchanges would attract drug users and that providing the public with clean needles would encourage "pathological behavior." Abbotsford currently has the third highest rate of Hepatitis C infections in British Columbia. Drug overdose hospitalizations also are higher in Abbotsford than in the rest of Fraser Health Region. The current Mayor, Dr. Bruce Banman, was elected in 2011 and he and the current Council have opened up this bylaw to review.

## EVENTS

Hope in Shadows Community Vote  
July 4th and 5th 11am - 3pm  
Outside Carnegie Centre  
Main and Hastings

AIDS 2012  
XIX International Aids Conference  
July 22-27  
Washington DC  
Pivot will be contributing two  
Poster Presentations

Pivot Points Radio Show  
Tuesday July 3rd Noon- 1pm  
CO-OP Radio 102.7 FM

Hope in Shadow's 10th Anniversary  
Exhibition Opening  
Thursday October 11th, 2012  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Pendulum Gallery  
885 West Georgia Street



# MENTAL HEALTH AND POLICING

Moving from recommendations to real change

In April, Pivot represented the daughters of Michael Vann Hubbard at the coroner's inquest into the death of their father, who was shot by a Vancouver Police Department officer in front of a Downtown Vancouver shelter in March of 2009.

When it was all over, the jury recommended that the VPD include first aid certification as a basic hiring requirement. They also recommended that all police vehicles be equipped with basic first aid kits, and called for a review and upgrade of emergency scene protocols. But it was the fifth recommendation, that the VPD continue with their goal of having every member complete and maintain currency in a 40-hour crisis intervention training, that was the most interesting from our perspective.

The training recommendation was an important victory as we have long argued that police must be adequately trained to intervene effectively in mental health crises given that more than one third of police shooting in BC involve a person with a mental illness. What is disappointing is that these recommendations are not binding, and that we had already seen a very similar recommendation as a result of an inquest into a very similar case.

Recently, the CBC released an eyewitness video of the last moments of the life of Paul Boyd, a man diagnosed with bipolar disorder who was shot eight times by a VPD officer

in 2007. The video showed the final, fatal bullet being fired as Mr. Boyd crawled on the ground. Even without this footage, the Boyd case has a troubling legacy. The VPD failed to use the tragedy to prevent the same thing from happening again.

Mr. Boyd's death was also the subject of a coroner's inquest. In his case, the coroner recommended the Vancouver Police Department assess the effectiveness of police training, increase mandatory training for police officers and make intermediate weapons available to all VPD officers. In the case of Mr. Vann Hubbard, The VPD was urged to continue to work toward the training goals recommended in the Boyd inquest. The recommendation that intermediate weapons, like "beanbag" guns and tasers, be made available to all VPD officers, which potentially could have saved Mr. Hubbard's life, is not even revisited in the Hubbard recommendations.

Police are accountable to the families of victims of police shootings, but there must be a more general measure of accountability as well. Police must be held to account when tragedies start to become predictable occurrences. One way to do that would be to give those recommendations, developed through a taxpayer funded inquest processes, some real teeth.

## Join the HiS Community - Become a Sponsor!

Join like-minded businesses, unions, and organizations and help us celebrate 10 years of success by becoming a sponsor of the 10th annual Hope in Shadows calendar. Not only will you help change attitudes and change lives, your company will be featured in the 2013 calendar, which will hang on the walls of 17,000 Vancouverites who share your commitment to healthy, inclusive communities.

Contact Peter or Carolyn to sponsor today:  
[peter@pivotlegal.org](mailto:peter@pivotlegal.org) [carolyn@hopeinshadows.com](mailto:carolyn@hopeinshadows.com)

## CONTACT US

**Pivot**  
121 Heatley Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6A 3E9  
Coast Salish Territories

Tel. 604-255-9700  
Fax. 604-255-1552  
[getinvolved@pivotlegal.org](mailto:getinvolved@pivotlegal.org)  
[www.pivotlegal.org](http://www.pivotlegal.org)