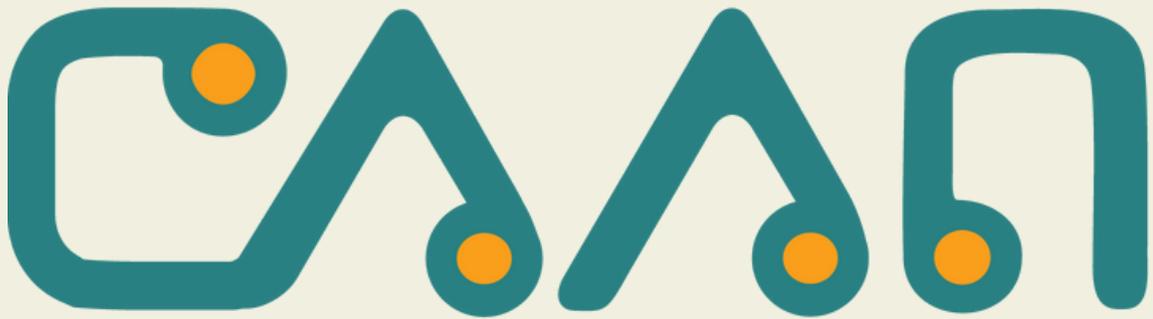




ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!



GET IN TOUCH

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DEDICATION



To our community of activists, Elders, allies, and sponsors, who have selflessly devoted time and support to further the work of CAAN.

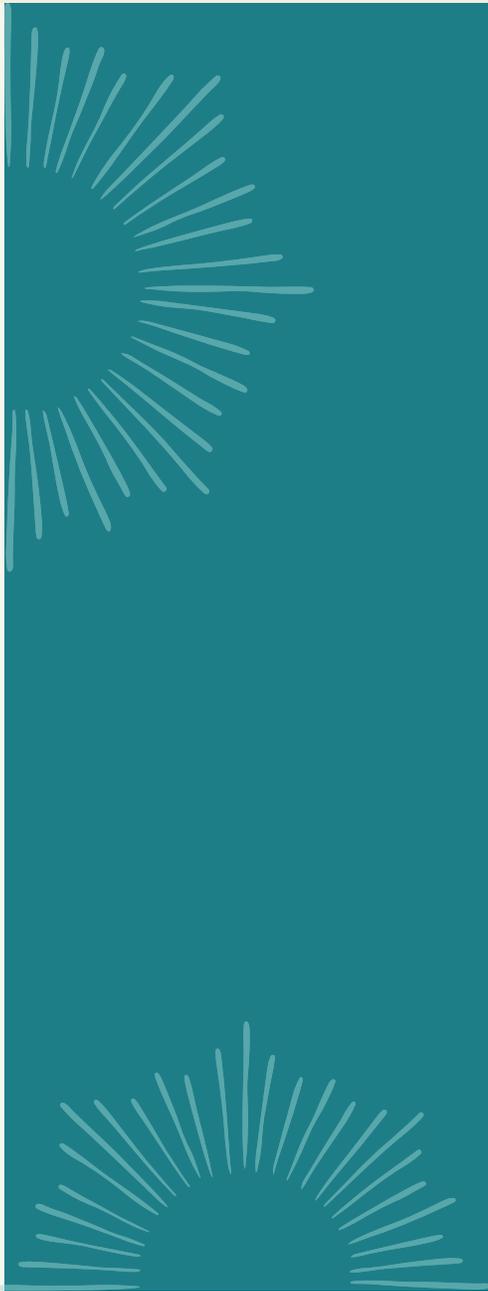
We are most grateful to the founding leadership of Indigenous Peoples living with or challenged by HIV/AIDS, whose legacy is woven through decades fabric of this work. Our mandate to holistically address Indigenous health is possible due to their vision and commitment.

ABOUT CAAN...

Mission: CAAN provides a National forum for Indigenous Peoples to holistically address HIV and AIDS, HCV, STBBIs, TB, Mental Health, aging and related co-morbidity issues; promotes a Social Determinants of Health Framework through advocacy; and provides accurate and up to date resources on these issues in a culturally relevant manner for Indigenous Peoples wherever they reside.

Spirit & Vision: CAAN is a national Indigenous organization who is committed to addressing the issues of HIV within an Indigenous context. Although the beliefs of Indigenous Peoples vary widely from region to region and from person to person, the Agency has made a commitment to conduct its activities in a spirit of Indigenous wholeness and healing. This disease can only be overcome by respecting our differences and accentuating our unity of spirit and strength.

Philosophy: All Indigenous Peoples deserve the right to protect themselves against infectious disease. Education and prevention is focused on empowerment to learn about the risks of HIV and AIDS and protect ourselves accordingly. Providing Indigenous Peoples with accurate and up-to-date information about the nature of the disease, the risks of contracting it, and the issues of care/treatment and support for those infected are the challenges that CAAN works toward each day.



- Page 2. Dedication
- Page 2. About CAAN
- Page 4. Happy Birthday, CAAN!
- Page 5. A message from the CEO
- Page 6. CAAN's Board of Directors
- Page 7. Funding
- Page 8. Research Unit
- Page 9. Research Unit
- Page 10. Programs Team
- Page 11. Programs Team
- Page 12. CAAN's Name Change
- Page 12. Moving Forward
- Page 13. Events
- Page 14. Thank You
- Page 15. Membership

Empowerment through
education and community.



HAPPY 25TH
BIRTHDAY!

In 1991, Health Canada addressed the issue of Indigenous people and HIV and AIDS by hosting a national conference in Vancouver, BC, and the seeds were laid for the creation of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN). By the mid-90s, there were Indigenous AIDS service organizations (ASOs) all over Canada, and in 1997, CAAN answered the call-to-action and was incorporated as a national, non-profit organization. In the early 2000's CAAN began building its capacity to do community-based research (CBR) by choosing to work with academic allies who were willing to include training components into the projects we partnered on.

In the last 25 years, CAAN's offices have moved from downtown Ottawa, to Vancouver, to now land in Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan, where CAAN can continue in a land-based cultural context that supports Indigenous healing, cultural safety and autonomy.

CAAN has participated in several conferences, hosted national skills-building gatherings, supported caucuses, been a key member of HIV/AIDS councils and working groups both nationally and internationally, lead community-based research, and so much more.

CAAN is proud to continue supporting and doing the work for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, and those living with HIV/AIDS.
Thank you to those celebrating with us...to many more!

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Tanisi (Hello)!

It is good to be alive!

As the CEO of CAAN, I am delighted to acknowledge the commitment of the staff, councils, committees, Board of Directors, volunteers, partners, and the members of CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks.

Spring, 2021: CAAN survived the Winter season; we had experienced the Spring season with new growth and hope for the future. New staff, new members, new partners and the work continued. Relationships flourished as we greeted one another in partnership and truth.

Summer, 2021: As the Solstice arrived on June 21, we acknowledged the past year giving thanks and asked for good things for the new year. CAAN began harvesting and gathering medicines, partners, and new work.

Fall, 2021: As we acknowledged the changes in Mother Earth, CAAN was busy working towards sustainability and completion of the harvesting, preparations well in place to continue the work while taking part in the many opportunities granted us to work together towards solutions through Indigenous ways of knowing and doing.

Winter, 2021 & 2022: As the Indigenous people rose from the Winter Season, we share with all family and friends, we are still here - we have survived!

CAAN has completed the April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 fiscal year; this Annual Report reflects the harvesting CAAN has completed across the land.

Much love,

Margaret Kisikaw Pijgesis
Chief Executive Officer



CAAN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CAAN's Board of Directors come from all across this land, each bringing a unique combination of lived experience, wisdom, traditions, and passions to our work.



Denise Lambert
Chair



Gayle Pruden
Vice-Chair



Patti Tait
Secretary



Giselle Henry
Director



Alicia Koback
Director



Keith McCrady
Director



Clayton Sutherland
Director

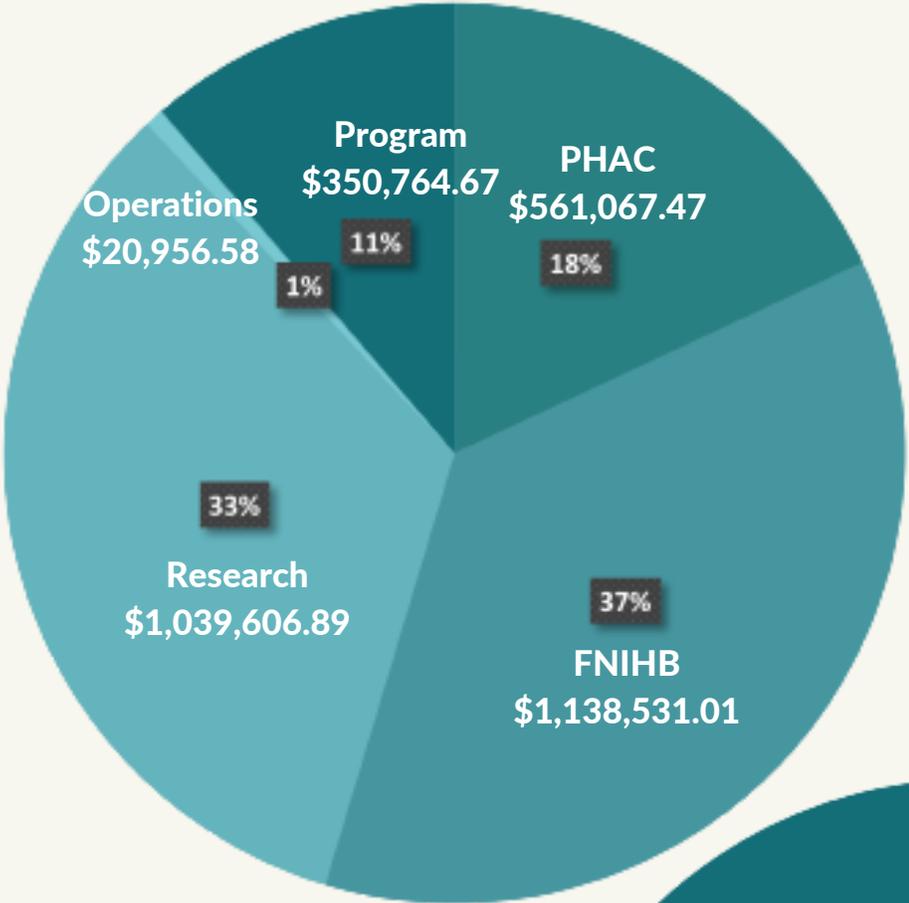


Danita Wahpoosewyan
Director

If you are interested in joining CAAN's Board of Directors to shape and direct the work of CAAN, contact us for more information, or to obtain a recruitment package!

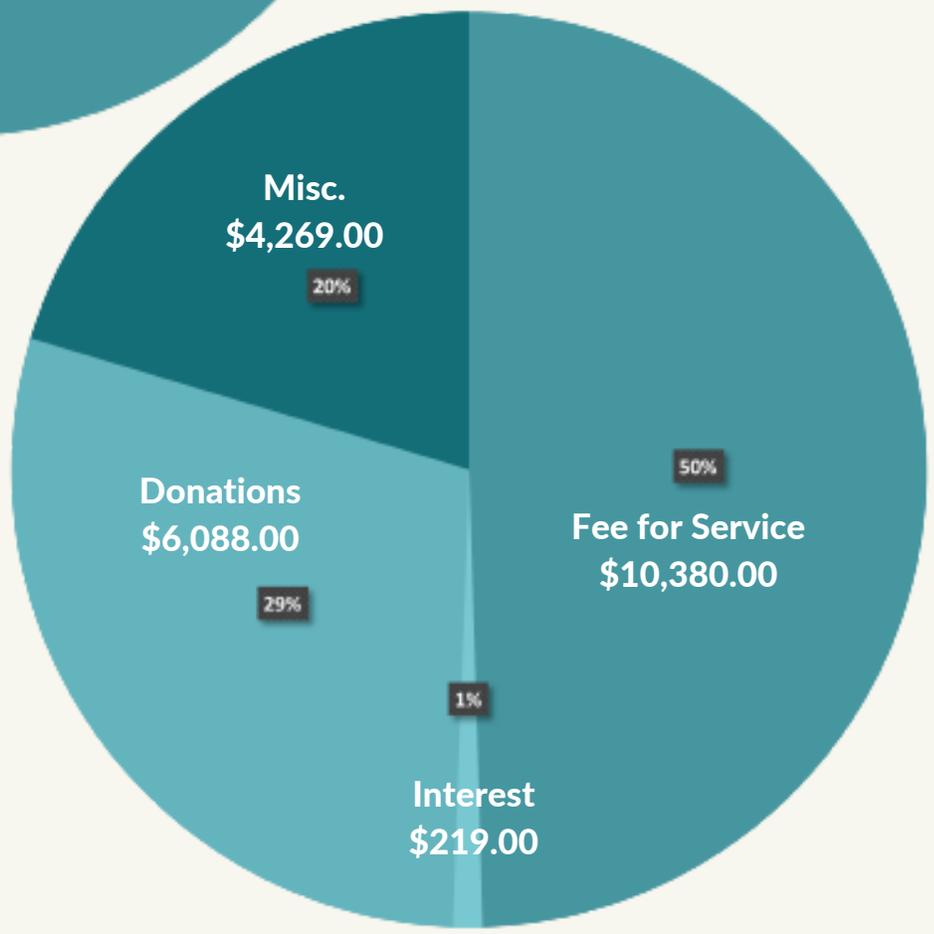


CAXAN'S FUNDING



**2021 - 2022
Total Revenue
\$3,110,926.62**

**2021 - 2022
Operations
\$20,956**



The AHA Centre (The Aboriginal HIV and AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre)

In 2021, the AHA Centre continued to co-host the Community of Practice meetings, and work on the Leading the Way Grant, to establish an Indigenous HIV and health research framework to promote and support Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing (IWKD) and its diversity. The AHA Centre also took a lead in coordinating CAAN's first ever hybrid Wise Practices & Skills Building Gathering, held in May in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The AHA Centre's application to CIHR for an additional year of funding was successful, which will facilitate the continuation of projects, including the publication of the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research, and the hiring of new staff. Several new pilot initiatives will be launched in 2022 and beyond.

DRUM & SASH

Despite COVID-19 related challenges in 2021, DRUM & SASH has still been able to support communities to move forward. D&S is excited to work with a Métis partnering community in northern Saskatchewan, and plans for training, community mapping, and service collaboration are in the works. A Northern Alberta First Nations community is getting ready to welcome a D&S Coordinator. A Métis Nations of Alberta partner, through Shining Mountains Living Community Services, has secured funding to do an on-the-land, Métis culturally specific research study around HIV, Hep-C and gender stigma with Métis youth and Elders in August 2022.

Leading the Way: The AHA Centre Explores Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing Within HIV Research

2021 brought the completion of the Scoping Review Process, including reviewing 143 articles, focusing on Indigenous knowledge, and Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing (IWKD). A series of discussions with Elders and Knowledge Keepers will take place, in hopes to represent the vast Indigenous Peoples and Territories. First nations, Métis, Two-Spirit, and Inuit voices will be represented.

Environmental Scan of Service Adaptations in Community-Based Harm Reduction Services for Indigenous Peoples in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In partnership with Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, Over 35 community members (service providers, people who access harm reduction services) were consulted on the challenges and realities in providing harm reduction during the COVID-19 pandemic. More interviews will be completed as we move into the analysis phase. The findings of this project will be guiding CAAN's harm reduction programming work.



Transformation Project

In 2021, we hosted a water ceremony and an in-person writing retreat for Indigenous women living with HIV to help co-develop a manuscript to present to the Canadian HIV Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study. Work with the World Health Organization will see an adaptation to the Women Centered HIV Care Model in a global context, and funding was secured to adapt this model to an Indigenous context in Canada.

Connecting National Indigenous Women’s HIV Research

This project wrapped up 10 virtual “fireside chats” in 2021, which presented findings from various Indigenous women’s HIV research projects. An in-person meeting is planned for October 2022 to develop a National Indigenous Women’s HIV Knowledge Translation Plan.

Weaving Our Wisdoms Study: Using a Land-Based (On the Land, With the Land) Approach to Optimize Wholistic Health Among Indigenous People Living with HIV (WoW Study)

In 2021, group participants gathered on the land, with the land to share in conversation, teachings, food and medicine with the project’s HIV Elders. COVID-19 posed a challenge, as the heart of the WoW Study is focused on gathering in person, but connections were kept during the pandemic. An application for further funding has been submitted to expand and continue the development of an HIV Older Framework for practice.

Measuring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Responding to the Needs of Indigenous Women and Girls in a Global Context

This 5-year Project is a partnership between Canada, Guatemala, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Peru. The overall goal is to develop materials relevant at global and local levels. 2021 included ceremonies, conferences and celebrations for this project as it continues to create materials and guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, girls, 2SLGBTQ, and Indigenous Peoples living with HIV.

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, we look forward to CAAN’s continued work and growth in research activities.

Renée Masching
Research Unit Director

Elder Maggie Paul and
Knowledge Keeper Rick Kotowich
Wise Practices & Skills Building Gathering 2022



2021 saw several changes for CAAN's Programs, with the number of staff increasing, new partnerships and the official approval of two long term Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) projects in the Community Action Fund (CAF), the Harm Reduction Fund (HRF) and the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). The HRF & SUAP project is a partnership with the Dr. Peter Centre, and the partnership was solidified in a Copper Ceremony by Elder James Quatell.

2021 was a time to build a solid foundation for our Program's future work, with several new staff coming on board, bringing new ideas and energy. COVID-19 limited our ability to gather, but were able to meet at the first hybrid AGM in Fort Qu'Appelle and in Ottawa for our Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week (IAAW) events.

COVID-19 showed us how important it was to stay connected with communities, partners and staff, and we rose to the challenge of using technology to do so. Our staff, from across this land we call Canada, have been able to embrace this opportunity to expand our networks while maintaining our current relationships.

2021 Programs

Community Readiness

The beginning of a new year with new initiatives for the Community Readiness program. This year will focus on the expansion of capacity building trainings offered by CAAN, with Keeping Our Fires Community Readiness Training remaining the foundational piece in all initiatives. Communities/agencies/partners can determine their next steps and needs in health and wellness, and the newly developed training options will support them on those steps.

Promising Practices

Over the past 2.5 years CAAN has worked with our Research Unit, community organizations and Indigenous Peoples from across the land representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis, to develop the initial drafts of resources to accompany the Community Readiness Training.

Voices of Women (VOW) Leadership

The Voices of Women (VOW) is a standing committee of CAAN, comprised of 12 women across Canada. Through VOW and CAAN's 600+ networks, they liaise with thousands of Indigenous, Métis and Inuit women in Canada on healing journeys in an effort to reduce the prevalence of HIV & AIDS, HCV & other STBBIs in their communities.

Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week (formerly AAW)

In 2021, IAAW had a great mix of speakers from diverse backgrounds, lived/living experience, and industry professionals. Speakers for IAAW events were coordinated from the IAAW steering committee or IAAW Coordinator. A Knowledge Keeper and interpretation services were available for each virtual session.

Indigenous Men's Leadership

The chosen name of the Indigenous Men's Leadership committee is the Spotted Eagle Society, which consists of 7 champions who lead the work. Each month, the men meet virtually for the Well-Being Wasacu's a men's sharing circle.

Wellness Coordination (IPHA & IPHC Liaison)

The Wellness Program began in May 2021, where the Wellness Coordinator serves two leadership groups for CAAN; the 12 Sacred IPHA Leadership Council (IPHA: Indigenous People with lived experience with HIV/AIDS), and the 7 Sacred IPHC Warrior Council (IPHC: Indigenous People with Hepatitis C lived experience); these groups determine the focus of their work in their respective fields.

Wellbeing Project on Gender Based Violence during Covid-19 (with Dr. Peter Center)

Through four National engagement sessions, we received honest and impactful testaments of how the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated experiences of gender-based violence; examples of limited access to services, isolation, confinement to the home, and stay-at-home orders with slogans such as "stay home, save lives". The project submitted its report to The Canadian Women's Foundation, and was successful in receiving renewal funding for another year.

It has been a busy year and the excitement continues this coming year, as we start to gather again in person, dig into the work, and continue to build our communities, alliances and networks.

Tim Grouette
Nation Program Director



CAAN'S NAME CHANGE

In 2021, a resolution was brought forth by CAAN's Membership for a name change, to be more inclusive of all the work that CAAN was doing. The name change was approved by the CAAN Board of Directors, and the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network started a new chapter as CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks. After years of grassroots advocacy, community-based research and supporting programs, the name change signified future growth and possibilities beyond CAAN's initial work. While CAAN's core work will always remain centered around HIV and AIDS, CAAN will continue to listen to and serve its Membership, who guides the way for new legacies to be created.

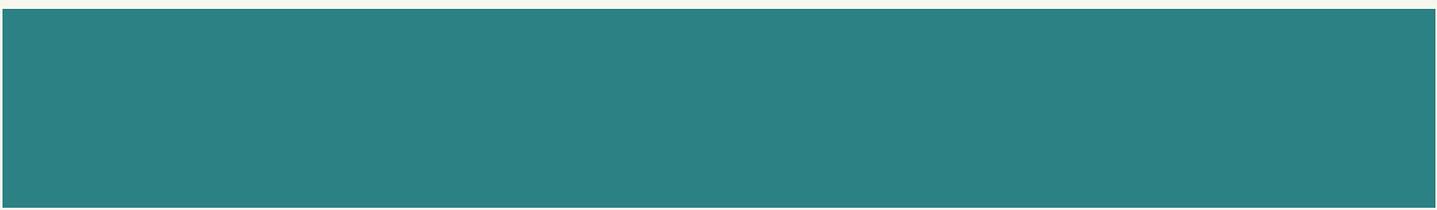
MOVING FORWARD...

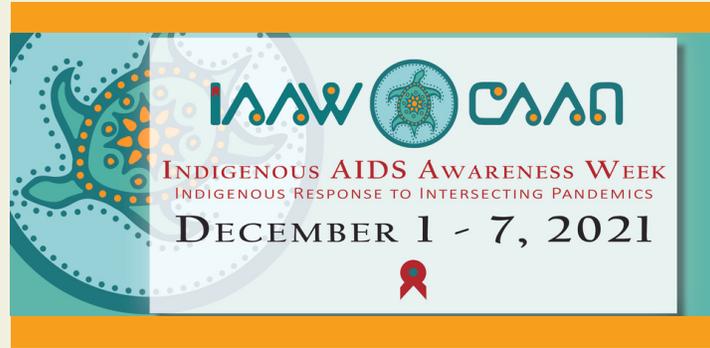
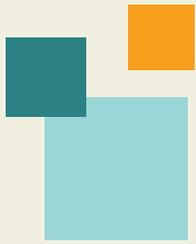
CAAN met with the IPHA Leaders in Winnipeg in 2022 to discuss issues affecting CAAN and the Caucus. The meeting was a time for CAAN to listen.

CAAN has reflected on its past in ceremony, with Elders, and with staff, and is intending to move forward in a good way with the feedback from members, Resolutions brought forward, and a new Performance Management Tool for all staff.

CAAN looks forward to all of the new work ahead as new research and programs get underway, and we continue the legacy that has lead our path so far. The Board of Directors is approving the Strategic Plan that will direct our advocacy work, community-based research and annual budget.

CAAN remains a member-drive organization and will continue to be open to hear concerns as well as highlight and celebrate accomplishments together.





Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week (IAAW) 2021 brought a gathering of awareness, diversity and partnerships across the land we call Canada. CAAN's Research Unit shared a session to answer the question, what have we learned about HIV that can help to navigate COVID-19? Harm Reduction and providing services during a pandemic from an Indigenous approach was discussed, and a Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer Day was hosted. The "A Place at the Home Fire" event looked back at teachings that were passed down from our grandmothers and grandfathers. We look forward to IAAW 2022!



The Wise Practices & Skills Building Gathering VIII was CAAN and the AHA Centre's first event post-COVID. Over 200 participants, both in-person and virtual, participated in forums and presentations on research findings in policy, programming, and practice. Program initiatives were shared, and forums were created to discuss community-based research and the response to HIV, AIDS, HCV, and STBBIs; the time to gather was well received.



THANK YOU!



A special thank you to our funders, granters, partners and supporters. Without your selfless dedication to the work of CAAN, our programs, research and membership resources would not be possible.



Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Canada



Indigenous Services Canada

Services aux Autochtones Canada



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health



University of Victoria

Universities Without Walls



All Nations Hope Network



CanHepC
Canadian Network on Hepatitis C
Réseau Canadien sur l'Hépatite C



National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health



Étude sur la santé sexuelle et reproductive des femmes vivant avec le VIH au Canada
Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study



Pacific AIDS Network



M-H-R-N
MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK



ONTARIO HIV TREATMENT NETWORK



Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



AIRN



the CTN
CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network

MEMBERSHIP



CAAN's Membership is made up of over 350 individuals and organizations as full-voting members or associate non-voting members. Membership with CAAN allows you to attending events, trainings and gatherings hosted by CAAN, stay informed with the work, resources and initiatives of CAAN, and gives access to support and information from the CAAN team. CAAN's voting members are able to attend the Annual General Meeting, nominate members, stand for election to the Board of Directors, and propose resolutions that helps guide CAAN's work.

BECOME A MEMBER!

Join us!

If you are an Indigenous Person living with HIV/AIDS or Hep-C or part of an Indigenous-led organization with a significant focus on HIV/AIDS, HCV, STBBIs, TB, Mental Health, aging and related co-morbidity issues, you are eligible for full-voting membership. CAAN's associate non-voting membership is open to any organization or individual with an interest in supporting the mandate of CAAN to address Indigenous HIV/AIDS, HCV, STBBIs, TB, Mental Health, aging and related co-morbidity issues.

Head to our website at www.caan.ca and visit our Membership page to join, or give us a call to have a membership form mailed to you.



CAAN is member-driven and our work is guided by members like you. Join us and have your say in the future work of CAAN!