

# TWO-SPIRIT WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF HOMOPHOBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV/AIDS SERVICE PROVISION

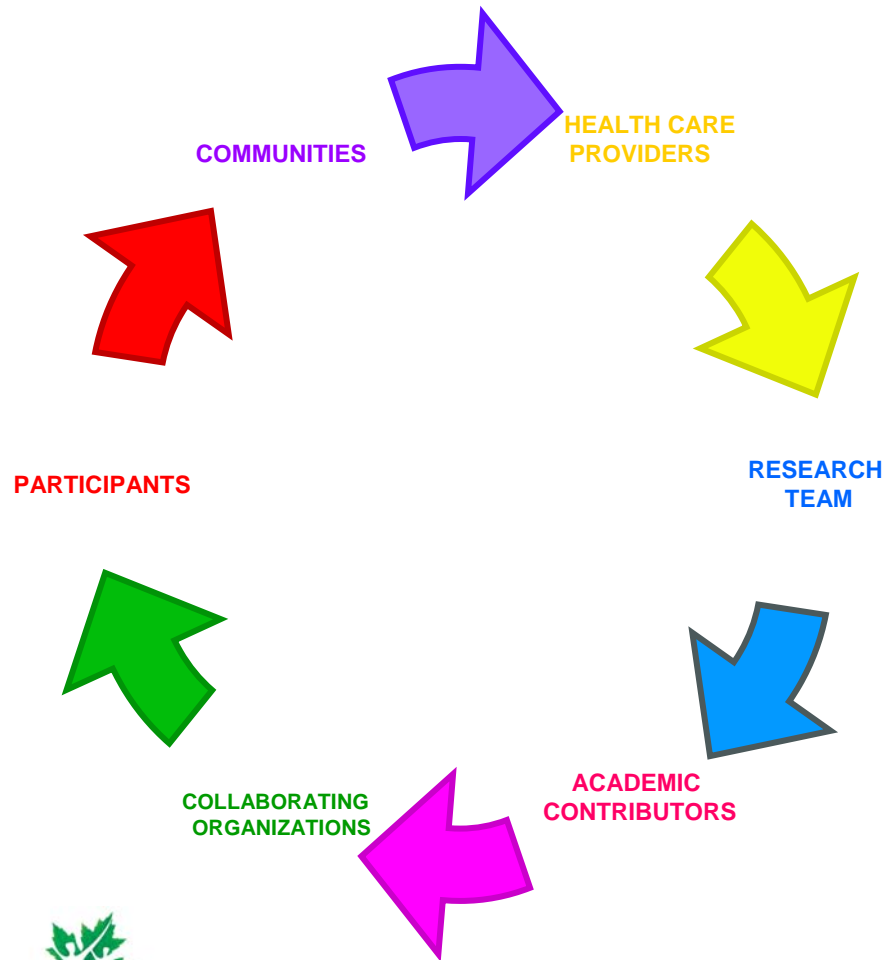
A project of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, *with funding from* Canadian Institutes for Health Research, HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Program

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**Joyce Seto**  
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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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# RESEARCH TEAM

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- ❑ Randy Jackson, M.A. (Principal Investigator), Director of Research & Programs, CAAN
- ❑ Janice Ristock, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator), Professor in Women's Studies & Associate Dean (Research), University of Manitoba
- ❑ Shari Brotman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Social Work, McGill University
- ❑ LaVerne Monette, LLB, Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy
- ❑ Joyce Seto, M.Sc., University of Ottawa
- ❑ Research Coordinator: Wendy Atkin, M.A., CAAN



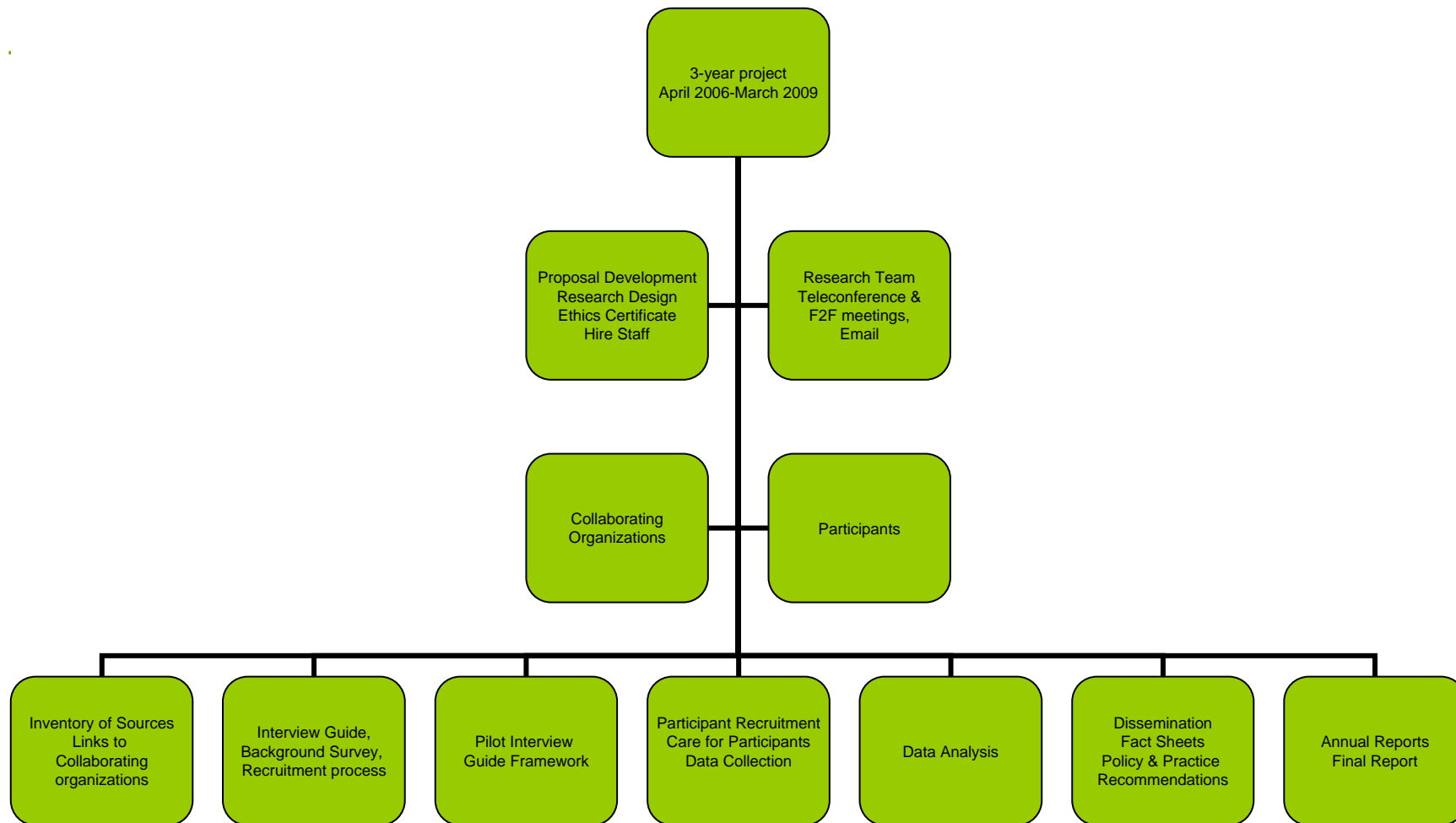
# COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

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- ❑ Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)  
incl. National Research Advisory Committee (NRAC)
- ❑ Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy
- ❑ 2-Spirited People of the First Nations
- ❑ Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN)
- ❑ Voices of Positive Women
- ❑ Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
- ❑ Two Spirit Circle of Edmonton Society
- ❑ ....gathering more collaborating organizations



# KEY ELEMENTS



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA



CIHR IRSC  
Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada

# PROJECT MILESTONES

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- ❑ Research Team established
- ❑ Proposal Development
- ❑ Ethics Certificate
- ❑ Hire Staff
- ❑ Inventory of Resources
- ❑ Interview Guide, Background Survey, Recruitment Process
- ❑ Pilot test
- ❑ Data Collection (Interviews in at least 6 sites)
- ❑ Data Analysis Dissemination
- ❑ Annual Reports, Final Report



# PROJECT PROPOSAL

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- Community based approach (focus on the lived experiences of participants), incorporating OCAP principles
- Purpose: “to better understand the unique service provision needs of two-spirit women in the context of HIV/AIDS & experiences of homophobia/transphobia.”



# CRITICAL QUESTION #1

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When two-spirit women access care and encounter homophobic discrimination, how do they subjectively experience such situations?

- intersection of identities (Aboriginal, sexual orientation, gender identity)
- framework community based empowerment (blend of feminism, Indigenous methodologies, community psychology)



# CRITICAL QUESTION #2

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What is the impact of homophobia, transphobia, AIDSphobia, & heterosexism in access to HIV/AIDS services & how do two-spirit women respond?

-subjective experience of homophobia

-homophobia and transphobia in community context as well as medical experiences



# CRITICAL QUESTION #3

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What are the best practice and policy features necessary to mitigate homophobia in health service provision?

-identify barriers to service provision

-critical analysis of categories and reflection of how fixed categories contribute to homophobia in health care settings



# TWO-SPIRIT DEFINITION

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- Term specific to Aboriginal communities - for this project, ‘two-spirit women’ allows for women who also self-identify as lesbian, queer, bisexual and male-to-female transgender people
- “Aboriginal people who possess the sacred gifts of the female-male spirit, which exists in harmony with those of the female and the male. They have traditionally respected roles within most Aboriginal cultures and societies and are contributing members of the community. Today, some Aboriginal people who are two-spirit also identify as being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.”

*(Addressing Homophobia in relation to HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal Communities, CAAN ,2005: vii)*



# OACAP= Ownership, Control, Access and Possession

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- ❑ Collective ownership of the results of research by Aboriginal people, equal involvement from beginning to end, access to and possession of results
- ❑ Research design involves community members at all stages of project and dissemination includes two-spirit women participants and collaborating organizations



# ETHICS PROTOCOL

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- ❑ Research Team members sign Principles of Collaboration, signaling adherence to OCAP principles
- ❑ Project administration: documentation of all meetings & decisions taken; confidential data stored in locked filing cabinets
- ❑ Data retained in confidence for 7 years, then destroyed
- ❑ Certificate renewal date June 21, 2007 (requirement by CIHR & U of M for ongoing funding)



# ETHICS PROTOCOL ctd.

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- ❑ Participants will be asked to give informed consent
- ❑ Collaborating organizations will be given the Information & Consent form and informed about the project's goals
- ❑ Data will be shared among research team members, following procedures outlined in the ethics guidelines
- ❑ Participants will have an opportunity to review the data that they provided



# CIHR

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- Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)



# PROJECT REPORTS

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- ❑ Annual Reports to CIHR
- ❑ Final Report to CIHR
- ❑ Regular reports to CAAN board/members, project updates for CAAN website, project summaries for collaborating organizations, newsletter articles, etc.



# RESEARCH DESIGN

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- ❑ Ongoing liaison with collaborating organizations
- ❑ Connections with related learning events
- ❑ Maintain inventory of sources
- ❑ Data Collection (Interview Guide, Background Survey, Recruitment Process, Care for Participants)



# RECRUITMENT PROCESS

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- ❑ Collaborating organizations play key role
- ❑ Strategic design and location of promotional materials
- ❑ Passive recruitment strategy, combined with snowball recruitment where feasible
- ❑ Involve Aboriginal, Gay, and community based HIV/AIDS organizations/services



# CARE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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- ❑ Assistance from collaborating organizations
- ❑ List of counselors, elders and any other support for referrals
- ❑ Maintain confidentiality of referrals made
- ❑ Follow study protocol for participants' comfort, safety, and confidentiality



# CARE FOR RESEARCH TEAM

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- ❑ Identify needs of interviewers
- ❑ Other program models for ensuring services available to interviewers who experience trauma
- ❑ Workload and any other issues to be identified



# DATA ANALYSIS

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- Data Analysis (using qualitative analysis software)
- Participants given opportunity to review their transcripts



# DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

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- ❑ Dissemination to Participants (consent form option to receive report)
- ❑ Collaborating Organizations
- ❑ Aboriginal HIV/AIDS organizations
- ❑ Policy and Program Recommendations
- ❑ Fact Sheets
- ❑ Other options....



# RESEARCH SITES

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- Ottawa\*
- Montreal
- Edmonton
- Vancouver
- Winnipeg
- Toronto
  
- \*pilot site



# For more information....

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*please contact CAAN at  
1-888-285-2226 ext. 104 or (613)567-1817 ext. 104*

