

## C.A.A.N.

396 Cooper Street, Suite 409  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 3N1  
1 - 8 8 8 - 2 8 5 - C A A N  
Fax: (613) 567-4652  
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# C.A.A.N. Newsletter

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network Inc.

Group Members of the  
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS  
Network.

2-Spirited People of the First  
Nations

First Nations of Quebec and  
Labrador Health and Social  
Services Commission

*"The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, Inc. (CAAN) is a National Coalition of Aboriginal people and organizations that provide leadership, support, and advocacy for Aboriginal people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, regardless of where they live."*

All Nations Hope AIDS  
Network

Atlantic First Nations AIDS  
Task Force

Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS  
Task Force

Healing Our Spirits - B.C. First  
Nations AIDS Society

AIDS Yukon Alliance

Feather of Hope AIDS  
Prevention Society

Newfoundland and Labrador  
AID Committee

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS  
Strategy

The Red Road HIV/AIDS  
Network

Sexqeltin Health Centre

National Indian and Inuit  
Community Health Represen-  
tatives Organization

British Columbia Persons  
with AIDS Society

Society of Aboriginal Addic-  
tions Recovery



"Promotion of electronic documents, improved communications and bilingual presentation are all goals of this new web design."

## Words from the Executive Director

D. M. Jake Linklater

Reflection seems to be the theme of this year's direction under the Canadian Strategy on HIV and AIDS. With this said, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network will focus its organizational initiatives and activities on accountability, transparency and a genuine move towards building stronger, effective partnerships with its many counterparts.

The new year promises to be challenging and exciting. Our challenges will include strengthening the structure on which we are building our strategy on HIV and AIDS. We will work to bring resources to more people, build stronger partnerships in our communities and create an environment where Aboriginal communities can effectively mount a response to the HIV epidemic.

The key to success is for CAAN to delineate mechanisms by which Aboriginal communities throughout Canada can gain ownership, access and control over their health and education resources pertaining to HIV/AIDS.

## Web Page Update

In December of 1999 we began working on updating the CAAN web site. Some cyber-visitors have requested updated materials on the site and in response to those requests, work has begun. The first step was updating the existing board list on the CAAN web site.

But we aren't stopping there. In keeping with the pace set by the release of our new electronic reporting format previewed at the 2nd Canadian Skills Building Symposium in Winnipeg we are designing a whole new World Wide Web Resource Guide to the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS

movement. Promotion of electronic documents, improved communications and bilingual presentation are all goals of this new web design.

We are doing away with the existing frame-based page and that should make for cleaner and faster presentation. The goal is to have the new pages up by the end of February to act as a structure for upcoming projects to use this information sharing technology to the full extent that it promises.

## Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day, December 01, 1999

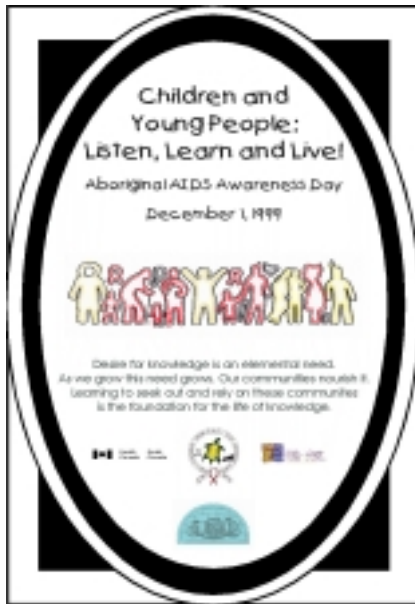
December 01, 1999 marked the 3rd Annual Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day. CAAN partnered with the Tungasuvviat Inuit Community Centre (TI) to host open houses in the Ottawa area. CAAN staff also participated in local activities. The CAAN open house brought everyone together to start the day with introductions and speeches from Jake Linklater, Morgan Hare (Director of TI) and community representatives from TI. An Inuit elder spoke and offered a prayer after lighting the Kudlik (pictured, below).

Hands Across the Bridge, on the Interprovincial Bridge between Quebec and Ontario, saw CAAN staff members marching with other local AIDS groups and Health Canada representatives to meet groups from the Hull/Aylmer region in a show of cooperation and remembrance. Local events continued at The National Museum of Civilization with the opening of the Paper Prayers exhibit at the museum.

CAAN staff and representatives from TI also attended the launch of the Minister of Health, the Honourable Allan Rock's 1999 report on HIV/AIDS at Tabaret Hall

in the University of Ottawa. The launch was attended by MPs, Senators, representatives from AIDS Organizations, Health Canada Strategy employees and





media. Rock was introduced by the Honourable Maria Minna, the minister for International Cooperation. Other speakers at the event included members of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS and representatives from the University of Ottawa.

The open house at TI closed out the day with prayers and songs from visiting elders from Russia and Alaska. Youth members of the cultural group at TI performed several moving pieces that served as a worthwhile reminder of the importance youth in our communities and the ongoing need to provide education and support to these youth.

CAAN also worked to provide materials for our regional groups. The poster (pictured above) was distributed to regional offices along with fact sheets, red ribbons, promotional materials and a press release. CAAN also announced a youth initiative for the next year which involves targeting youth for prevention and awareness education.

## Upcoming Events

### Ontario Aboriginal Health Advocacy Conference

When? February 23-25, 2000  
 Where? The Courtyard, Marriott Hotel, Toronto, Ontario  
 For information contact:  
 The Ontario Aboriginal Patient Advocacy  
 290 Shuter Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1W7  
 Tel: (416)956-7575 ext. 310 or Toll Free 1-800-772-9291  
 Fax: (416)956-7577

### Gathering of the Spirit, APHA Gathering

(See article, page 5)  
 When? March 15 - 20, 2000  
 Where? Winnipeg, Manitoba  
 For information contact:  
 APHA Gathering Committee  
 415B West Esplanade, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7M 1A6  
 Fax: (604)983-2667  
 E-mail: awarchie@intergate.bc.ca

### Opening Doors Conference

When? April 5-7, 2000  
 Where? Glen House Resort, Gananoque, Ontario  
 For information contact:  
 The AIDS Committee of Ottawa  
 Tel: (613)238-5014  
 Fax: (613)238-3425  
 E-mail: aco@netrover.com

### IX th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for HIV Research

When? April 27-30, 2000  
 Where? Delta Centre Ville (formerly Radisson), Montreal, Quebec  
 For information contact:  
 Conference Secretariat, c/o Agora Communication  
 2600, Laurier Blvd., Tour Belle Cour (suite 2680), Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4M6  
 Tel: (418)658-6755  
 Fax: (418)658-8850  
 E-mail: ahoude@agoracom.qc.ca

### National Conference on Women & HIV/AIDS

When? May 25-28, 2000  
 Where? Wyndham Bristol Place, Toronto Airport, Toronto, Ontario  
 For information contact:  
 The Events Team, Canadian AIDS Society  
 900-130 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4  
 Tel: 1-877-998-9991  
 Fax: (613)230-0779  
 E-mail: women@cdnaids.ca

### Beyond 2000: Healthy Tomorrows for Children and Youth

When? June 14-18, 2000  
 Where? Ottawa, Ontario  
 For information contact:  
 Beyond 2000, c/o Canadian Paediatric Society  
 100-2204 Walkley Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4G8  
 Tel: (613)526-9397 ext. 228  
 Fax: (613)526-3332  
 E-mail: beyond2000@cps.ca

## February

- Ontario Aboriginal Health

Advocacy Conference

## March

- Gathering of the Spirit,

APHA Gathering

## April

- Opening Doors

Conference

- IXe Annual Meeting of

the Canadian Association

for HIV Research

## May

- National Conference on

Women and HIV/AIDS

## June

- Beyond 2000: Healthy

Tomorrows for Children

and Youth

## A Quick Update From the CAAN Office . . .

Hope everyone had great Christmas holidays!! The staff here at the CAAN office are back to work and we are getting busier as the month of January goes along. The first project we took on this month was this newsletter. All of the staff has been working to get this out. Jackie has updated our mailing list and labeled the envelopes, Kim has been working hard doing the layout and editing and the rest of the staff have prepared articles to include in it.

Jackie and I are also working on the rearranging of the filing system in the reception area and are getting close to finishing soon. Kim has been working closely with Darren Greer at Blue Moon Consulting on a manual to explain epidemiology, while trying to update our web-pages in her "spare time"!

We have also recently expanded our office space with two new rooms. This has allowed us to set up a resource library, a new office for Kim, an area for the bookkeeper and a (much needed) storage area for our office equipment.

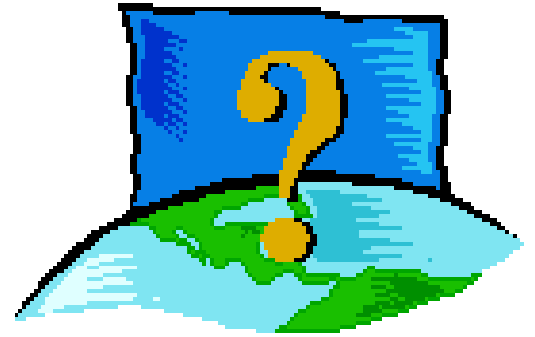
That's about all for now, until the next newsletter...

*Cindy*

## Trivia

### ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA IN OUR LAST ISSUE

1. Q. Who is the Minister of Health?  
A. Allan Rock (C)
2. Q. Who is the lead in condom manufacturing?  
A. It was a trick, the answer was none of the above. According to our best source, the lead condom manufacturer is Durex condoms ([www.condomusa.com](http://www.condomusa.com)).
3. Q. How do you acquire HIV?  
A. Two answers: Unprotected Sex (A) and Sharing Needles (C)
4. Q. Who invented the Condom?  
A. This one may be arguable,



but there seems to be some consensus that the Egyptians were the first to use a contraceptive device that closely resembles today's condom.

### THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTIONS....

1. Which doctor first identified the retrovirus which causes AIDS?  
A. Dr. David Acer  
B. Dr. Johnathan Mann  
C. Dr. Robert Gallo  
D. Dr. P. M. Sharp
2. In what year was AIDS first identified?  
A. 1979  
B. 1982  
C. 1983  
D. 1984
3. What organ does Hepatitis C effect?  
A. Heart.  
B. Lung.  
C. Liver.  
D. All of the above.
4. In what year did the World Health Organization first recommend providing sterile needles to drug users as a method to prevent the spread of AIDS among Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs)?  
A. 1983  
B. 1986  
C. 1989  
D. 1992

The answers to these trivia questions will be in the next CAAN Newsletter.

Are you on our mailing list? If not, call us at 1-888-285-2226 to find out how to get added!



# A Gathering of the Spirit: 2000

Greetings from chilly Alberta. My name is Kecia Larkin and I am proud to be coordinating a National Gathering for Aboriginal PHAs (people living with HIV/AIDS.) A GATHERING OF THE SPIRIT 2000 will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 15 - 20, 2000. So, what is the Gathering about? First of all, it is the first time that Aboriginal PHAs have been able to meet and consult on a national level. Only Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS can apply to attend. Applicants will be contacted after February 11, 2000 if they are accepted.

Many times PHAs are isolated within their communities and respective organizations. Having a chance to talk and share with others is a valuable experience. The gathering will offer PHAs a chance to review the events that have happened in the Aboriginal AIDS community and offer recommendations to respective sources for policies, funding and decision making. The purpose of being able to do this is to express the areas in which PHAs would like to see changes. All the people who come will be offering some of their time and energy in the final outcome of the gathering.

Aside from that very important piece of work there will be workshops that will be available throughout the four days, including legal issues, self-care, and some nice body work. We will be inviting some really fantastic people to participate in and facilitate the sessions. It is the hope of the steering committee that all will go away feeling relaxed, cared for and relieved of some of the urgency that we all feel, living with HIV/AIDS.

As there are always old friends (and enemies) on the circuit it is the hope that the gathering will facilitate an atmosphere of autonomy, friendship and love to one another. I believe that this will be reflected in the recommendations and the work that happens. The four guiding principles: FAITH, BELIEF, TRUST and TRUTH will remind us of the balance between feeling important and being humble. It is always nicer to be loved instead of being right.

There are many people and groups who have helped organize this event. Thanks to Health Canada for funding us, and the National

Aboriginal Reference Group on HIV/AIDS for the vision that lead to this gathering. And of course, we appreciate the commitment and support of the steering committee for making it happen. The elder who sits on our steering committee, Naz Therriault, has always assisted us in the bigger picture and has been and anchor for us.

I will leave you with the contacts for the gathering and a reminder to get you sponsorship applications in ASAP! See you in March 2000!

Alex Archie can be contacted at:

phone: (604)983-8774  
e-mail: awarchie@intergate.ca  
fax: (604)983-2667

Kecia Larkin can be reached at:

phone: (780)924-3731  
e-mail: degise@telusplanet.net  
fax: (780)924-3731

## CAAN Projects: An Epidemiology Workbook

CAAN's latest project is the development of a workbook for community health planners and leaders to use in understanding and using epidemiological information gathered by and for Health Canada. CAAN has contracted with Darren Greer of Blue Moon Consulting to work on this project. CAAN staff, Health Canada representatives and Aboriginal community members are all a part of the steering committee that has formed to guide this project.

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) releases regular updates on the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Aboriginal Community. The information given in these reports is often cloaked in a language that is unfamiliar to those who do not work in the field of epidemiology. It is the goal of the project to develop a manual to list and explain the vocabulary frequently used in epidemiology and to explain current and future applications of epidemiological data.

The project is scheduled to be completed in March of 2000. Between now and then there lies a lot of work. We will pilot test the manual in February and plan to launch it early in April.

"All the people who come will be offering some of their time and energy in the final outcome of the gathering."



*Keep in touch with us...*

**By Telephone...**

1-888-285-CAAN (2226)

1-613-567-1817

**By Fax...**

1-613-567-4652

**By E-mail**

caan@storm.ca

**On the Web**

<http://www.caan.ca>

**By Mail**

409 - 396 Cooper St.

Ottawa ON K2P 2H7



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396 Cooper Street, Suite 409

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 3N1

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