



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2021

A new year has begun! Saying goodbye to 2020 was not bittersweet in the least. With a much needed and appreciated break, we welcomed 2021 with renewed energy.



To make the most of our last full calendar year of AHA 2.0, we met with our Governing Council and held a strategic planning meeting during the first week of January. Developing a comprehensive workplan is in progress, along with the many exciting projects that keep us busy: co-hosting webinars, presentations, committees, JIHR work, etc. Here's to making the best of 2021!

We wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive year ahead.

CAAN Virtual Staff Retreat

From Feb. 8th – 12th, all CAAN staff participated in a virtual staff retreat. Not being able to gather in person has been very difficult on both personal and professional levels so we are very grateful that Elder Betty McKenna opened our retreat with a beautiful virtual ceremony that brought us all together. During the week, staff

listened to presentations, attended webinars, learned how to jig from Elder Doreen Bergum and ended the week with a virtual round dance.

Community of Practice Webinar [Sharing Space: Indigenous Research in the time of COVID](#)

Staff at the AHA Centre and [The Pacific AIDS Network/REACH](#) have created space for members of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous research communities to come together to learn from and support one another as we struggle with our new reality. And so, we extend an open invitation to join us for the Sharing Space Community of Practice Virtual Gatherings. This opportunity is open to anyone trying to sort out how to do research in a good way given our 'new—COVID—reality'. We can brainstorm together, or simply build a supportive environment at a time when many of us have no idea what to do.

The next Community of Practice Zoom call will take place sometime in April. You can [Register here!](#)

[Did you miss the first session? No problem! Click here to see all the details.](#)

CIHR Operating Grant

CIHR has launched their [HIV/AIDS and STBI Community-Based Research](#) call for proposals! There is **funding for 2 or more projects** in the Indigenous Stream. Each project can be up to 3 years in duration.

Application Deadline: April 27, 2021

Anticipated Notice of Decision: August 20, 2021

Funding Start Date: July 01, 2021

Funding available: \$450,000 per grant

If this is your first time applying for an operating grant, we have a [guide on our resources page](#) that could help!

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CIHR HIV Clinical Trials Network (CTN) is looking for new members to fill open spots on their Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC provides formal community input to the CTN regarding clinical research. Members represent diverse HIV communities from across Canada, and review research proposals and informed consent forms to make recommendations to the CTN's Steering Committee from a community perspective. A scientific background is not required to serve on the CAC. Term appointments last three years, and members receive a small honorarium.

Additional information and application instructions can be found [here](#) (aussi disponible [en français](#)).

We kindly request that you share these openings amongst your networks. **Applications close March 1st, 2021.**

Fireside Chat Series

A recording of the most recent Fireside Chat, *Learning Cradleboard Teachings As We Work Together*, is available on [CAAN's YouTube channel](#). All CAAN staff attended this webinar as part of our virtual staff retreat. The stories and teachings were incredibly powerful and engaging.

The BC Stigma Project

The [BC Stigma Project](#) is looking for Indigenous people living in BC.

New study on strengths and resilience of people living with HIV in BC is looking for participants! Are you a person living with HIV living in BC? 19 years or older? Would you like to share about your strengths and resilience in confronting stigma, about experiences of stigma, and programs and services? You may be eligible to participate in this study. Click on

the link below for more information and how to contact the Project Coordinators about participating in the study.

For more information, please visit:

<https://pacificaidnetwork.org/files/2020/08/Poster-PWLE-Strengths-in-the-Face-of-Stigma.pdf>

Exploring Advisory Board Members' Experiences of Community-Based Participatory Research

Dr. Audrey Giles, professor at the University of Ottawa, is conducting research to better understand the experiences of people who have participated in community-based participatory research as advisory board members (i.e., been involved in the decision-making process). Topics discussed will relate to people's thoughts about their involvement, relationships between researchers and advisory board members, and successes and challenges of involvement.

This research will be conducted through semi-structured interviews that will be over Zoom or phone.

The interview will take approximately 45 to 90 minutes. Participants do not have to answer any questions that you do not wish to.

If someone does choose to participate, they are free to withdraw at any time. If they withdraw, they will still receive an honorarium of \$50 for their participation. Further, if you choose not to participate, this information will also be maintained in confidence.

Dr. Giles is available to answer any questions about the study: (613) 761-0092 (cell) or email agiles@uottawa.ca.

SSAIC Winter Learning Workshop Series

ssaic.ca/online-learning-workshop-series/

February 23rd: Consent 101: The (Sexual)

Basics is a free webinar that discusses the ages and criteria of consent, what consenting looks like in practice, and more invaluable information that is accessible to youth Grade 9 and up. Please share widely with your colleagues who may benefit from learning this information!

March 23rd: Exploring the Impacts of Sexualized Violence - Sexualized violence affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men before the age of 18. This means you know survivors. They are your coworkers, your friends, your students. Learn about the various impacts that survivors of sexualized violence experience from the top down, and how that understanding will make you a better ally.

Register today at [SSAIC.ca/WLWS](https://ssaic.ca/WLWS).

Suggested Readings

Indigenous Women Voicing Experiences of HIV Stigma and Criminalization Through Art

Amy Sanderson, Flo Ranville, Lulu Gurney, Barb Borden, Sherri Pooyak, Kate Shannon, Andrea Krüsi

Abstract

Indigenous women living with HIV are disproportionately affected by the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure. The purpose of this paper is to better understand how the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure shapes the lived experiences of HIV-related stigma, disclosure, and health service among cis and transgender Indigenous women living with HIV (IWLWH). This study was developed based on a community roundtable on HIV criminalization with engagement of legal experts, HIV service organizations, and IWLWH on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x̣ṃəθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam), Sḳwx̣ẉú7mesh (Squamish), and Sə̣ḷḷẉətạt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) in 2016 to 2018. Drawing on community-based participatory photovoice methodology, Indigenous Peer Researchers played a central role throughout this project, including planning, facilitation of photo-voice workshops, and analysis. This analysis includes 17 IWLWH. Through a peer engaged analysis process, the photovoice images and narratives illustrated how the criminalization of HIV nondisclosure is intertwined with colonial violence to shape experiences of social isolation and exclusion, disclosure, access to safe health care, responsibility, fear, and resilience. The legal requirements of HIV nondisclosure are unattainable for many IWLWH who are not able to safely disclose their HIV status, negotiate condom use, and maintain a low

viral load. In line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the justice system must be reoriented from punishment and oppression to healing and wellbeing for all Indigenous women living with HIV. Simultaneously, we call for culturally safe services that protect privacy and recognize strengths of IWLWH.

International Journal of Indigenous Health, 16(2), 267-290

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijih/article/view/33903>

International Journal of Indigenous Health: Call for papers

The International Journal of Indigenous Health (IJIH) is pleased to announce this call for papers for Volume 16. In this call, IJIH is inviting manuscript submissions from academic and community-based researchers and practitioners or submissions from Indigenous community members in the field of Indigenous health as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not a general call. Only primary research, research trainee articles, and community-based articles related to COVID-19 are being accepted for submission, review and potential publication at this time.

[Click here for more details](#)

Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments:

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