



CANADIAN ABORIGINAL AIDS NETWORK

NEWSLETTER NOV. 2001



Summer Training Awards 2001

Randy Jackson

The Summer Training Awards, a joint program sponsored by Health Canada and the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, is a component of the Aboriginal Capacity-Building Program on Community-Based Research. The Summer Training Awards had several key program objectives:

- To increase the number of Aboriginal people undertaking community-based research by stimulating undergraduate students to continue their formal program of studies.
- To provide Aboriginal undergraduate students with experience and training in community-based AIDS research that is methodological sound, culturally appropriate, respectful and relevant to the community.
- To create successful partnerships between the academic community and the Aboriginal AIDS movement by encouraging academic advisors to participate in the program.
- Local Aboriginal AIDS organizations will benefit from short-term community-based HIV/AIDS research initiatives.

Throughout the summer, several Aboriginal AIDS service organizations, students and academic advisors participated in local research projects focussed on HIV/AIDS. They

Continued on Page 5...

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Summer Training Awards.....	1
Words from the ED.....	2
A Message from the Chair.....	2
Office Update.....	2
Projects & Programs Update.....	3
Web Page Update.....	3
CTAC and CAAN.....	4
APHA Coordination Program.....	4
Summer Training Awards Con't.....	5
National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	6
LinkUp.....	7
GNP+ Refuses Scholarships.....	8
Annual General Meeting.....	8

Words from the Executive Director

Art Zoccole

First, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is pleased to have Randy Jackson working as Coordinator under the Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Coordination Program. It is also exciting for another reason. The APHA Coordination Program is unique on the national level and directs energy toward increasing the participation of Aboriginal persons living with HIV/AIDS. The APHA Coordination Program was made possible primarily through the vision and strength we collectively showed as a national organization, but also because CAAN received an increase in core funding from Health Canada (under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS).

I am equally excited about an increase in CAAN membership. Membership in our organization grew by 200% over last year. Over the last while, CAAN has also worked towards

Link-Up. Link-Up is a web-based service for use by member groups (see Darren's report). CAAN directed energy towards increasing involvement in international issues. We participated in UNGASS and recently became a member of NACASO. Increasingly, CAAN, through our web site, has received numerous requests for information from international-based Aboriginal individuals and groups. For more information on either UNGASS or NACASO, please see our web site.

In closing, I would also like to highlight the success we made of this year's AGM. Primarily, success is a collective effort. Thus, I would like to thank the delegates that attended, the presenters at our skills building sessions, and the volunteers and staff of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network for plenty of hard work and dedication.

A Message from the Chair

Ken Clement (on behalf of the board)

I wish to extend warm thanks to all delegates, community, and government partners of this year's AGM (held in Vancouver from September 26 to 29, 2001). By all accounts, the AGM was highly successful. I would also like to inform you, on behalf of the board of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, that we have supported the development of an Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS. With the support of our Aboriginal colleagues across Canada this strategy will become a reality. In closing, I would like to make a dedication to the front-line staff across Canada for the hard work and personal sacrifices they make. As well, I would like to acknowledge the growing participation of Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Office Update

Greetings everyone,

Here is a quick update on what is happening at the CAAN office. As everyone is aware the AGM was held in Vancouver BC in September and was very successful, congratulations to our new Board members Helen Young, Franco Buscemi and Alex Archie. The staff would also like to thank LaVerne Monette, Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo for their hard work while on the Board and wish them the best. (I'm sure we will still be in touch!!) We would also like to wish Tom Howe who has left the Atlantic position on the Board of Directors the best of luck and thank him for the hard work, and a welcome back to Quinn Wade who will be replacing Tom.

The staff has been busy as ever following the Annual General Meeting preparing proposals, updating and sending out materials for Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day on Dec 1, 2001.

Until next time,

Cindy.

Projects and Programs Update

Kim Thomas

We have wrapped up several projects that CAAN took on during the early months of 2001. With thanks to an energetic and talented team of consultants, we have delivered several projects that will help identify and address the needs of Aboriginal people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS In Canada has had a good beginning with the development of a framework for delivering the strategy. Individuals from across Canada participated in one meeting and several conference calls to help define the delivery goals of the strategy, and the roles and responsibilities of different groups and individuals involved in the coming project. Thanks to all those who gave their time and comments to this first phase of the development of the Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS In Canada.

In November of 2000, CAAN and Health Canada partnered to develop the Aboriginal Capacity Building Program on Community Based Research. Together with community and academic representatives, CAAN and Health Canada met four times over a four month period to define objectives, guiding principle and capacity building activities for the Aboriginal Capacity Building Program on Community Based Research. This program includes the Summer Training Awards, a Scholarship program for Aboriginal Masters and PhD students, the development of a Community Based Research Web Resource Centre, a national Aboriginal HIV/AIDS capacity building initiative and an evaluation of the program.

This summer, CAAN hosted the first Summer Training Awards Program for Aboriginal undergraduate students to participate in Community Based Research. Seven students were funded in four organizations. For more information on this program, see the article on the Summer Training Award in this newsletter.

Our two-year project LinkUp is nearing

completion. This on-line web forum will be launched by the end of this Fiscal Year (March 31, 2002) and will include discussion forums, online libraries from all of the regions of Canada and information on using the internet. Darren Greer, the coordinator of this project has written an update on LinkUp that is included in this newsletter.

In February of this year the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network was contracted by Correctional Service of Canada to undertake several project on behalf of the Aboriginal People and HIV/AIDS in Corrections Action Committee. This work included: a newsletter to inform communities of the work being done by the Action Committee, an Environmental Scan of community services for Aboriginal prisoners, an evaluation of the action committee and its activities, the development of a Correctional Service of Canada National Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS Framework, and an Aboriginal Peer Education and Counselling training manual.

The final draft of these projects are being delivered to Correctional Service of Canada to be used by the Aboriginal People and HIV/AIDS in Corrections Action Committee to help guide their work in the future.

CAAN carries out many activities over the course of the year that are included in our core operational programs. These programs include activities that take place every year – and are a key part of the work we do at CAAN. Included in our many programs over the course of the year are activities like Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day, our Annual General Meeting, the Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS Coordination Program, our web pages and this newsletter.

This year we were lucky enough to have the capacity to hire Randy Jackson as our Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS Coordination Program Coordinator. Randy is also contracted to carry out the communications program for this year, and in that capacity, he is now the editor of our newsletter. We welcome Randy and are pleased to have him as a part of the National Office team.

Canadian Treatment Action Council and CAAN

Darren Greer

The Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC) is a national not-for-profit organization that focuses on treatment issues for people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. Through various activities, CTAC supports access to therapies and treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS by informing research and public policy, and by promoting public awareness of treatment issues.

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) has occupied a seat on the council since 1997, to make sure that treatment issues discussed at this level include Aboriginal issues and perspectives. CAAN's first representative to the council was Arlo Yuzicapi Fayant. Darren Greer now sits on the council as the CAAN representative, and Randy Jackson is the CAAN representative to the CTAC PASS committee. This committee is interested in studying side effects of western and alternative medications on people living with HIV. CAAN's goal on the committee is

to help organize an Aboriginal focus group on this topic, which should take place sometime in the next fiscal year.

As CAAN representative to the council, Darren Greer has been involved in organizing Aboriginal components of CTAC skills building events across the country. Aboriginal issues were presented at a CTAC board meeting in May in cooperation with Kimamow Atoskanow Foundation in Edmonton. A short presentation on Aboriginal issues was also made in Montreal Quebec at the CTAC AGM. Other presentations, involving partnerships between CAAN, local Aboriginal organizations and CTAC, will be taking place over the coming year.

If you are interested in getting on the CAAN mailing list, or wish to receive the CTAC news letter, please contact CAAN at caan@storm.ca. If you wish to know more about CTAC, e-mail Darren directly at darin.greer@sympatico.ca.

Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Coordination Program

Randy Jackson

The Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Coordination Program recently received funding under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS. Shortly after, on September 14, 2001, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network announced that I was hired as Coordinator in this part-time position.

Under the supervision and reporting to the National Programs and Project Consultant, Kim Thomas, key program objectives include:

- Identify and coordinate response to issues of care, treatment and support. Based on identified needs, develop and disseminate a position paper, community bulletins and provide written articles for the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Newsletter.

- Assist in coordinating information for CAAN's national committees, and

- Explore the potential for an on-line discussion forum for Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS, posting relevant information (e.g., upcoming conferences).

- Assist in preparing Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day materials.

Under these objectives, work is already progressing. The Coordination Program has submitted a funding proposal to the Aboriginal Research Program, Health Canada to identify needs and issues revolving around care, treatment and support for Canadian Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS.

Summer Training Awards (Continued from Pg. 1)

also participated in an evaluation of this pilot and several key recommendations arose from an analysis of the data:

- The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network was able to support students, academic advisors and Aboriginal organization in undertaking the Summer Training Award at a local level. Therefore, CAAN should continue to administer the Summer Training Awards Program.

- The timing for announcing, responding to, and working on a local research project was such that a tremendous amount of work and effort was concentrated over a relatively short period of time. The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network must develop a work plan of activities and spread the work over a more reasonable time frame. Specifically, lengthen the call for participants, provide more time for Aboriginal organization, students and academic advisors to develop research proposal, and all recruitment of students.

- A number of Aboriginal organizations and students indicated the administrative and supervision burdens, coupled with the amount of funding they received, was considerable. Either ensure administrative burdens are reduced or increase the funding allocation to the local organization to assist in recovering administrative expense. Similarly, consider increasing the funding each student receives, even if it requires decreasing the number of training awards that are being offered.

- The Summer Training Awards program is capable of assisting individuals in understanding the philosophy of Aboriginal ownership, control, access and possession of research and in developing research that is methodological sound, culturally appropriate, respectful, and relevant.

- The Summer Training Awards program has been successful in terms of stimulating future plans for both students, Aboriginal organizations,

and academic advisors.

- Finally, the Summer Training Awards program is equally capable of fostering relationships between Aboriginal organizations, students, and academic advisors.

In short, the Summer Training Awards program was capable of delivering and fostering community-based research at a local level through concrete activities designed to enhance and stimulate community-based HIV/AIDS research at the local Aboriginal HIV/AIDS level. For more information or to receive a copy of any report (Justification and Summary or the Final Evaluation Report), please visit www.caan.ca or contact Randy Jackson at the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.

National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS

The National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS was formed as a result of the acceptance of the collaborative framework and guiding principles at the Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Summit held in May 2001. The Council is comprised of 24 members with equal representation (six each) from First Nations, Inuit, Metis and APHA/AASO. The goal of the Council is to ensure HIV/AIDS related needs of all Aboriginal people are being met and to act as an efficient mechanism providing advice to Health Canada and other stakeholders about the needs of Aboriginal people in Canada.

The first meeting of the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS was held on September 30 - October 2, 2001 in Vancouver, BC. At this meeting, Todd Armstrong was elected as Chair for the Inuit caucus, Renee Masching was elected as Chair for the First Nations caucus and Art Zoccole was elected as Chair for the APHA/AASO caucus. The Chair for the Metis caucus will be announced at a later date.

Upcoming Events

National AIDS Treatment Advocates Forum (NATAF) 2001

Vancouver, British Columbia, December 2-5, 2001, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel

The mission of NATAF is to educate individuals interested in becoming advocates and educators, enhance the skills and knowledge of advocates and develop inclusive, national strategies to ensure the continuity and success of the treatment advocacy movement.

<http://www.nmac.org/nataf/2001/welcome.htm>

5th International Conference on Home and Community Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS

Chaing Mai, Thailand, 17-20 December 2001

<http://www.hiv2001.com>

Health in the City: CHÉOS Conference on Urban Health Research

Vancouver, British Columbia, January 19, 2002, Simon Fraser University Downtown Campus

The goal of this first conference is to share results, generate discussion and create mechanisms for ongoing interaction through future conferences, workshops, meetings, and email discussion groups and collaborative research efforts.

<http://www.cheos.ubc.ca>

9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections

Seattle, Washington, February 24-28, 2002

<http://www.retroconference.org/2002>

Building on the Strength of Aboriginal Communities

Kamloops, British Columbia, March 3-6, 2002

Healing Our Spirit's Annual HIV/AIDS Conference that brings relevant information into the region.

<http://www.healingourspirit.org>



Harm Reduction in Alberta

Red Deer, Alberta, March 14-15, 2002

This conference addresses hot topics, emerging trends and current strategies used in harm reduction.

caan@direct.ca

Facing North

Prince George, British Columbia, April 25 to April 27, 2002

Facing North is a three-day conference for community workers, clinicians and people living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. Conference themes focus on developing partnerships and formalizing action plans.

facingnorth@casper.ca



**December
01 is
Aboriginal
AIDS
Awareness
Day in
Canada**

Upcoming Events Continued

Canadian Association of HIV Research, (CAHR) 2002

Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 25 to April 28,
2002

An annual multi-disciplinary scientific conference to exchange information in the ongoing search to understand, control and prevent the spread of HIV infection and to improve the care of people living with HIV/AIDS.

<http://www.cahr-acrv.ca>

First National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Conference

Edmonton, Alberta, April 30 to May 3, 2002.

To increase awareness and prevention of Hepatitis C in the Aboriginal community and to promote care and support for individuals, families and communities dealing with the disease.

<http://visions.ab.ca>

2002 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

The largest memorial and mobilization in recent history with a goal of registering over 1000 communities. With your registration you will officially be part of the largest AIDS mobilization event in the world as well as receive a coordinators kit, the official poster, and be added to the e-mailing list.

<http://www.candlelightmemorial.org>

XIV International AIDS Conference

Barcelona, Spain, July 7-12, 2002

<http://www.aids2002.com>

What is LinkUp?

LinkUp is a on-line (internet) resource network for information about Aboriginal people and HIV/AIDS. It was created by the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network as part of a project to get AIDS information on-line. In 1997, at the CAAN Skills Building, delegates recommended that CAAN create an on-line forum for Aboriginal people to discuss HIV/AIDS issues. The same recommendation has been made over the years to CAAN by many people. In 2000, funding was obtained to go ahead with the development of LinkUp, an on-line Aboriginal HIV/AIDS information network.

LinkUp is scheduled to go on-line at the CAAN site on March 31st of 2002. CAAN will be submitting an abstract to do a workshop to show people how to use the LinkUp site at the Healing Our Spirit Conference in Kamloops in March 2002. LinkUp workshops will continue throughout the year at Aboriginal conferences across the country. These workshops will cover all aspects of LinkUp, including an On-Line Information resource Library, the LinkUp Bulletin Boards and Messaging Systems, the Member Information pages and much more. Another component of LinkUp is to build capacity for Aboriginal people to use computers and the world wide web to access AIDS information.

For more information about LinkUp, or to pre-order a LinkUp starter kit, contact CAAN at 1-888-285-2226. If you have an e-mail account and internet access and would like to be part of an on-line focus group for LinkUp, contact CAAN at caan@storm.ca.

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Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS Refuses Scholarship Recipients

It was with heavy hearts that would be scholarship recipients returned home from the airport. Upon arriving at the airport they discover that their travel and scholarships to attend the GNP+ conference in Trinidad had been withdrawn without notice or explanation. According to would be scholarship recipients, "Representatives of GNP+ were rude to us on the phone, have lied to us, and made no reasonable attempt to inform any of us of this situation (prior to arriving at the airport to depart for Trinidad)."

Recipients who have had their scholarships withdrawn have asked the conference to reverse this decision. In an email sent to GNP+ they have "demanded new travel plans be arranged, and that reasonable efforts are made to welcome them to the conference that many of them have planned for, made personal expenditures towards and sacrifices to attend."

GNP+, responded that their original offer was withdrawn for reasons that were "many and complicated." These reasons included, "difficulties in arranging travel for hundreds of participants, many with challenging transit visa requirements in light of the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, communication lags and a failure of key international funders to provide promised resources in a timely manner."

GNP+ has promised disappointed scholarship recipients that a record will be kept and that this list will be used for the next International Conference for "preferential consideration in future scholarship deliberation."

Editors Note: Several GNP+ scholarship recipients are members of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.

Annual General Meeting

The CAAN Annual General Meeting was held in Vancouver, BC - September 26 to 29. This meeting was a great success, with over one hundred participants from across Canada coming together to participate in a day of skills building, the Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS Caucus and our annual general meeting. The membership passed twenty-two resolutions to provide direction for the network in the coming year.

Some highlights of the resolutions include the direction to distribute Hepatitis C education and prevention materials to members of CAAN, direction for development of the communication strategy to address regional differences and an increase of Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS representation on the board of directors.

During the Annual General Meeting new board members were selected from several regions. We welcome new representatives: Franco Buscemi for Nunavut, Trevor Stratton for Ontario, Helen Young from Winnipeg and Alex Archie as an APHA representative. Outgoing board members included: Quinn Wade, LaVerne Monette, Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo, and Elena Labranche. Since the Annual General Meeting we have been informed that Tom Howe, the representative for the Atlantic region will step down to be replaced by Quinn Wade, as nominated by the regional caucus. We thank all of our outgoing board members for their time and commitment to the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and welcome our new board members.



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