



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER · DECEMBER 2020



The AHA Centre staff are wishing each and every one of you a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season as 2020 draws to a close. When we got together as staff January 2020, in Halifax to plan our activities for the year ahead, none of us had any idea what we were in for! We've done our best to keep the work of the AHA Centre moving forward while adjusting our activities and workplans to support our research community while travel restrictions, social distance rules and the like have become our collective 'new norm' across the country. With the roll out of several vaccines on the horizon, we are looking forward to a better and brighter 2021. Please take good care of yourselves and your loved ones over the holiday season and in the new year.

Jenn, Sherri and Marni

JIHR (Journal of Indigenous HIV Research)

This year, we asked for submissions on allyship, and boy, did we get them! Our sneak peek features article titles and abstracts for each manuscript, as well as author bios and photos. We hope you will check it out!

www.ahacentre.ca/volume-11.html

CIHR Pre-Announcement Operating Grant: HIV/AIDS and STBBI Community-Based Research

CIHR has announced that it will launch its Operating Grant competition this month, December 2020.

Anticipated timelines (please note: these dates are subject to change!)

Launch: December 2020

Full Application Deadline: March 2021

Notice of Decision: June 2021

Funding Start Date: July 2021

The objectives of this funding call are to:

- promote the creation of new knowledge that is relevant to communities affected by HIV and other STBBI in Canada;
- promote the dissemination of new knowledge and uptake of evidence into

action to enhance the community response to the HIV epidemic and other STBBI;

- develop partnerships between researchers and affected communities;
- build capacity in the knowledge user community to engage in research and use evidence in their everyday business;
- build the next generation of HIV/AIDS and other STBBI CBR researchers through meaningful engagement of trainees in high quality CBR projects; and
- reduce the incidence of new HIV infections and/or other STBBI in high-risk groups by focusing research on prevention efforts.

There are funds to support approximately four grants in total—2 in the Indigenous Stream and two in the General Stream. Up to \$450,000 is available to support each project.

<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52233.html>

AAAW 2020

This year, CAAN hosted its first virtual Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (AAAW) and virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM). Staff worked incredibly hard to put together and coordinate events that took place daily from Dec 1st – 7th. In addition to the soft launch of JIHR's Volume 11 (please see above), the AHA Centre contributed a [video](#) that highlighted CAAN's Research Unit and many of the projects that the team supports. We hope you enjoy it!

Recordings of the presentations from AAAW are available on CAAN's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLZ2MSlxbZw

Highlighting work from our team members

We are honoured to have an incredible team supporting the work of the AHA Centre. Namaste Marsden is a member of the AHA Centre's National Aboriginal Research Advisory Committee (NARAC) and has been with us every step of the way since 2012! The insight and knowledge that she brings to our table is

invaluable. We are so happy to see her hard work making a difference. Namaste recently co-authored the new **Indigenous editorial policy** for the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* (CJPH):

“Canadian Journal of Public Health adopts requirement for meaningful engagement of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Indigenous Peoples

In recognition of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determine their economic, social, cultural and knowledge development, the Canadian Journal of Public Health (CJPH) now requires all authors to clearly describe how relevant Indigenous Peoples were engaged in order to be considered for publication. To our knowledge, the CJPH is the first scientific journal in Canada to adopt such a policy."

www.cpha.ca/canadian-journal-public-health-adopts-requirement-meaningful-engagement-first-nations-inuit-metis?utm_source=CPHA%20Weekly%20Update&utm_campaign=83235be584-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_12_12_04_17_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a537eba78-

CAHR 2021 Abstract submissions are now being accepted for 30th annual conference

The deadline for abstract submission is Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/abstract-submission/

CAHR is excited to announce that the annual CAHR 2021 conference will be delivered virtually, using a new online platform that will provide an interactive and user-friendly experience. Virtual conference participants will enjoy all the activities that make the CAHR Conference an engaging learning experience including plenary sessions; special sessions on a wide variety of topics; oral abstracts and poster viewings; and opportunities to converse and network with colleagues and friends. The agenda and format are under development, and the CAHR website will be updated

www.ahacentre.ca

regularly as additional information becomes available.

As it does each year, CAHR will be accepting abstracts from across all pillars of research as well as opportunities to be considered for a Key Populations session. Topics fall under CAHR's four tracks: Basic Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences, and Social Sciences. For information on the subjects within each track and abstract guidelines click [HERE](#).

Suggested Reading

A Journey of Doing Research “In a Good Way”: Partnership, Ceremony, and Reflections Contributing to the Care and Wellbeing of Indigenous Women Living with HIV in Canada

Doris Peltier, Carrie Martin, Renée Masching, Mike Standup, Claudette Cardinal, Valerie Nicholson, Mina Kazemi, Angela Kaida, Laura Warren, Denise Jaworsky, Laverne Gervais, Alexandra de Pokomandy, Sharon Bruce, Saara Greene, Marissa Becker, Jasmine Cotnam, Kecia Larkin, Kerrigan Beaver, Carrie Bourassa, Mona Louffy

Abstract:

The relationship between the First Peoples of Canada and researchers is changing as processes of self-determination and reconciliation are increasingly implemented. We used storytelling and ceremony to describe a historic event, the Indigenous Women's Data Transfer Ceremony, where quantitative data of 318 Indigenous women living with HIV were transferred to Indigenous academic and community leaders. Relationship building, working together with a common vision, the Ceremony, and the subsequent activities were summarized as a journey of two boats. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and Indigenous ethical principles were central to the process. The article ends with team members' reflections and the importance of shifting power to Indigenous Peoples in regard to data collection, their stories, and the resulting policies.

Published in the *International Indigenous Policy Journal*:

https://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/iipj/article/view/8215?fbclid=IwAR2uG1wyRGeffQQe-h6I_0hVDdVThQJaBuaLAHQrq4wBF21obpotWTEMaAs

Call for Expression of Interest: Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research

Canada's three federal research funding agencies (the agencies)—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and SSHRC—and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) are seeking expressions of interest for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to participate in the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research (Leadership Circle). This group will advise the presidents of the four organizations in implementing the [Canada Research Coordinating Committee's](#) (CRCC) strategic plan, [Setting New Directions in Support of Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada 2019-2022](#).

www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/societe-societe/community-communite/indigenous-recherche-autochtone/call-eoi-indigenous-leadership-circle-recherche-appel-declaration-d-interet-cercle-leadership-autochtone-recherche-eng.aspx

CAAN Membership—sign up now!

CAAN provides a national forum for Indigenous peoples to holistically address HIV and AIDS, Hepatitis C (HCV), Sexually-transmitted blood-borne infections (STBBIs), Tuberculosis (TB), Mental Health, aging, and related co-morbidity issues. We promote a Social Determinants of Health Framework through meaningful collaboration, providing resources on these issues in culturally relevant ways for Indigenous Peoples, wherever they live. We believe that all Indigenous people deserve the right to protect ourselves against infectious disease. Education

and prevention are focused on empowerment as Indigenous people are encouraged to learn about the risks of HIV and AIDS and protect ourselves accordingly. To provide Indigenous people with accurate and up-to-date information about these health issues, the risks of contracting or developing them, and the issues of care, treatment, and support for those living with these dis-eases are the core of CAAN's work. Become a member today and walk with us on a path of wellness for all the peoples of this land called Canada.

Our membership form is now online!

[English](#)

[Français](#)

CAAN's Fireside Chats: A Virtual Series January 19, 2021. 2PM – 4:30PM EST

Join us for a conversation on how Building More Bridges brought community, culture, research, and data together. We will share the process of our work done in Saskatchewan on the lands of the Niitsitpiis-stahkoi (Blackfoot), Očeti Šakówin (Sioux), Michif Piyii (Métis) and Cree. Our team was led by people with positive living experiences researchers, and allies from across Turtle Island and honored a diversity of cultural teachings that guided our project. Discover how to develop a research question this is informed and led by community.

If you would like to attend, please contact Carrie (carriem@caan.ca) for the Zoom link to the session.

Some FYIs to share:

[9Genders Project](#): full presentation from the HIV2020 Conference

[We're Failing Indigenous Communities When It Comes to PrEP](#): Blog post by Jessy Dame of the CBRC.

[SARS-CoV-2 vaccine advice for adults living with HIV](#) (from the British HIV Association)

[Presentation on the Making It Work Study](#) (begins at 2:13:22)

[The Positive Effect](#) (beautiful stories, great information and amazing website)

[International Journal of Indigenous Health](#). Volume 15 is now available

CAAN holiday office hours

Both CAAN offices (Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia) will be closed from December 21, 2020 to January 1, 2021. We look forward to getting back to work on January 4, 2021. Until then, stay safe and stay healthy as we look forward to putting 2020 behind us.

Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments, or if you want to learn more about research:

<http://www.ahacentre.ca/contact-us.html>