

**Canadian Red Cross  
Aids to Independent Living (AIL) Program**

**Annual Report 2004/2005**

Services provided through the AIL Program

The Red Cross operates the AIL Program as a contracted service for the Fraser Health Authority and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. The program operates in the communities of Vancouver, Richmond, North and West Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, the Tri-Cities, Pitt Meadows, and Maple Ridge. During the period of this report, the program expanded to include Ladner, Langley, Surrey, and White Rock. The program has been operating for over 10 years and is also supported by donations from clients and the public. The program operates as follows:

- Staff review all applications to ensure clients fall within the financial criteria.
- The program is targeted to home health clients with long term equipment needs. Equipment is provided for as long as it is needed.
- Delivery and in-home installation is available for all items at no charge to the client.
- In-home repairs are completed at no charge when requested by the client, family or health care professional.
- In-home modifications to wheelchairs are completed at the request of the health care professional (ex. Installation of seat belts, personal backs, H straps, brake extensions, etc.).
- Staff do semi-annual follow up with all clients. Any reported problems with equipment are followed up with a visit to the client.
- Staff refer clients to their local health authority office when they request additional equipment.
- Referring health professionals are notified when a piece of equipment is provided to a client.
- The Red Cross short term loan service (MELS) provides loan extensions to clients who are on the AIL Program waiting list.
- All equipment is recycled and loaned to another client when returned. Unusable items are dismantled and parts are re-used whenever possible.

The Palliative Equipment Program

The Red Cross is contracted by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to provide equipment to palliative care clients in Vancouver and Richmond. This program operates as a subsidiary of the AIL Program. The palliative program operates similarly to the AIL Program but with the following differences:

- The range of equipment includes a variety of pressure relief mattresses and cushions.
- Power mobility aids are not available.
- Equipment is available within 24 hours, seven days per week. Equipment that is not available within Red Cross inventories is rented from a medical supplier by the Red Cross.
- There is no financial eligibility criteria for palliative clients.
- Clients can use the equipment for as long as they remain on the B.C. Palliative Benefits Program.

#### Highlights of the Year

- The program expanded to the Fraser South area in July of 2004. AIL staff conducted information sessions for Fraser South staff in June.
- The number of equipment requests for regular AIL clients increased by 38% over the previous year. Referrals were up in all health units except for the North Shore. If the Fraser South clients are removed from the statistics, the increase in requests was 24%.
- Requests for palliative clients increased by 7%.
- The amount of equipment provided increased by 7% over the previous year.
- Equipment provided to palliative clients decreased by 8%.
- Equipment provided to non-palliative clients increased by 29% over the previous year. This is the result of additional funds for equipment purchases made available by VCHA and Fraser Health.
- Both health regions committed additional one time funds for equipment purchases. These funds were targeted to specific populations.
- The AIL Program took on the role of distributing hip protectors to Vancouver Coastal Health clients in Vancouver. The program is responsible for distribution only as the hip protectors are not re-usable.
- The new database for the AIL Program was implemented in September of 2004. This database was developed using a framework that was created for the short term MELS service. The two programs now share a similar system, allowing for better information exchange between AIL and MELS. The AIL database development was funded by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.
- The AIL Program Advisory Committee met three times during the year. The committee consists of therapists from the participating health regions. Representatives from Fraser South and the North Shore joined the committee this year. Business of the advisory committee included recommending types of equipment to include in the AIL stock, reviewing feedback from referring health professionals, and monitoring program activities.

Program equipment lists are attached to the end of this report.

## Statistics for April 2004 to March 2005

**Table 1: Clients Served & Items Loaned**

Health Region	AIL clients referred during year for new or add'l item	Total # of clients using service in year*	Total # of items provided in year (including rentals, grab bars and equipment obtained from MELS for palliative clients)
Vancouver	1241	2849	4197
Richmond	275	619	1187
Fraser North	338	702	718
Fraser South	92	70	249
North Shore	101	239	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>2047</b>	<b>4479</b>	<b>6554</b>

\*includes clients who continue to use AIL equipment provided in previous year(s)

**Table 2: Requests Received (all clients)**

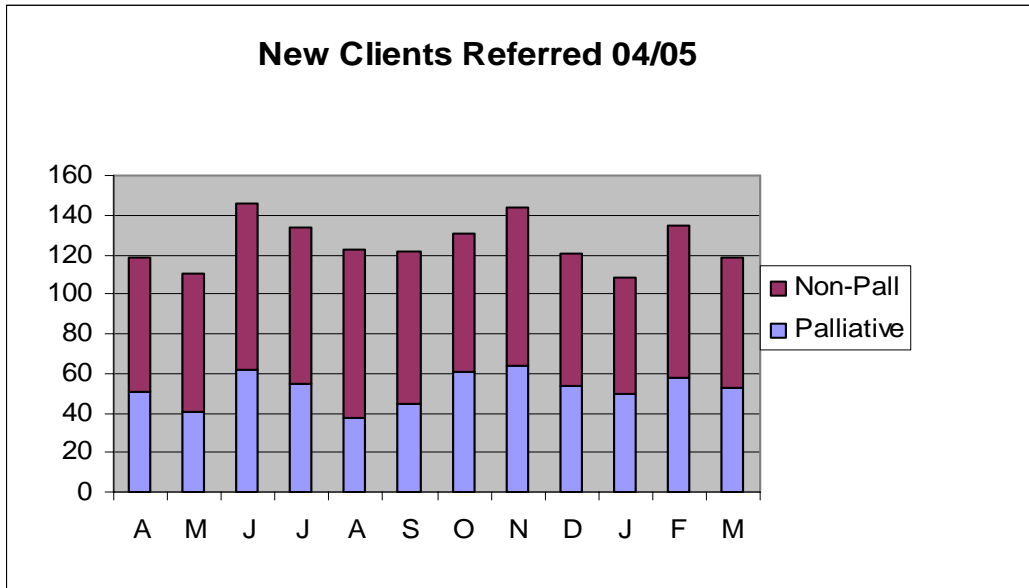
Health Unit	# of requests (items)	Increase over last year
Fraser North– Coquitlam/Tri-Cities	131	10%
Fraser North – New Westminister	158	63%
Fraser North – Maple Ridge	75	7%
Fraser North - Burnaby	574	35%
Fraser South – Ladner/Delta	15	No data
Fraser South – Langley	168	No data
Fraser South - Surrey	130	No data
Fraser South – White Rock	66	No data
North Shore	253	-11%
Richmond	1263	9%
Vancouver – Pacific Spirit	811	10%
Vancouver – North	763	23%
Vancouver - Three Bridges	1013	-23%*
Vancouver – Ravensong	372	No data
Vancouver – South	944	26%
Vancouver – Evergreen	571	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7307</b>	<b>21%</b>

\*Ravensong and 3 Bridges were combined in previous years.

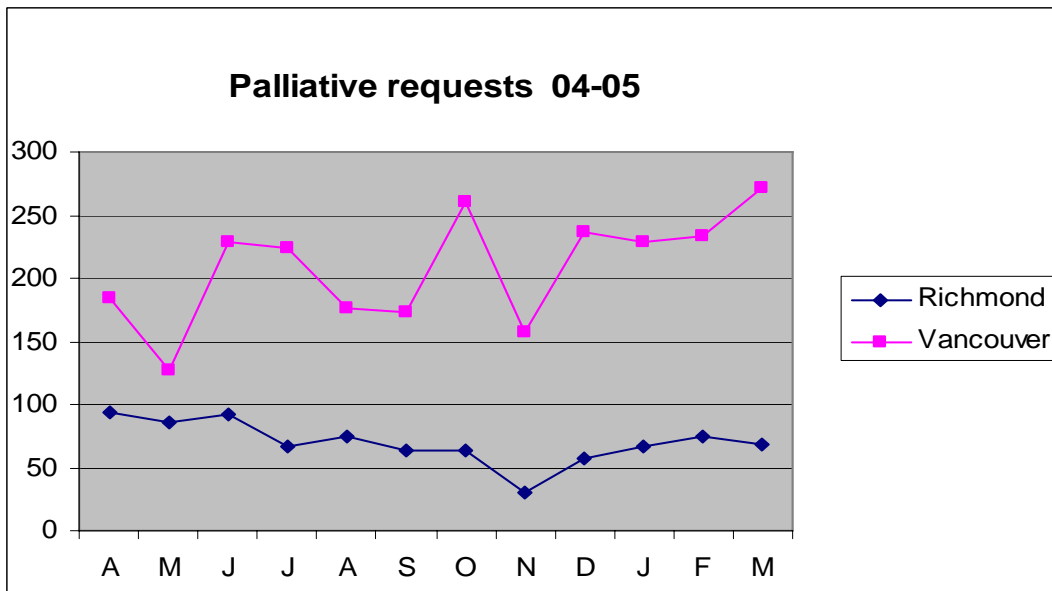
**Table 3: Equipment Demand by Type**

Equipment Type	# of requests received
Manual wheelchair	586
Bed assist	535
Wall mounted grab bar	481
Foam cushion	419
Frame walker	409
Stationary commode	375
4 wheeled walker with seat	358
Electric hospital bed	339
Raised toilet seat, no arms	333
Foam mattress	313
Padded tub transfer bench	247
Bath chair with back	213
Bath chair without back	203
Toilet safety frame	193
Tall tub grip	169
Mattress overlay or pad	164
Raised toilet seat with arms	161
Air cushion (Roho)	155
Unpadded tub transfer bench	152
Overbed table	117
Flush bathboard	105
Cane	105
Wheeled commode	102
Manual hospital bed	97
Handipole	90
Gel/foam combo cushion (ex. Jay)	72
Scooter	63
Viscous gel cushion	62
Power patient lift (incl. ceiling lift)	56
Urinal	41
Transfer belt	39
Tilt in space wheelchair	38
Bed pan	37
Power wheelchair	36
Raised bathboard	33
Bed blocks (sets of 4)	31
Wheelchair tray	27
Reacher	26
Short tub grip	23
Hydraulic bath lift	21
Semi-electric bed, arco rail, Obus forme, personal back, power bath lift, hydraulic patient lift, recliner wheelchair, transfer board, bed cradle, shower commode, trapeze, crutches	Less than 20 each

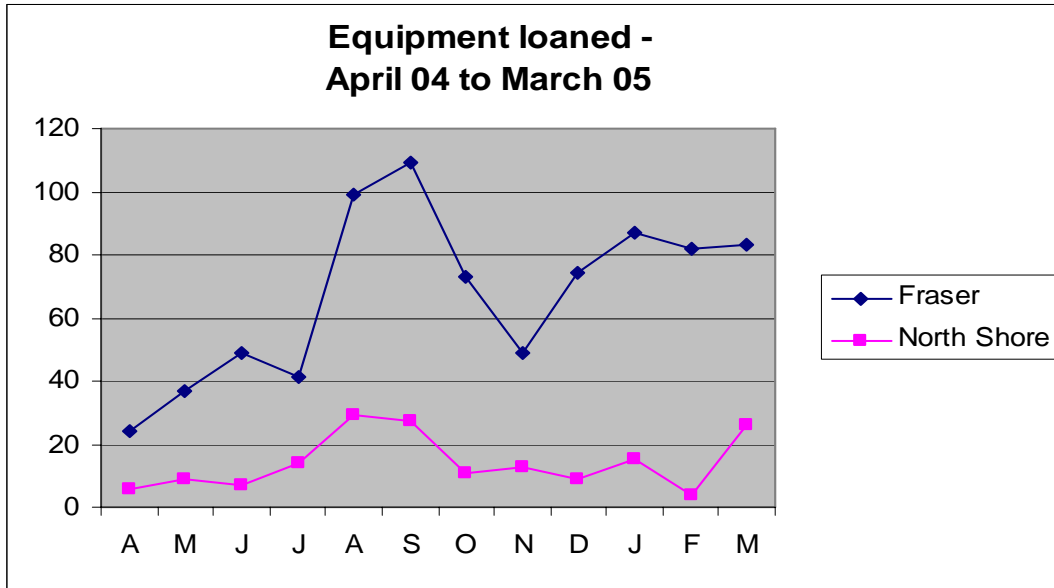
**Chart 1**



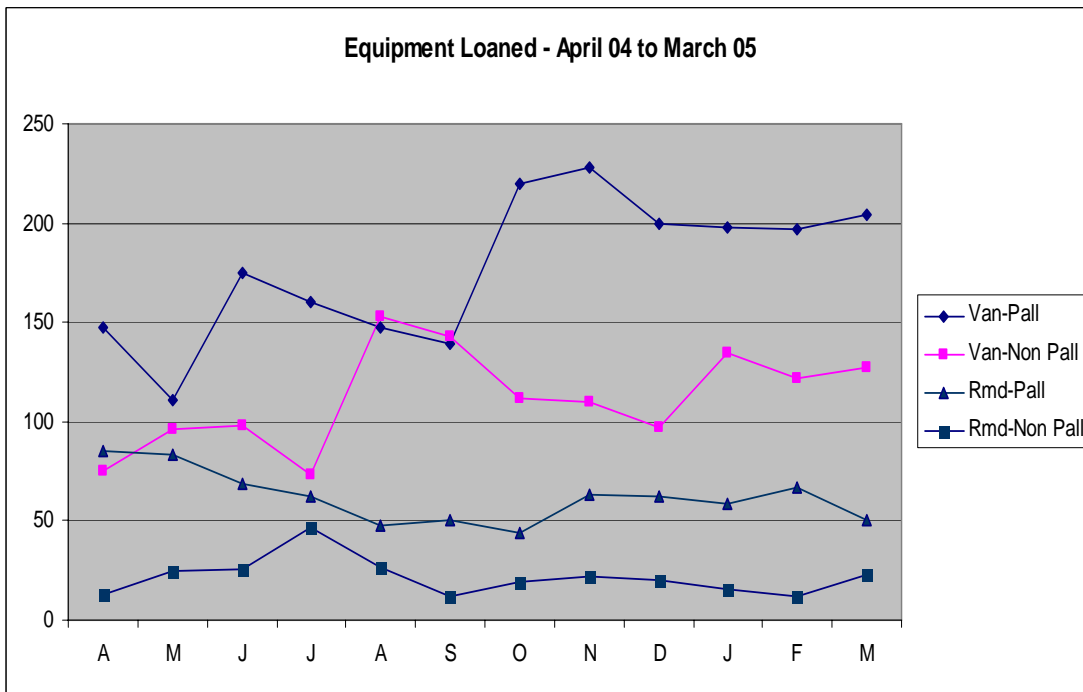
**Chart 2**



**Chart 3**



**Chart 4**



**Table 4: Items loaned by region and population**

<b>Region/population served</b>	<b>Total Items Loaned*</b>	<b>Change over last year</b>
Vancouver - palliative	2148	-5%
Vancouver – non-palliative	1364	+13%
Richmond - palliative	747	-14%
Richmond – non-palliative	266	+90%
Fraser South	222	No data
Fraser North	624	+20%
North Shore	179	-6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5550</b>	<b>+7%</b>

\*Includes items exchanged, does not include rentals or donations to the client.

Equipment donated to the client (usually wall-mounted grab bars): **354**

Equipment provided out of ALL stock: **5550** items having a replacement value of **\$1,456,878**

Equipment donated to the program: **845** items having a replacement value of **\$273,389**.

Equipment rented on behalf of palliative clients: **215** items.

Equipment obtained through the Red Cross short term loan service for palliative clients: **245** items

# of requests withdrawn by therapist or client: **946**  
 # of requests rejected for being over financial limit: **51**  
 # of requests rejected as item not part of the program: **47**  
 # of requests placed on the waiting list: **965**  
 # of requests on waiting list at year end: **280**  
 # of items in stock as of April 1, 2004: **2454**  
 # of items out on loan as of April 1, 2004: **4910**

# of staff at year end **7.65 FTE**

Report Submitted by:  
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 Manager, Health and Medical Equipment Services  
 Canadian Red Cross

February 9, 2006

**Canadian Red Cross  
AIDS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM**

**Equipment List**

Mobility Aids

Manual wheelchairs  
-lightweight  
-hemi height  
-interchangeable backs  
-anti-tippers, seat belts  
Recliners  
Tilt in space wheelchairs

Power wheelchairs  
Scooters  
Cushions  
-Roho, Jay, foam, Action gel  
Obus forms

Bath Aids

Bath seats with or without backs  
Tub transfer benches, padded or unpadded  
\*Bath boards, flush and raised  
\*Bath lifts – power and hydraulic

Beds and accessories

\*Electric hospital beds  
\*Manual hospital beds  
\*Bed rails  
\*Bed assists  
\*Overbed tables  
\*Alternating air overlays and pumps  
\*Arco rails

Grab Bars

\*Clamp on tub rails – various sizes  
\*Wall mounted grab bars – various sizes

Transfer Aids

\*Handipoles  
\*Trapezes  
-Bed mount or freestanding  
Transfer boards  
\*Chair/bed blocks – various sizes  
Patient lifts – hydraulic, power,  
ceiling.

Toileting Aids

\*Clamp on raised toilet seats  
\*Bubble raised toilet seats  
\*Raised toilet seats with arms  
Wheeled commodes  
Stationary commodes  
Rehab shower commodes  
\*Toilet safety frames

Walking Aids

4 wheeled walkers  
Folding walkers – youth, adult  
-with wheels and glide brakes  
Canes  
Crutches  
Quad canes  
Forearm crutches

**\* indicates installation is provided for these items**

**Please note: there may be a wait for some items**

**Canadian Red Cross  
PALLIATIVE PROGRAM**

**Equipment List**

**Alternating air mattresses**

**Alternating air overlays**

**Bath boards - raised and flush**

**Bath lifts**

Bath stools and chairs

Bed assists

Bed blocks

**Bed cradles**

Bed pans

Bed rails

**Canes**

Commodes - wheeled, stationary, and **shower**

Crutches

Cushions - Roho, **Jay Gel, Action Gel, foam**

Foam mattress toppers (LTC200 Comfort Rest Cloud 9 Topper)

Foam mattresses (LTC 2000, Integriderm)

Hospital beds – manual and electric

**Low air loss mattresses**

**Obus forms**

Overbed tables

Padded tub transfer benches

**Patient lifts - power and hydraulic**

**Reachers**

Toilet safety frames

**Toilet seats - incl padded**

Trapezes

**Transfer belts**

Transfer boards

Tub grips

**Urinals**

Walkers - folding (wheels and glide brakes optional)

- Evolution type walkers

**Wall-mounted grab bars**

Wheelchairs - companion, standard, recliners, **tilt/recliners**

NOTE: bolded items are **not** available on weekends.