

# Saskatchewan organizes **FIRST** province-wide HIV Testing Day - **June 27, 2017\***



- **14** HIV testing and awareness events happened in **11** locations across Saskatchewan.
  - Over **750** people attended these events.
  - Approximately **250** people were tested for HIV.
  - People not tested were given information on the importance of HIV testing, including how and where to get tested.
  - Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Health for Saskatchewan, and other local champions were tested for HIV and encouraged others to do the same.
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- Targeted “testing fairs” were organized by various Regional Health Authorities, First Nations Inuit Health Branch, and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority in partnership with local community-based organizations.
  - The purpose of the **Saskatchewan Testing Day** was to promote and offer HIV testing in an effort to educate, reduce stigma, and normalize HIV testing.
  - HIV Point of Care (POC) testing statistics for April 1 to June 30, 2017 show an increase of 238 tests from the previous quarter and were up 199 tests from the same quarter in 2016. *(See Table 1 below).*

**Table 1:**

**HIV Point of Care Tests Reported by Quarter, 2016 and 2017**

2016				2017	
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
472	485	458	481	446	684

Source: HIV Point of Care Testing site data reported to HIV Strategy Coordinators

## **HIV ... it's different now. Say YES to the test.**

The provincial HIV testing day held in June may account for the sharp increase in tests for the second quarter this year; 684 tests were delivered compared to the quarterly average of 474 tests in 2016.

Recognizing the efforts made by Saskatchewan, the Canadian AIDS Society announced they will be launching the first pan-Canadian Community HIV Testing Day next year on June 27, 2018.

\*Additional testing fairs occurred after June 27, 2017 as part of a continuation of the Saskatchewan HIV Testing Day. The success of these events is not captured in this document, and confirmation of testing numbers for this period is still pending.