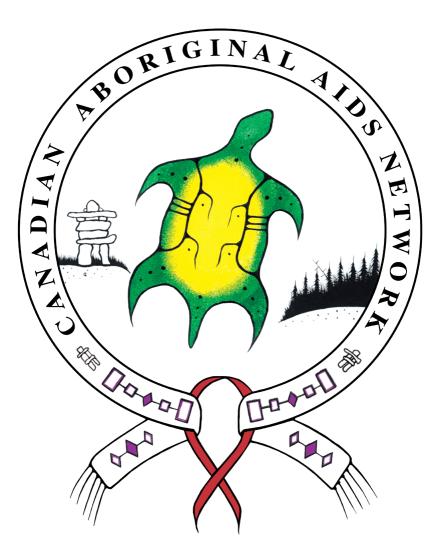
Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research

Volume 2, Winter 2009



Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

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

- Established in 1997
- Represents over 400 member organizations and individuals
- Governed by a national 13-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 Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). CAAN faces the challenges created by HIV/AIDS in a spirit of wholeness and healing that promotes empowerment and 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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#### Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research (CJACBR) Published by the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)

#### **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

Greetings Relatives!

It is with great pleasure that we present the second edition of the Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research (CJACBR). By this time, most of you know that CAAN is undergoing some major changes, mostly by relocating main offices to the Musqueam First Nation, at 6520 Salish Drive, Vancouver BC V6N 2C7. I asked for and received a role change, and now am serving as Chief Policy & Research Officer (CPRO).

The restructure, and the relocation to a lesser degree, is to strengthen CAAN's ability to lead in core areas. Research has taken on a greater role within CAAN, and under Randy Jackson's leadership, we have strengthened our capacity. As Randy works toward his PhD, we are continuing with this strategic investment, and linking research to policy, so that action is taken in a timely way.

CAAN has partnered with Dr. Charlotte Loppie Reading, now with the University of Victoria, to hopefully establish the Centre for Aboriginal Excellence in HIV Research (CAEHR). While we do not yet know word of funding, it is expected in May of 2009. This partnership and centre will increase CAAN's research leadership by supporting training, which is an approach CAAN has done well in. To date, we have held two Wise Practices Conferences, where we marry research and capacity building, and the Training Center will provide a more strategic response.

This edition of the CJACBR includes excellent articles addressing pressing and emerging issues related to youth, women and transgender/two spirit people. The links between housing and health outcomes and the implementation of a capacity building program further contribute to our understanding of the unique circumstances related to HIV/AIDS for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. Our Editorial Peer Review Board members have again offered their insights and detailed feedback to contribute to the high standards for quality in the CJACBR. Through reviews of existing literature, program analysis, and original research the articles included in this edition assist us to ground our actions and recommendations in a solid evidence base.

In closing, I wish to thank the Research Technical Assistants (now Community-Based Research Facilitators), the National Research Advisory Committee of CAAN, the Board of Directors, research staff and our APHA Advocates for helping CAAN lead the way.

Welain, Thank you,

Kevin Barlow Chief Policy & Research Officer