

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Kitty Kat	lesbian	June 7	Grandview park	Being out is danger	Drugs drove us to streets	Group homes homophobic	School?	Violence from men	Foster home was good			"it seems like the normies know more about these resources [housing] than the people who need them: info gap on part of users
abbey	lesbian	May 7			Started heroin at 14, ('all her friends were using') off for a while, then doing a lot , PCP, hash, pot, cocaine, liquid heroin, acid.  now clean for 1 1/2 yrs and 'relapse every now and then"	Dad left when she was 2, Unstable and 'unsupervised' home life, moved 2-3 x per yr, with mom, depressed  Hitched to see sister in San Fran at 15, sis rejected her (appearance and drug use), "judged" so she 'kept on the move"  Family's financial security meant enough bail-outs to keep her relatively safe	School: 'fucking dyke", "junkie"  Currently has partial grade 11	Raped at 12 (date rape)-she was 'virgin'	"aunt" (older friend) "saved my life" a "dominant woman" became "like my father-figure"  great transition house in Victoria		Now lives in Strathcona, has roommate, drives motorcycle (safely), works as cook, has supportive friends, wants to get GED then go to univ for architecture	
anika	lesbian	May 4	Her living room	Out after grad (b/c rural, "didn't realize a lot of stuff about who I was until I came to Vancouver" "I read about youth groups in Xtra west and Georgia Straight". In Langley, "no women for me to date", met woman thru Unitarian church "It was Unitarian stuff that brought me out of the closet"		"mine was the weird artsy family, so I got a lot of leeway..."  Couldn't get a job in Langley if OUT  I heard abt commercial drive and purposefully moved there.  Housing wasn't hard for me, I had friend going to theatre school who was looking for a room mate	Really repressive  College was intolerant, complained abt her "radical feminism"  Women's studies at SFU was good.	Girlfriend's brother threatened to attack her, cop was totally homophobic, said brother was prob just angry and that police couldnt do anything	Having resources, being able to get a student loan  "I recognize that I had some of the easiest times...and it was really hard"	Had to insist on HIV test, Dr said lesbians don't need it. Lots of heterosexism, don't know abt lesbian safer sex		-Health: insisting on AIDS testing in face of ignorant medical professionals -info gap on part of services
Janice (video int)	Don't categorize self "just me" Consider self "bi"			Hated growing up in the boonies, Not really much community, a couple of close friends		Rocky relationship with parents, not stable, sent to church to get rid of her. "It all fell apart at once" Moved in with sister when left home, sis was on street--granville	Did OK until grade 6 then dropped out	A lot of us get picked on	"[street] Mom, sweetest lady in the world"		Couch surfing right now. Could go to covenant house but need parents sig b/c/ only 18 and "they won't sign, no fucking way"  Feel safe, I know everybody, "my street friends are my family and I know they watch my back"	
Anon female (vid)	30+ ?					Lived on street for 6 years			Then gordon neighborhood house program for sex trade workers and also street youth, intensive job training program, 4 months full time, changed my life		Now community activist	

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Eliza	19strai ght	May 8	Victory square		Addicted to speed did lot of acid	Left home at 13, b/c of moms boyfriend “everything kind of erupted” Dad died,  On and off streets for 6 years  For 3 years was ‘dependant on relationships” b/c couldn’t get assistance. Stayed with a lot of older people but that was really unstable.  When was 16 got assistance but not enuf so still dep on men. Got youth agreement at 18 but just for 1 year. It did help, but took it away at 19	Lifeskills “lame and belittling”, treated like little kids, did unannounced criminal record checks, there was sexual discrimination	left b/d of Mom’s boyfriend had problems with alcohol abuse,, “it started to get physical”  people would say “if you want money, give me a blowjob”  police are ‘assholes”, girl on speed beaten by police b/c she wouldn’t let them keep her bag after they searched it. “I had my legs run over by their bikes after I had fallen asleep on the sidewalk” Cops threaten to take you far away then make you walk back with no shoes on. There’s a lot of racism, esp against natives”	Dropping in at Brenda Carr art studio “kept me sane”  From 13, lived off union gospel food” Panhandled  Spent some time at dusk till dawn but cant sleep there  Ideal place was the aboriginal safe house. Good place to live, great food, great baths, I felt a lot of respect, its how I got off drugs	Dental has been huge issue for me  Street clinics are good, pretty giving  “friend in serious pain, ambulance wouldn’t pick her up b/c she didn’t have \$40, so I have no faith in healthcare”	In projections program “I consider myself kind of borderline” re street involved. Live in kits now, moving cuz “too expensive. Going to rent Mom’s basement cuz things are better now”	Aboriginal safe houses – good atmosphere; passive/non- interventionist approach -“I have no faith in healthcare” (based on friend’s personal experience)
speedy	18 bi but 'not an issue'	May 8	Dom bldg outside	“sexual orientation is sometimes just a practice, not a key part of an identity”		Street involved since 14/15	“I didn’t bring it up at school”	(police) They make me angry, I just keep out of their way. So far that’s worked.	Found punk scene and was drawn to it, gave me a great feeling of belonging	Health good cuz I’m still on my moms healthcare, sometimes I use the clinics for preference. I like the street nurses. They’re some of the first female doctors I’ve had and they’re down to earth, they trust my instincts when I tell them what’s wrong, and don’t always offer pharmaceuti cal cures	Live eastside/roommate Financially gotten by on indep living, had good advocate who helped get it from VYV (was a great place but got its funding cut)  Used dusk to dawn, good, met my needs, dinner 4x week, solid programs, job opps  I also like street youth job action, its structured around youth advisories, they decide what rules are	“the ability to navigate services seems important to success, having peers to help with that might be useful and help break down power hierarchies” (interviewer)  -info gap: widespread on part of users; “power hierarchies” = sense of services as bureaucratic & manipulative
Bob	22-gay Africa n/carib	May 31	Dufferin parking lot	In 99 Mom found out I was gay, kicked me out, so I used my piggy bank money for greyhound ticket to Van. Stayed first year on the street.  First nite was weird, from nice warn townhouse to sleeping in alley. “It was different”  Stated hustling when trannie at the edge offered cig./coffee, said I was “cute”and asked what do I do to make money		Came to Van in 97, was 17.  2 relationships, both bad. One wanted show young and cure ‘showpiece’; second had heroine addiction: “I really cared for him, started hustling cuz didn’t like to see him sick. Eventually got into, first pot, then harder stuff for short while, then decided “Oh God!”	Got to gr 11, got sick, missed day of my GED at VCC but basically did all my coursework. Got 95% average.  Tried to reschedule and was told would have to do whole year again. No! Didn’t give me any choice		To be with others doing dope and not do it, “basically I started the habit of carrying a book with me...always bring a few scraps of paper, doodle, etc, keep self busy  on welfare for 2 yrs, saw my worker ONCE. Rest of time basically directed to my ‘training consultant”, we didn’t get along. Read mostly sci fi	Kind of got what I needed from covenant hse, had to leave cuz caught kissing/mak ing out in washroom with a guy, cuz NO physical contact rule at CH.  Started couch surfing Bathhouse Ok but cant sleep  Need to get more stable  Managed to keep HIV-. Only hustle people I know fairly well and can trust	Sit outside Duff, smoke, and “someone will try and pick me up”  Called Mom month ago, first question was “are you still gay”	

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Peter	Gay-21	May 30		At 14 father asked “peter are you gay?” “you don’t really need to ask, Dad”,	Crystal meth  Has smoked pot with Dad “rather you smoke at home”  PCP  Ecstasy  I do drugs b/c I have nothing else to do	Psychic and emotional abuse. Mother alcoholic, drank most of the day, was “my best friend”, died (cancer) when he was 15, her death was “first domino that fell”. All the women died within a year of each other, he thinks family is “cursed” “old world” Italian catholic home in delta, always having to live up to father’s expectations. youngest of 3 bros, middle bro also gay. Peter singled out as ‘different’ early on, grandmother called him “il diablo” “very free spirited, rebellious and strong willed. “They knew I wasn’t normal”  Father unfaithful to mother, married mistress, always working not around much	Kindergarten teased re sex change  Catholic private school  N. delta Sr.  Constantly taunted, physically assaulted, ostracized  “ugly fat gay guy”  Gr 8 “football (to please family) to dance”, (joined dance team, after 3 weeks) father was ‘disgraced’  Overweight all my life”  Not very interested in formal ed at this point	Father rules and punitive, used to fight physically with his Dad,  Police involved re physical fights, ambulance to hospital, took dad’s side  Moved in with girl friend, she cleaned out apt and left nothing  Gay community a clique, tests you, favours straight community and steps on own  “bitter, bitchy plastic parade of Barbie dolls”	used CH for 24-yrs, now uses outreach services  raves and bars places where feels most comfortable		Moved back with bros in Dad’s house, dad decided to sell house, now collecting assistance  Housing? Not enough money	Unique position: CHV wants Peter to be spokesperson; danger of service manipulating client out of sense of indebtedness  -conversely P claims that CVH will do anything for him “as long as you put the right angle on it”  -different take on info gaps: P’s situation proves that when service & client very familiar w. one another, danger of engaging in mutual instrumentalization; service manipulates client, client dependent on service
Aaron	20-gay	May 29	blenz	Recently ‘came out’ to family, reaction not as bad as he expected but room for improvement.  Parents don’t accept his current (4 mo)( boyfriend  At 18 living in ministry-run respite home for priority care, developed crush on younger male resident, led to oral sex game <i>in front of his sister</i>	B/c of stress and depression, been using pot and booze  Was always ‘heavily stoned’, started t smoke heavily in gr. 11	Father violent, mother distant, ceded control to father. Took \$600 from A “for is own good” and hasn’t ever given back  Aaron strong sense of betrayal.	Eric Hamber and lord Byng Persecution at school called ‘retard’ and ‘loser’ Depression, even his own sisters wouldn’t associate with him at school b/c he was enrolled in special needs class “I felt like I was no one, like I wasn’t supposed to be in high school”  performed “pretty good” in HS In gr. 10 was partnered with a mentor, supportive right through college graduation (career awareness prog at VCC)	Father beat him on regular basis “for any number of reasons”  “he took out his anger on me” (dad inconsistent with meds, made him volatile) Aaron outspoken and critical which left him open to frequent physical attacks.  His Ex was physically and mentally abusive, would lock him in apt for days, unfaithful, insistent on barebacking	William’s syndrome (mental health problem diagnosed as baby) His dad and brother have tourettes  Lately, stress and depression  Ex partners insistence on barebacking left him with ‘parasites’	Care and concern of a loving friend gave him strength to leave abusive relationship , was terrified to say no or set boundaries  Has had ministry involvement since age 8, nuisance “they control everything” , would pref more autonomy  Older mentor helped him through school  In HS considered self bi, had girlfriends,	Mom leaves mean messages on his phone  Has never had reg job, used to escort for ‘several pimps’-5- no sense of exploitation, but for past year has PT job with “BC boys”, gets \$75 hr (now down to \$20) to pose nude for photos and videos used on the net (no headshots), does not feel this work is exploitative  Frequent visits to the center, has a homelike feeling encounters lots of queers, sense of belonging. Jenn and Romi (center staff) “are my idols”	-re. Ministry: echoes Peter’s sentiment that services often manipulative and controlling: “never free from Ministry” -assistance at price of autonomy  -envisions PH as passive service; gathering place

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Gary	20-gay		At Michelle's house	<p>Passed as straight until 18/19 while living in small BC town, then moved to Van.</p> <p>Mom knows he is gay, accepting and supportive. Dad doesn't know, not ready to tell him</p>	<p>In Van, Aug 2000 started bars and after hours parties." I found a place to be gay"</p> <p>Intro to hard drugs, ecstasy, GHB, ketamine, crystal meth. From aug 2001 drugs began to affect his life, experiencing "mass delusions and borderline schizophrenia" from lack of food, sleep, water. Still at friends couch home but most time in van partying and surfing. Got new job, lost cuz of drugs, moved back, trying to stay away from bars, 'scared' drugs may cause him to lose job again. Lost relationship due to drug use, says rep as 'partier' –barrier to housing (as is being 'too young') Since Feb 02 involved with young hustler, crack addict</p>	<p>Moved to Van aug 2000, then parents came to van, he moved in with them</p> <p>Wanted to move but parents no, bus strike in april 2001 meant had to move for job, couch with friends 100 a month, 'at home' there</p> <p>Dec 2000 lost stable job and home. (drugs?) Began to stay in east van ,by Feb 01 was homeless, family wanted to help but he didn't want to burden them financially.</p>	<p>Positive school exp, close friends, some queer. Sometimes hassled at school, mostly name-calling, surrounded by good friends so didn't bother him. Graduated with class, enjoyed school</p>	<p>No problems with police except at night when they "watch him"</p>	<p>Ideal way to quit would be for him with others going thru same problem, would need support and peers to talk to, place to stay at nite "Covenant house for Gay people"</p> <p>Not accessed any services, feels he can quit his own way</p>	Health good	<p>Lives (suburb) with parents since April 2002. Aunt and uncle adopted him as a baby. Had good rel with birth mother who died of brain tumour in Dec 99. Good supportive relationships with family growing up Has sister.</p> <p>Dad 55, laid off, been unemployed for 3 yrs. Mom works f/t at pharmacy.</p> <p>Feels "comfortable and welcome" at home but looking for an apt downtown ("convenient for work" with 2 friends also trying to quit</p> <p>Spends most of his time hanging out after hours clubs downtown, partying.</p> <p>Would like to go to school for acting</p>	<p>-danger of avoiding services altogether (this time addiction services): "he seems to be trying to create his own 'recovery house' with friends, however without the proper support from prof. workers &amp; other peers this strategy – always having friends around to get high with – may have a neg. effect &amp; maintain habits"</p> <p>Post interview, again lost his job, poss on street again.</p>
Jay	Gay			<p>Ran away from foster care then told didn't legally have to stay so he left, stayed with cousins, then with 20's girl with 2 kids, had child together</p> <p>At 17 rel with man, mentally abusive, couldn't leave then finally moved to van</p> <p>"I would never wish a gay life on anybody"</p> <p>I always feel that I'm alone and most of the time I am"</p>	<p>Gay men more prone to drug use: escape</p> <p>"right now the gay scene is in the bars and stuff"</p>	<p>Family life was "hell"</p> <p>Dad and older bro lived together, didn't meet mom until 14, dad told boys mom was dead, I never believed it, just had a feeling she was around.. I basically became the mother of the house, laundry, cook, clean Used to run away (friends) finally at 15 went to live with some dads friends "and I don't know what the hell happened there I ended up having to go back home. Went to court, made ward of court, got put into foster home 2-3 months, stayed in Regina until 30</p>	<p>I was different, got chased a lot. Run like hell, so you don't get killed</p> <p>I just wanted out, didn't have anyone to run to</p> <p>Regret I had trouble with school</p>	<p>Dad beat me all the time (drank a lot) olderst bro treated like gold. At 18, molested by dad's friend. No bad effect, I dealt with it, confronted at 16</p> <p>"Going to the streets is easy money, not always safe, but its easy money"</p> <p>"To be honest with you, all I've ever gotten is used..."</p>	<p>It will be 4 yrs in June since I was diagnosed with HIV. Im not on any meds.</p>	<p>Really glad for boysRus, helped</p> <p>Gay community ?" We are our own worst enemy"</p> <p>If positive, lot of help for that.</p>	<p>-again, gov't as controlling &amp; manipulative: "the government has such strict guidelines and rules to get on welfare and there's no other choice unless you turn to the street"</p>	

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Dan	gay			<p>One gay exp at 15 in red deer</p> <p>Next at 20</p> <p>“the day I came out was the day I stopped drinking”:</p> <p>went to Edmonton to come out to my dad...“he let me know right away what he thought of them” (gay men) so I left immediately”</p> <p>many of the street youth find themselves being bi b/c they have to do things for money they wouldn't normally do</p>	<p>Used drugs as young person</p> <p>Went to Red Deer started selling pot (went to program couldn't handle structured rules)</p> <p>Got busted for selling pot, jail for 2 years</p> <p>Started own business, it was failing,</p> <p>Got into crack</p>	Dad left mom when he was 2, she had to take a lot of jobs just to keep us going	Jail was only time I my life I ever read books	<p>Physical abuse from stepfather, then Mom's next boyfriend hit him, became 'problem child', lived with grandparents, jail, back to mom and new b/f, who fought him.</p> <p>At 15 ran away from Calgary group home. Got out no money, back on streets</p> <p>“scaredest man in the world” cuz never been in such a big city</p> <p>Violent relationship 2 yrs</p>				<p>Informal – gay community offers no support – fragmented community</p> <p>“it's no wonder that young people don't trust older people in the gay community”</p>
Tim	22 gay/bi Native/a carib	June 5	centre	<p>Father would be upset if knew he was gay or bi</p>	<p>Pulled dates, done coke</p> <p>I need to “eliminate mind altering drugs from my life”</p>	<p>From 5-15, Small town BC, few almost no people of colour, no way to talk abt sexuality. Mom died (cancer) he was 12. Parents divorced, Dad remarried</p> <p>Went to live with dad at 15,unsupportive, left at 16, Group homes “crazy experiences” not positive at all.</p> <p>When left at 16 had never been alone in Van, moved in with older guy for 2-3 months, gay boyfriend</p>	<p>High school h was 'introverted' and kept to himself</p> <p>Dropped out at 16 in gr 10.</p> <p>Completed (short a few credits) High school while in group home (17)</p>	<p>: “there are no housing services for people like me”</p> <p>Covenant hse “didn't know what to do re transexual</p>	<p>Street life is hardcore, tough, “there is trouble as soon as you step out on the street”</p>	<p>Health is OK, often tested for HIV</p>	<p>For last 3 weeks has been back with his dad who is “trying to make up for past mistakes” but no talk abt gay yet. Has told stepmother and also told her not to “psychologically undermine him”</p> <p>Plans to move into a hotel and get restaurant work</p> <p>Wants to finish last few HS credits.</p> <p>Being older, back in school, more sure of who I am” so didn't matter that there wasn't much support. Keep to self, not say much.</p> <p>Wants to get professional degree, loves music, auditioned for “PopStars 2”</p>	

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Taz	gay	May 15		Started trade at 17 (have to be 18 to apply for welfare)	Crystal meth, pot, hard drugs  I used a bit of money for my medication, was taking lithium at that time, paxil,  I had my pills, I was a big pill popper, that helped a lot  Its like doing crystal meth the consequences of it and how you'll get all depressed and your serotonin is depleted and that's basically what its like when Im going to do a trick* (check recording—what does this mean??)  I've been drinking quite a bit on and off	Living with my mother, no money, people would come up to me, don't normally do this...just came to the point, knew a lot of friends in the trade, then more conservative friends (went to youthquest etc)wouldn't talk to me, big rumours that I'm a prostitute when really I haven't done it for a whole year, its easy money for me, needed for a lot of habits, not just drugs, but cigs, coffee, pot. "Its basically the simplest form of making money"		I don't need my friends getting in my face and saying well what wrong cuz Ill literally blow up in their face  I've been abused physically by Johns  "I wouldn't think about his family cause sometimes I'd think about, like, what if he has a family... two kids at home, you know, he's lying to them, his whole entire life, his whole entire marriage, his everything is just one big fat lie...and that would bring me down as well...it just makes me amazingly depressed to think about how those kids would feel if they knew about what he was doing. Or if his wife knew about what he was doing, so I would kind of take it all onto me and ah that was hard to deal with...I had my pills, that helped a lot.	Meditation, go to Wreck beach and get away from the city, from all these people...or I had my pills, I was a big pill popper, that helped a lot  Emotionally to keep stable I just knew that one day something better would happen...even during a trick I would think...at the end of this I'm going to get forty bucks so that's what I'd think of. I wouldn't think about this gross guy whose touching me...  How'd I get out? With an amazing amount of help from a lot of people. Andrew Parkins, he owns the Dish on Davie, and he actually started the services Boys'R Us, actually they help a lot of youth. Like find jobs like at the Picasso café, free training, entry level job help people get off streets, being exploited	Manic depressive, =borderline personality diagnosed 2 yrs ago, don't go in for rechecks	Prostitution: I don't like it and I'm never going to do it again.	
Tony	'bisexual/no labels		Park	Father homophobic, mother very understanding but very passive" so its one of those things that she puts in the back of her mind and tries not to think about but my father if he ever found out...he would probably disown me...I would not be his child any more. (and not allowed to see mother anymore "which would be the hardest part"	Calls self "drug addict" but also says I don't do drugs or drink	Chilliwack, parents own surrey business, father stressed moved Pr. George, back in van last few months. Father worked too hard, distant, weekend "buy my love". Got in trouble, psych observation, unnamed crimes, anger management probation, the anger management courses 1 1/2 yrs (about 13/14)	Top of my class when paying attention, doing the work, but then doing drugs, getting in fights,	Father "a strict physical discipline person. Pull out the belt. Most of it was verbal though. A lot of verbal, psychological damage. One day I took enough of it, called the police. So now its all verbal. So every time I call he puts me down, says Im useless." Hustling is very degrading. affects my relationships, no trust, no real friendships, become exploitative	I don't do drugs I don't even drink alcohol and the services out there are less for somebody like me than for somebody who has a drug or alcohol problem	Diagnosed with ADHD Mom/Dad Thought it was a bullshit diagnosis" So I'm in school, jittery cant focus, in trouble at home in trouble at school so I leave and skip school.	Live with 'friend but not roommate', known him 6 yrs, 35 yr old male working too much jealous I spend my time in bars expects me to do dishes and clean up after him, I'm only home a few times a week, so don't think I have to, he's kicking me out in 4 days. I found out 2 days ago. Will sleep in my car. Would like help to get a job, not training but entry level job, in 5 years BCIT software development	Regarding employment services: "all they do is help you make resumes, there is phones and all that. But how is that going to help you find a job? Especially when you are new to the workforce" -info gap on part of services
Dennis	gay		blenz	Wants to be out at work, left jobs for this, already discrimination  co worker makes comment abt 'some faggot', even tho I don't look gay	Seems to have big D and A background , coke, MDA  maybe in recovery  "need to change the reward system"			Beaten by a very violent lover, then 6 months ago coming out of Duff, yelled faggot, assaulted, fought back "Tired of getting spit at, or having people throw their drinks out the window	"I have had to pick people up from the bar to find a place to stay, I've never had to pick anyone up I didn't find attractive or interesting, I'm lucky for that"  privacy is very important...your own place for your own head and shut the door and say goodbye to the world...and not be disturbed.			

name	Sex-id	date	place	out	drugs	How/why left	school	violence	Good/helped	health	Where now	Services – general (health, housing, employment)
Jack	Gay-24	June 2	blenz	Since 12, sexual play, wrestling, for 2 years  Parents don't know he thinks mother knows "in her heart" he will 'never' tell them "they have no understanding of what life is like for a gay guy"	For 1 <sup>st</sup> 5 months in van used crack	Raised Calgary, father in computers mother a nurse, childhood 'normal', no abuse. Not much love from father	Average at school, b/c was so boring, one T. suspected att. Deficit disorder, put on ritalin for a year  Was skinny in elem/jr, picked on, took up bodybuilding		Parents have helped (150-200 a month) for last 2 years, together with reg welfare payments has stayed stable re housing  Re off drugs: saw pamphlet in clinic that crack use could lead to hair loss, looks = priority, used weed to get off crack  enrolled in "academy of learning" but didn't complete, says they bilked govt of 8,000	Both HIV neg so they are barebacking  Hasn't found stable work  Recently introduced him to BC boys to make \$ out of internet porn, he does it for the cash	Recently parents said they can no longer assist him  Has current boyfriend "more committed than he is"	
Adam	Gay/native			Moved to van to get away from family, live own life, be gay without barriers and family stopping me	Drugs/alcohol started when 22. Stayed away cuz family were alcoholics, but 1 <sup>st</sup> real boyfriend who helped me thru abuse left, I turned to drugs (cuz of abuse I was abusive to him, so he left, we don't talk anymore  Some are dealers they'll give me stuff whenever I want	Single parent family, dad died of drug OD when he was 1 yr old. Sent to granddad on weekend to give mom some space.  Starting prostitution when 15 in Winnipeg  Maybe easier to accept sexual exchange cuz of abuse	Family thought I'd be nothing so wanted to prove them wrong.  My experience was very racist at school  Re gay, I kept to myself, out on own so transferred to another school	Tremendous sexual abuse, grandfather and uncle. Mother didn't believe at first. Didn't mind, didn't identify it as sexual abuse cuz I was gay Moved out at 15 into foster care. Group home moved me out on my own at 16, I proved to them I could be responsible. Racism (native)	Youthco was big support when I first moved here  Got off streets for a while, got govt job at 32,000, then got sick and had to leave. "if I hadn't ended up getting sick I'd have been fine. I didn't want to give any kind of documentation of why I needed sick leave  In van there's a lot of services for every person from every walk of life, don't know any other city that does.	To keep healthy, being around other people grounds me, like a family, take care of each other  HIV+ since 18 ("someone I met who basically fooled me")  Health is up and down, stopped meds, I was forced, Drs made me think if went on right away I could stop it  Re dying: kind of scary but it brings some sort of relief, b/c living on disability is no life. Boring, what to do, drugs, cuz may as well have a little fun before you go	Today try not to talk to mother. Feel guilty she is alone but she created that situation. Since I brought abuse to light family has totally gone sep ways.  Kind of waiting for a job now, don't know where I'm going right now	