



ninecircles
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Lived Experience Advisory APPLICATION PACKAGE

*“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.”
- Brene Brown*

About the Project

Nine Circles is recruiting people living with HIV to advise on our organization's communications activities. The **Lived Experience Advisory** will give you an opportunity to share your journey, tell your stories of resilience¹ to challenge stigma and fear, and empower others living with HIV.

The Lived Experience Advisory will meet approximately 6 times a year, with casual consultation by electronic communication (email or a private social media group) in between. The project is funded through donations to Nine Circles and the Public Health Agency of Canada's Community Action Fund until March, 2022. Advisory members will receive a small honorarium per meeting to support participation.

There are currently spaces for 10 people in the group. This application form will help us get to know a bit about you, as our goal is to bring together a group of people living with HIV who have diverse lived experience. If you are not selected for the group, we will keep your application on file for consideration if space becomes available. We can also inform you of other opportunities to contribute your ideas during the year, through forums, brainstorming and other activities.

Advisory Activities: After the first few sessions, topics will be created with the input of the group. Activities could include:

- learning and practicing different storytelling techniques to share personal stories of resilience, with an opportunity to share those stories more widely through Nine Circles' existing communications channels (website, social media, e-news)
- brainstorming ideas and contributing key messages for campaigns and events
- speaking or taking part in the program at AIDS Walk or World AIDS Day
- learning how to give a successful media interview and how to deal with reporter's questions

Skills: For the advisory group, we're looking for people who:

- are living with HIV and have an interest in sharing their experiences with others, or have a curiosity about what that might be like
- like to read and/or write and are willing to practice their skills and learn some new ones
- feel like they have resilience when dealing with difficulties and have developed coping skills

¹ Resilience is the “process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress... It means "bouncing back" from difficult experiences.” (American Psychological Association)

- are committed to participating at in-person meetings as schedules allow and consult via electronic communication between meetings. (Options to call in to meetings via conference call or video chat are being explored for those who live out of Winnipeg)
- can speak and read English well
- have emotional/mental health supports in their life

A note on disclosure:

As this advisory is for people who are living with HIV, your application and participation in this project will disclose your HIV status to other participants, the advisory coordinator and a volunteer supporting the group. Confidentiality and PHIA (the personal health information act) will be discussed at the first meeting.

Disclosing your status beyond the group is not required to be a member of the advisory. Our hope is that some members of the group will be willing to share their stories with a wider audience, but sharing stories anonymously and participating in "behind the scenes" activities that don't require disclosure are options as well. You only need to share what you are comfortable sharing.

Interested in getting involved?

Please fill out the following application form and submit it to:

Teri Stevens, Community Engagement Coordinator
communityengagement@ninecircles.ca
Nine Circles Community Health Centre, 705 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0X2
Fax: 204-940-6003

(You can drop off your application at our front desk, mail it, email it or fax it)

For more information, get in touch with Teri at 204-940-6000 or communityengagement@ninecircles.ca. A digital version of this application package is available at ninecircles.ca/getinvolved/advisories

Deadline: Applications are due by April 27, 2018.

Applications received after the deadline will be put on file for future recruitment.

Save this form to your computer before you fill it out. Any details you provide on this form are kept confidential and will be reviewed only by authorized staff. Please print.

Name:	Date:
Email:	Phone Number(s):

Demographics

We are looking to create a diverse group, representative of people from various walks of life. Please check all descriptions that you feel represent you and that you feel comfortable disclosing.

Your age: 18 – 34 35 – 49 50 – 64 65+

Language(s): English French other: _____

Gender: male female trans cis-gender²
 non-binary two-spirit other _____

Orientation: straight gay/lesbian man who has sex with men³
 bisexual/pansexual queer other _____

Ethnicity: _____

Education: high school grad College/University grad

Employment: employed unemployed business owner retired
 on disability

HIV Status: long term survivor⁴ recently diagnosed with HIV (5 years or less)

² Cis-gender: a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth
³ Some men who have sex with men don't identify as gay, bisexual, pansexual or queer
⁴ There are various definitions for "long term survivor" but generally, the term is used to describe those who survived the AIDS Epidemic that occurred from 1981 until Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy (HAART) was introduced in 1996.

Electronic Communications:

You have:

- an email account a Facebook account regular access to a computer

Tell us a bit about yourself and your experiences living with HIV.

What parts of your story do you think could inspire others, and/or challenge stigma and fear around HIV?

**Do you have experience telling your story, or using communications tools or storytelling techniques?
(Communications tools/storytelling techniques include: oral storytelling/public speaking; social media;
writing fiction, non-fiction, poetry or music; visual art; media interviews etc.)**

**Telling our personal stories can be a powerful experience that can bring up strong emotions. Do you have
emotional and mental health supports that you can access if you need help processing your experience in
the group?**

**Are there any barriers you feel may impact your ability to attend meetings or prevent you from engaging
fully in the group?**

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself and why you'd like to participate in the group?

Do you see any care providers at Nine Circles? yes no

Would you be okay with us using them as a reference if needed? yes no

Names: _____

Availability:

In general, the following days and times are best for you:

Monday: afternoon evening

Tuesday: morning afternoon evening

Wednesday: morning afternoon evening

Thursday: morning afternoon

Friday: morning afternoon

Saturday: afternoon

Sunday: afternoon

Thank you for filling out the Lived Experience Advisory application form! Please submit it to:

Teri Stevens, Community Engagement Coordinator

communityengagement@ninecircles.ca

Nine Circles Community Health Centre, 705 Broadway

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0X2

Fax: 204-940-6003

(You can drop off your application at our front desk, mail it, email it or fax it)