



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).

### ***Funding Acknowledgement***

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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.

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Charlotte Reading  
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Marni Amirault, MA, Fred Andersen, MSW and Renee Masching, MSW

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## Introduction

The Canadian Journal of Aboriginal Community-based HIV/AIDS Research (CJACBR) began as a project idea in late 2003. It is so exciting to now be publishing our third edition! This volume brings a variety of new perspectives and new authors to the CJACBR. The articles discuss community engagement, explore lessons learned and offer new evidence which continues to inform our response to HIV and AIDS within the Aboriginal community in Canada.

CAAN continues to invest in community-based research with increasing engagement from within our membership and broadly among Aboriginal and allied community stakeholders. More and more we have the opportunity to draw upon our own research for evidence to inform our path forward. With these opportunities we are better able to explore our understanding of HIV and AIDS within ourselves, our families, our communities and our Nations. The creation of the Journal is a medium to support knowledge dissemination and contribute to academic understanding of Aboriginal issues related to HIV and AIDS.

The CJACBR continues to evolve from our initial desire to assist in the dissemination of research findings into a vehicle to promote and encourage Aboriginal community-based HIV and AIDS research. We continue to emphasize the review and development of meaningful policies to guide journal submissions and peer review processes. Authors from across the country have submitted manuscripts and the dedicated Editorial Peer Review Board has once more offered carefully considered feedback for each article.

In addition, the CJACBR will enjoy greater exposure through indexing with the Open J Gate database!

Enjoy this Volume and please help us to continue to grow the CJACBR by submitting articles, thoughts and reflections to share. As researchers, students, academics, and activists we have so much to say!

In solidarity,

Renée Masching

Research and Policy Manager