



## NEWS RELEASE:

### VOICES OF HOPE/VOIX D'ESPOIR FIRST NATIONAL EVENT TO MARK WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1

**November 12, 2008 – (Toronto, ON)** Three HIV/AIDS treatment organizations in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal will make history on the weekend of November 28 – December 1, 2008 as they unite for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International World AIDS Day with a concert in each city. **“Voices of Hope / Voix D’Espoir”** will be the first-ever national event marking World AIDS Day in Canada.

The Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation (Vancouver), Casey House (Toronto) and La Maison du Parc (Montréal) will coordinate concerts between November 28 – December 1, 2008, with the goal to raise public awareness within Canada about HIV/AIDS and prevention, to honour the lives that have been lost, and to call for increased support and dignity for the people who experience ongoing stigma and discrimination because of their disease. HIV/AIDS infection rates in Canada are again on the rise, with one person newly infected approximately every two hours.

“Our hope is that this national initiative will gain momentum and expand to communities across Canada on future World AIDS Days,” says Stephanie Karapita, CEO of Casey House. “We imagine future events in which more people from across Canada will come together to raise awareness of the ongoing need for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support as Canadians continue to struggle with this deadly disease.”

With support from the M·A·C AIDS Fund, The Globe and Mail and GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Shire BioChem, the three Voices of Hope/Voix D’Espoir concerts will take place in churches in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal. Each concert will offer a high calibre of musical performances, paying tribute to the people lost to HIV/AIDS over the years, as well as recognizing and celebrating the lives of men and women who continue to battle HIV/AIDS in communities across Canada.

Detailed programmes for each city concert follow.

For more information, please contact:

Kathleen Sandusky  
Media Relations & Communications, Casey House  
(416) 434-7763 / [ksandusky@caseyhouse.on.ca](mailto:ksandusky@caseyhouse.on.ca)

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**VOICES OF HOPE / VOIX D'ESPOIR:  
CITY-BY-CITY**

**The Vancouver Concert: Friday, November 28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St**

**Organized by the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation**

**[www.drpeter.org](http://www.drpeter.org) / (604) 331.5081**

**Suggested donation: \$20 at the door**

Hosted by Bill Richardson. A benefit for the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, the event will feature an inspiring musical selection performed by members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Men's Chorus, North Shore Celtic Ensemble and Pandora's Vox. A delegation of HIV/AIDS leaders from Haiti will attend.

**The Montréal Concert: Friday, November 28, 8 p.m.**

**Location: Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, 3415 Redpath St. (at Sherbrooke)**

**Organized by La Maison du Parc**

**[www.maisonduparc.org](http://www.maisonduparc.org) / (514) 523-6467**

**Suggested donation: \$20 at the door**

Hosted by Kelly Rice. For seven years, La Maison du Parc has hosted the largest World AIDS Day event in Quebec. This year's program will feature choral works by Mozart, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Fauré and Vivaldi, performed by 50 members of the Choir from the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, accompanied by members of the Montréal Symphony Orchestra.

**The Toronto Concert: Monday, December 1 (World AIDS Day), 7 p.m.**

**Location: Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. E. (at Church)**

**Organized by Casey House**

**[www.caseyhouse.com](http://www.caseyhouse.com) / (416) 962-4040**

**Suggested donation: \$20 at the door**

Hosted by Molly Johnson. Heralded by a 54-bell carillon, the evening will feature musical performances by the Royal Conservatory Academy Orchestra, the Metropolitan Silver Band, Forte: The Toronto Men's Chorus, electric violinist Dr. Draw, Toronto Children's Chorus and students of the Dixon Hall Music School. Dr. Patricia Wright will perform Barber's Adagio on one of Canada's largest pipe organs. Quilts created in memory of the people who have died at Casey House over its 20-year history will drape the space. A candlelight carillon concert and hot cider in the courtyard will follow.