

Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research

Volume 7, Winter 2015



Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

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The Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-based HIV/AIDS Research

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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 Aboriginal 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 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 Community-Based Research (CBR) methods and/or philosophy.

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

Acknowledgements:

CAAN would like to acknowledge the members of the 2015 Editorial Peer Review Board.

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Introduction

The first edition of the CJACBR was published in 2006, but the work to get us there started three years earlier. The need for academic, peer-reviewed articles that highlighted all of the incredible work that was emerging in the area of Aboriginal HIV and AIDS research was identified in 2003 by the membership and staff at CAAN. Supported by a literature review which showed that there were “virtually no academic journals at this time to provide a dedicated venue specific to Canadian Aboriginal community-based HIV and AIDS research,” CAAN partnered with stakeholders at 2-Spirited Peoples of the First Nations (Ontario), Healing Our Nations (Atlantic) and All Nations Hope Network (Saskatchewan) in 2004 to apply for funding to address this. The overall goal of the project was to enhance dissemination of Aboriginal community-based HIV and AIDS research using a variety of methods.

The summer of 2006, the Canadian Journal for Aboriginal Community-Based HIV and AIDS Research (CJACBR) published its first edition! Over the course of the almost ten years since our inaugural edition, the scope of our work has grown in its breadth and in its depth. In 2006, we weren't talking too much about Decolonizing or Indigenous research methodologies let alone respectfully incorporating ceremony in research protocol.

Peer review is a serious process for an academic journal and certainly for the CJACBR. A panel of reviewers volunteer to review articles for each edition. Each article is assigned to one community-based and one academic-based reviewer who are asked to review, score, and comment the article. The panel of reviewers meet with CAAN staff to share their comments and collectively agree upon the final score and comments that should go back to the authors. When an article is published in the CJACBR, it has been very carefully considered.

The target audience for the CJACBR is first and foremost, our Aboriginal brothers and sisters who are living with and affected by HIV. We strive to make the information relevant both in terms of language and accessibility. The goal of our publication is to provide peer-reviewed articles that hold relevance and are useful to the work that is happening in the communities we serve. We hope that the information found within our pages inspires clinicians, service providers, and students as well as our academic colleagues and allies to stretch beyond their current practices in an effort to make them even better for the individuals who access them.

The current edition of the Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-Based Research (CJACBR) is small, but mighty. We bring to you findings from two studies; one that aims to unpack the experiences of Aboriginal women living with HIV as they access health and social services during pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood - *“Who is there to support our women?”: Positive Aboriginal Women (PAW) speak out about health and social care experiences and needs during pregnancy, birth and motherhood* written by Saara Greene, Allyson Ion, Kerrigan

Beaver, Valerie Nicholson, Rachel Derr, and Mona Loutfy on behalf of the HIV Mothering Study Team. The second article, *The Indigenous Red Ribbon Storytelling Study: What does it mean for Indigenous peoples living with HIV and a substance use disorder to access antiretroviral therapy in Saskatchewan?* was written by Earl Nowgesic, Ryan Meili, Sandra Stack, and Ted Myers. This research project was part of Dr. Earl Nowgesic's PhD dissertation and examines experiences of Indigenous peoples living with HIV as they access antiretroviral therapy. The full dissertation can be accessed on ProQuest by following this link: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/dissertations/order-dissertation.html>

The next call for papers is **Friday June 03, 2016**. We hope to find a submission from you in our inbox at that time (please see the call for papers at the end of the journal for more details). We hope you enjoy this edition of the CJACBR,



Marni Amirault



Sherri Pooyak