

Positive Heart Living "needs help" - Wright

by Allan Carter

In September of 1987 Positive Heart Living Inc. opened their doors to the public. At that same time they approached the Health and Community Services for funding. Now over three years later they still haven't received funding from that department.

According to Bonnie Clark-Wright, executive director of PHL, the organization is \$4,500 short from finishing a "Quality of Life" health package. "We need help", she says.

PHL is an independent registered charitable organization. They describe their mandate as:

to enable individuals to improve their overall quality of life and to enhance the employment opportunities, within the community, through on-going job creation.

Health Minister Ray Frenette believes that PHL's program, "for (the) most part is already available" in NB, free of charge. Frenette says that PHL basically wants \$4,500 to complete their program and then sell it to their department for \$150,000. But both ideas have been refused by the department of health.

Frenette feels that if PHL has such a good program, there should be all kinds of opportunities for them to sell it in the

private sector.

But he says the Department of Health will not fund programs that are already in existence. He says the taxpayers of New Brunswick cannot afford that.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of NB recently evaluated PHL's video which is part of PHL's three hour quality of life health package.

Kenneth Langdon, executive director of the foundation, thinks the video is quite professionally produced, but says there are some "errors in fact" and the video doesn't seem to focus on one specific audience.

He says that their foundation has about 32 audio visual pre-

sentation on heart disease and when they do a video production they have a certain audience in mind.

Though an article in the Daily Gleaner states that the changes recommended by the foundation have been completed, to Langdon's knowledge PHL hasn't corrected any errors in the package.

Nevertheless, when the changes are completed, Langdon has offered to send the package to the foundation's head office in Toronto.

In addition, Dr. G.E. Chalmers, Chief consultant of PHL, expects to have a proper evaluation completed from the Department of Health.

But Frenette says they will "not look at the program again" nor "will they spend a penny on the program."

Wright doesn't believe that the program is a duplication and doesn't feel the Heart and Stroke Foundation has such a program implemented in New Brunswick.

Wright claims that she hasn't seen anything on heart risk factors in the hospital. Frenette says there is something, but where is it, says Wright.

Wright feels that PHL has saved thousand and thousands of dollars through volunteer work.

Many of the articles written for the program were written by professors and doctors of UNB and the community.

Last year PHL's budget was under \$10,000, says Wright. And PHL has managed to create 24 jobs. In fact, UNB students are hired every summer doing research or survey work for PHL.

For now PHL will continue, but funds are needed, and Wright says that PHL would appreciate any volunteer help.



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