



Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

### ***Brief Overview of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)***

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network is a national, not-for-profit organization:

- Established in 1997
- Represents over 400 member organizations and individuals
- Governed by a national thirteen member Board of Directors
- Has a four member Executive Board of Directors
- Provides a national forum for members to express needs and concerns
- Ensures access to HIV/AIDS-related services through advocacy
- Provides relevant, accurate and up-to-date HIV/AIDS information

### ***Mission Statement***

As a key national voice of a collection of individuals, organizations and provincial/territorial associations, CAAN provides leadership, support and advocacy for Aboriginal people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. CAAN faces the challenges created by HIV/AIDS in a spirit of wholeness and healing that promotes empowerment, inclusion, and honours the cultural traditions, uniqueness and diversity of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people regardless of where they reside.

### ***Acknowledgements***

CAAN is grateful for the participation of Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS and of the health care and support of professionals who shared their time and wisdom. CAAN also thanks the research team and members of the National Research Advisory Committee (NRAC).

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### ***Editorial Policies: Purpose and Audience***

The CJACBR is an annual on-line and paper journal published by CAAN as a service to its members and anyone with an interest in Aboriginal Community-Based Research.

The CJACBR is a peer-reviewed journal which welcomes contributions from any author. Priority however, may be given to an author of Aboriginal ancestry/background, should manuscripts of comparable quality be available. First consideration will be given to innovative articles covering areas identified as HIV/AIDS research-intensive which demonstrates the use of Aboriginal Community-Based Research (ACBR) methods or philosophy.

Articles published in CJACBR are directed toward several audiences. The primary audience is Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organizations and Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs). The CJACBR secondary audiences include community leaders, policy and decision-makers, and anyone with an interest in HIV/AIDS, particularly within Aboriginal populations and communities.

### **Acknowledgements:**

CAAN would like to acknowledge the members of the 2014 Editorial Peer Review Board.

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## INTRODUCTION

We have engaged in a dynamic review process this year and would like to extend a warm thanks to our 2014 Canadian Journal of Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Community-based Research (CJACBR) review team and all of the authors for their important contributions to Aboriginal HIV/AIDS CBR! Our reviewers have asked important questions of the authors and research teams that submitted their work, and authors have welcomed the feedback; even expressed thanks for making their contributions to Aboriginal HIV/AIDS research stronger.

As anyone in this field is well aware, working together as a team not only makes us better, but stronger in our fight against HIV/ AIDS. The articles that make up Volume VI of the CJACBR speak to the importance of collaboration in the work we do. The first two articles in Volume VI, highlight the engagement of community and Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs) in defining research priorities in different regions in Western Canada. The remaining two articles offer research results and highlight projects that would not have been as effective or as meaningful, had they not included strong community components. One investigates perceptions of alcohol use in APHAs who access health services and the other article looks at condom use among youth in Quebec.

We hope you find the articles presented here engaging, insightful, and most important, useful as you conduct CBR projects in your own communities. Please help the CJACBR continue to grow by submitting articles, commentaries and stories that you would like to share with the rest of our community. As researchers, students, academics and activists, we have so much to say!



Marni Amirault & Sherri Pooyak