

HIM

**A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A FREE
CONDOM & LUBE DISPENSER FOR USE
IN BARS, CLUBS & BATHHOUSES**

HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR MEN & MR. GAY CANADA

March 19, 2009

BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

The Health Initiative for Men (HIM) is a new gay men's health organization in Vancouver, BC. Our mandate is to strengthen the health and wellness of gay men, and other men who have sex with men, in British Columbia through education, support, and community development. One of the organization's primary objectives is to reduce the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

In Vancouver, the rate of transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, is on the rise. Prevention measures have succeeded in slowing the transmission of STIs in the past, especially in the gay community. However, in recent years community attention to these issues has started to lag. As part of the HIM mandate to strengthen the health and wellness of gay men, we are working to promote safer sexual practices that support men's efforts to have great sex while reducing the risk of transmitting or contracting STIs.

The focus of this program is to increase access to condoms in the community through community venues, while reinforcing and validating men's choices to use condoms as part of safer sex practices.

To accomplish this HIM will launch a campaign to increase the visibility of condoms in gay venues in Vancouver. The campaign will provide gay men with access to appropriate and unbiased health information; condoms and lube; and healthy proactive social environments. This proposal focuses on the creation of the condom dispenser, which is integral to the condom campaign.

Many cities have free condom dispensers hosted in gay establishments that serve to encourage and support a culture of safer sex and condom use. For example, Séro Zéro in Montreal has 20 dispensers in operation in 15 establishments. AIDES in France provides condom dispensers as part of the sexual health promotion work of that organization.

HIM has made a commitment to ensuring a similar resource exists in Vancouver. However, after reviewing existing "off the shelf" dispensers, a decision was made to develop a dispenser that is more suited to our local needs. Therefore, we are seeking a design that HIM will fabricate for local use. As part of our vision of engaging community in strengthening the health of gay men, HIM seeks the involvement and participation of the local community in this process.

HIM AND MR. GAY CANADA

In his role as Mr. Gay Canada, Darren Bruce approached HIM and offered his ideas and support to facilitate the implementation of this exciting new program. Darren became motivated on this topic while on a trip to Montreal where he saw free condom and lube dispensers in all of the gay venues in the Village. He realized that the gay community in Vancouver could do more to stop the spread of STIs and create a culture of healthy lifestyle choices in the process.

PROPOSED METHOD AND DELIVERABLES

METHOD

The Health Initiative for Men (HIM) is issuing an open call for proposals for the design of a unique, functional, and economical condom dispenser to be hosted in various gay venues around Vancouver. Proposals received by deadline will be reviewed by a panel of community partners. Three proposals will be short listed, providing an opportunity for designers to elaborate on design choices and propose refinements based on the review panel's feedback. Following this stage, a final design proposal will be selected. A \$500 prize will be awarded to the selected design. HIM will be responsible for the construction of the prototype and final dispenser units.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Designs must be aesthetically pleasing as venues have to agree to host the dispensers;
- dispensers should be obvious and eye-catching so that they are easily located in potentially dark venues;
- clear materials should be considered to allow people to see the contents of the dispenser;
- electrical components may be used, but energy efficiency must be taken into consideration (eg. LED lights or small motors);
- dispensers should be wall-mountable;
- designs must include a space for HIM logo and branding;
- dispensers will be placed in narrow hallways and high traffic areas, so designs should not be invasive or restrict the mobility of patrons.;
- the dispenser should have a fill capacity of approximately 400 condom and lube packets;

- designs should include a place to put health promotion information, including brochures, post cards and posters;
- designs should be strong and very durable for high volume use and minimal maintenance;
- HIM is a not for profit organization, therefore consideration must be given to production/reproduction costs;
- designs must be reproducible, as a minimum of 10 to 15 dispensers will be fabricated;
- proposals must be economical and include price estimates for materials and labour; and
- designs should limit the amount of condoms obtained in one attempt. For instance, designs that limit condom dispensing to one or two per attempt would be given more value than those that allow customers to grab many condoms at once.

DEADLINE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit proposals by April 17th, 2009 to:

Jody Jollimore

Project Coordinator, Health Initiative for Men (HIM)

310 – 1033 Davie St., Vancouver, BC

TELEPHONE: 604 488 1001 (ext. 225)

EMAIL: jody@contacthim.ca | WEB: www.checkhimout.ca



PLEASE NOTE: The Health Initiative for Men is under no obligation to enter into any agreement as a result of this Call For Design Proposals including the use of any of the designs submitted. HIM will not reimburse any costs incurred in the preparation and/or submission of a design proposal in response to this call. HIM also reserves the right to: reject any or all design proposals received in response to this call; accept any application as a whole or in part; and cancel and/or re-issue this call.