

Keeping Our Fires

Circles of Practice

Learned Lessons

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Circles of Practice - Vancouver, BC Highlights

On November 20th in British Columbia, CAAN Communities, Alliances, & Networks held the first gathering at the Garden Strathcona with participants in the Keeping Our Fires Project. The Keeping Our Fires Project trains participants on how to perform a community readiness assessment to increase community capacity for providing stigma-free and culturally safe STBBI services. The gathering was opened up in a ceremony with Elder James Quatell.

CAAN’s Promising Practices Coordinator and Harm Reduction Coordinator facilitated a sharing circle around forms of stigma and how to facilitate safe and stigma-free spaces. The Promising Practices Coordinator provided a resource on how to facilitate access to testing, prevention, treatment, care and support. In partnership with CAAN, the Dr. Peter Centre provided valuable resources and tools for self-reflection on personal biases that contribute to stigma and an asset map for organizations to discover existing strengths in their community that provide (w)holistic wellness.



Promising Practices to Facilitate Access to STBBI Services

We want to thank all participants for taking time away from their homefires to attend the Keeping Our Fires Gathering. Their active participation in sharing promising practices they currently have implemented and/or learned that (w)holistically facilitate access to prevention, testing, treatment, and care. Here are the following practice recommendations that were noted down:

Prevention

- Present or provide accessible education/information in a digestible manner.
- Create relationships with those who have living/lived experiences.
- Target interventions.
- Have community conversations and community engagement workshops.
- Create opportunities for support worker initiatives and engagement.
- Utilizing inclusive language every step of the way.
- Provide follow-up treatments and re-engagement to maintain adherence.



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Testing

- Community event-based testing.
- Provide home visits and private drop-in appointments.
- Routine screening.
- Provide testing kits in discreet packaging.
- Referral to care and services either internally or externally.
- Provide follow-up and information after their test results.
- Provide pre- & post-counselling.



Treatment

- Provide a (w)holistic approach to treatment.
- Identify and address barriers that interfere with timely and affordable access to services.
- Utilize two ways of seeing when providing treatment.
- Abide by a strict privacy and confidentiality policy.
- Train staff on trauma-informed care, basic knowledge of STBBS, and treatment options available.



Ongoing Care + Support

- Accessible hours, location, and point of contact.
- Staff trained on how to provide trauma-informed care.
- Ensure care providers are aware of their own lens/biases.
- Connect to peer support services or peer-led initiatives.
- Facilitate access to community support and cultural healing practices.
- Highlight resiliency, strength, wisdom, and experiences.
- Provide active listening, respect, and time.



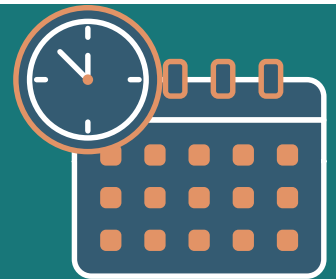
GLOW
Indigenous Health Grant
Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing



The GLOWS Indigenous Health Grant: Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing

The GLOWS Indigenous Health Grant is a co-created initiative by CAAN and Gilead Sciences Canada, designed to support Indigenous-led solutions which address the unique needs of Indigenous peoples living with or at risk of HIV and Viral Hepatitis. This program is one of many at our organization that supports rights to autonomy around health and well-being, grounded in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing. Funding will support initiatives around peer support & navigation, education, capacity building, and (w)holistic care.

Stay tuned for the successful grantees making a difference in HIV/Viral Hepatitis Indigenous Initiatives and future grant opportunities!



Upcoming Event(s)

On February 5, 2024, CAAN Communities, Alliances, and Networks will be hosting the second and final Keeping Our Fires Gathering. All participants will be attending virtually to share updates on their assessment findings and strategy implementation.



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