



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO**  
Official Record of Debate  
(Hansard)

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

**December 1, 2005**

**Mr. Ted Arnott (Waterloo-Wellington):** As I was driving into the city this morning from home listening to CBC Radio, I heard a startling statistic. In Canada, the broadcaster reported, 11 people become infected with HIV every single day.

As the Legislature speaks as one this afternoon, acknowledging this vitally important public health care challenge, we reaffirm our commitment to doing all that we can to work toward the worldwide eradication of HIV/AIDS. I believe it is necessary to point out once again that this terrible disease does not discriminate among its victims. They include women and children as well as men. There are no stereotypical HIV/AIDS victims, and their numbers include many carriers who are unaware of their condition.

While we as a society may think we have this problem under control, clearly we do not. This is true not only in Africa, where AIDS is decimating the population because of an inadequate worldwide response, as Stephen Lewis so eloquently reminded us in Palmerston a few weeks ago, but it is also an enormous continuing public health challenge in all developed countries as well, including our own.

So, on this World AIDS Day 2005, we do recognize the outstanding work that's being done in Ontario to promote understanding and awareness, to treat patients and improve the quality of their lives, and to pursue the development of better medication through research.

We have made progress, and as such, it is appropriate that the 16th International AIDS Conference will take place in Toronto next year. It is certainly the hope of our party that the conference will be a success and will lead to better coordination of worldwide efforts to combat this terrible affliction, giving us reason to hope for a day when we will only read the term "HIV/AIDS" in a history text.