



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

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 HIV/AIDS. CAAN faces the challenges created by HIV/AIDS in a spirit of wholeness and healing that promotes empowerment, 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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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.

Editorial Peer Review Board members were:

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Marni Amirault, MA; Sherri Pooyak, MSW and Renée Masching, MSW

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INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-based HIV/AIDS Research is an exciting publication. As we move forward, we are looking forward to new opportunities to increase the scope and reach of the journal. We began with a vision to promote Aboriginal community-based HIV and AIDS research, to create a home for our work and to encourage others to engage and contribute. We envisioned both more publications and also MORE research.

As we come to the end of another publication year, there is so much to take pride in! Our Editorial Review Committee members are leaders in Aboriginal health and specifically HIV and AIDS research. The time that has been generously volunteered by our colleagues contributes to the careful decisions we make about our publication. Articles reviewed and accepted for publication have been through a rigorous peer review process, followed up by review and support from our CAAN editorial team. The consequence is that at times we are only able to produce a supplement to our Journal. We are looking forward to the next full edition and are strategizing how to recruit more authors.

In the meantime however, the vision for more Aboriginal HIV and AIDS research and greater community engagement is becoming a reality. CAAN, our member organizations and individual members are increasingly taking on new roles in research projects across the country. Exciting new projects are ongoing, new proposals for catalyst and operating grants are in review and community interest supporting the response to HIV and AIDS with research has never been higher. What a success and opportunity for the journal at a crucial time in the Aboriginal HIV and AIDS movement in Canada.

We hope that you enjoy the article we are publishing in this supplement and look forward to future editions of the CJACBR.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renée Masching', written in a cursive style.

Renée Masching
Research and Policy Manager