

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Rapid HIV Testing and AIDS Awareness Week at Western

LONDON, ON: The University Students' Council (USC) at Western will be introducing Rapid HIV Testing beginning on Monday, November 24th, 2008. Rapid HIV Testing will be facilitated in the University Community Centre for 3 days (November 24th, November 25th and November 28th) and will be a bi-weekly program starting in January.

“We wanted to provide Rapid HIV Testing -- which is a quick blood sample test -- on campus because we want students to not only be aware of what HIV is, but to be able to provide a safe space to get tested and to be able to ask questions to health professionals,” said Cara Eng, Vice-President Campus Issues for the USC. “The introduction of this service is being tied in with the USC’s AIDS Awareness Week which educates students about the local and global impact of HIV/AIDS.”

This testing will be facilitated by The Options Clinic which includes 10-20 minutes of pre-counselling to evaluate risk behaviour, as well as 20 minutes of post-counselling after the test has been run. These appointments will be held in a private setting and are available on a drop-in basis.

“In consultation with The Options Clinic, we are confident that this will be a very useful and informative service, as it has been to other institutions that have implemented it,” Eng said.

Please visit www.usc.uwo.ca for detailed information on times and locations of these sessions.

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For more information, please contact

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