



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 Editorial Peer Review Board. Each member contributed to the development of review policies in addition to contributing to the peer review process.

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INTRODUCTION

It's been a busy time at the Research and Policy Unit of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN); a time of growth and transition. July 2012, CAAN successfully secured funds for a five-year grant titled: Aboriginal HIV and AIDS community-based Research Collaborative Centre (AHA Centre). Under this grant, support for the Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research (CJACBR) has transitioned from CAAN to the AHA Centre. This, the fifth edition of the CJACBR has been a long time coming and promises to make an important contribution to Aboriginal HIV and AIDS community-based research (CBR) work.

The CJACBR is especially proud to include the LaVerne Monette Memorial Lecture, presented at the Wise Practices Gathering September 2013, in this edition of the journal. The LaVerne Monette lecture is the opening keynote for the Wise Practices Gathering and is meant to reflect community need, interest in research and respectful terms of engagement for the research process. By naming Wise Practices' keynote address after LaVerne, CAAN remembers and honours a remarkable leader who made many and lasting contributions to the Aboriginal HIV and AIDS movement in Ontario, Canada and the world. LaVerne was the past director for The Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy. She passed away on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2010.

PhD candidate Earl Nowgesic from the University of Toronto was the LaVerne Monette Memorial lecturer this year. His paper, *Getting the Canadian HIV epidemic to zero: Valuing indigenous cultures through holistic research*, discusses the HIV epidemic among Aboriginal peoples in Canada and examines the value of incorporating aspects of Aboriginal culture into research practices. Other articles within these pages take us to Aboriginal communities across the country where the importance of culturally relevant care and the role that social support plays in predicting the health outcomes of Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS, youth and arts-based research is discussed.

We hope that you find the information within these pages as insightful and informative as we have. Please help us to continue to grow the CJACBR by submitting your articles, thoughts and reflections for the sixth edition. **Submissions are currently being accepted until June 2, 2014.** We look forward to sharing future issues of the CJACBR with you!

In solidarity,



Sherri Pooyak

Marni Amirault & Sherri Pooyak