

Journal of Indigenous HIV Research

Volume 10, Winter 2019



Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

Brief Overview of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network is a national, not-for-profit organization:

- Established in 1997
- Represents over 400 member organizations and individuals
- Governed by a national thirteen 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

CAAN provides a National forum for Aboriginal Peoples to wholistically 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 Aboriginal Peoples wherever they reside.

Acknowledgements

CAAN is grateful for the participation of Indigenous people living with HIV and AIDS and of the health care and support of professionals who shared their time and wisdom.

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Editorial Policies: Purpose and Audience

The JIHR is an annual on-line and paper journal published by CAAN as a service to its members and anyone with an interest in Indigenous Community-Based Research.

The JIHR is a peer-reviewed journal which welcomes contributions from any author. Priority however, may be given to an author of Indigenous 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 Community-Based Research (CBR) methods and/or philosophy.

Articles published in JIHR are directed toward several audiences. The primary audience is Indigenous HIV and AIDS service organizations and Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS (APHAs). The JIHR secondary audiences include community leaders, policy and decision-makers, and anyone with an interest in HIV and AIDS, particularly within Indigenous populations and communities.

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Volume 10 Introduction

We are excited to present the tenth volume of the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR), [formerly named the Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research (CJACBR)]. Compiling this volume has given us cause to reflect on the journey that our publication—not to mention our research community—has been on since Volume I was published in 2006.

If there is a theme that runs through the offerings in Volume X of the *Journal of Indigenous HIV Research* (JIHR), it is that the tides in Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) research in Canada are changing. Each article, in its own way, speaks to this change. Whether the authors write in hopes of disrupting the tendency of working through a pan-Indigenous lens or challenge us to seek new and more culturally relevant ways to engage Indigenous Peoples and communities in research, the reality is, traditional qualitative and quantitative research methods are simply not enough anymore.

In *A Culturally Specific Approach: Developing A Métis Methodology for HIV* (p. 3), Métis researchers, Dr. Renée Monchalain (University of Victoria) and Dr. Carrie Bourassa (University of Regina) set out to “create dialogue around how Métis worldviews may inform the research we do with/in, by, and at the direction of Métis communities” (p. 3). The article explores the complexities of Métis identity and Métis worldview and how these two factors should come together to inform Métis research methodologies when we set out to do research with, by and at the direction of Métis communities.

In 2018, a team of academic and community researchers from Dalhousie University and Healing Our Nations offered a workshop at the Atlantic First Nations Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia to explore alternative forms of data collection with Indigenous men. In *Graphic Facilitation as a Tool to Guide Community-Based Research on Indigenous Boys’ and Men’s Sexual Health* (p. 20), Nicole Doria and her co-authors explore how graphic facilitation can be used as a method in community-based research to explore the sexual health of Indigenous boys and men.

The final contribution to Volume X of JIHR is *The WoW Gathering: A Land-Based Positive Action Initiative to Support Indigenous People Living with HIV* (p. 28) from the Weaving our Wisdoms (WoW) study. This commentary shares glimpses from a five-day workshop in and around the city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan hosted by the WoW team September 31-October 04, 2019. It was written by the WoW team, including the HIV Olders who guide the work, but reflections of the WoW team and workshop participants are shared throughout. We hope that these reflections, in addition to the stunning photographs that first author Andrea Mellor and team have chosen to include in their commentary, speak to the healing power of land-based approaches to wellness.

Together, the offerings in Volume X demonstrate that not only are Indigenous leadership, self-determination and culturally responsive research in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities possible, they are also necessary and necessarily the way forward. If we are serious about

conducting meaningful research that results in positive change for communities, individuals and researchers, we must be willing to stretch not only ourselves, but also our ideas of what is possible. In the words of Shawn Wilson: if research doesn't change you, then you must be doing it wrong.

We also would like to bring attention to the upcoming special edition of the JIHR which will feature articles from the Two Shawls project, so stay tuned for that.



Marni Amirault



Sherri Pooyak



Jennifer Mavritsakis