



CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks

Annual Report

2022-2023

CAAN has been a member-driven organization for over 26 years, and we would like to acknowledge those who have come before us, who have shaped CAAN into who we are today.

This Annual Report serves as a reflection of the dedication from our membership, of those who have worked tirelessly to fight for Indigenous solutions across the land. We thank you, and we will continue to be a member-drive organization as we drive our mandate forward for future generations.

Mission

CAAN provides a National forum for Indigenous Peoples to holistically 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 Indigenous Peoples wherever they reside.

Spirit & Vision

CAAN is a national Indigenous organization who is committed to addressing the issues of HIV within an Indigenous context. Although the beliefs of Indigenous Peoples vary widely from region to region and from person to person, the Agency has made a commitment to conduct its activities in a spirit of Indigenous wholeness and healing. This disease can only be overcome by respecting our differences and accentuating our unity of spirit and strength.

Philosophy

All Indigenous Peoples deserve the right to protect themselves against infectious disease. Education and prevention is focused on empowerment to learn about the risks of HIV and AIDS and protect ourselves accordingly. Providing Indigenous Peoples with accurate and up-to-date information about the nature of the disease, the risks of contracting it, and the issues of care/treatment and support for those infected are the challenges that CAAN works toward each day.

Get in Touch

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Treaty 4 Territory

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2022 - 2023

CAAN Board of Directors

CAAN's Board of Directors come from all across this land, each bringing a unique combination of lived experience, wisdom, traditions, and passion to our work.



Danita Wahpoosewyan
Board Chair



Gayle Pruden
Board Co-Chair



Patti Tait
Secretary



Denise Lambert
Board Member



Clayton Sutherland
Board Member



Jared BigCanoe
Board Member

A Message from CAAN's Okimâw & Board of Directors

As Okimaw of CAAN, it has been humbling to be able to sit and witness your knowledge and vision within your ways of knowing. I have had opportunity to communicate through reports, social media, website, meeting, gatherings, and conferences. It is important for CAAN to be transparent as possible and be member-driven in creating opportunities of solutions leading to wellness and healing within ourselves, our communities, and our nations.

The Board of Directors have diligently worked towards creating a strong governance foundation for CAAN. These dedicated volunteers have worked hard over the year to reach consensus in guiding the organization. I would like to acknowledge the wisdom, time and commitment they have given.

The staff of CAAN have grown in heaps and bounds, we consistently are developing new programs, research, training and knowledge to address the multitude of health and social conditions impacting Indigenous peoples. This report will reflect the dedicated and hard work of the staff.

Lastly, it is our members whom we serve that provide that guidance and knowing through resolutions being submitted. We look forward to the Resolution report this year and to the new resolutions submitted throughout the year to guide our work.

Asking ᑭᑎᑏ manitou (creator) for ᑭᑎᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏ miyopayowin (Having good luck; a success) for CAAN.

Hiy hiy

Margaret Kîsikâw ᑭᑎᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏ Pîyesîs ᑭᑎᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏ
Okimâw ᑏᑎᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏ

Danita Wahpoosewyan
Lightning Rock Woman/She Who Calls
Far/White Horse With Wings

007

007



007

007



CANVA STORIES



April 2022
Partnership through ceremony
with Gilead and All Nations Hope Network

007

007



CANVIFILM F400



June 2023
Indigenous Peoples Networking
Zone at AIDS 2022



October 2022
Partnership through ceremony
with Community-Based Research Centre
(CBRC)



February 2023
Leadership Team-building Workshop



007

200

007

CANVA STORIES

CNVFILM F400

Programs Team

Patrick Brownlee

Programs & Logistics Manager



I have been in various capacities with CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks for 15 years. I accepted a new role as Programs & Logistics Manager in October 2022 and quickly learned the subtle differences between Program and Research, where I had previously been Research Manager.

2022 – 2023 was an exciting time for everyone, as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, and we could begin to gather again. Meeting together is medicine, and we set out to meet as much as possible.

CAAN's 7th Wise Practices Gathering in Winnipeg, Manitoba – May 2022

During CAAN's WP Gathering, various types of presentations from Academic Research to Community Based Projects. This gathering was presented in a hybrid format to allow CAAN's members to participate in whichever way they were comfortable. Guests were treated to an impromptu performance by Polaris Prize Winner Jeremy Dutcher and CAAN's Elder In-Residence Maggie Paul. We also had a cultural evening with Indigenous entertainment, which included a drag show, Metis jigging and a mix of traditional and modern dances.

9th International Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV and AIDS in Montreal, Quebec – July 2022

CAAN hosted the International Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV and AIDS (IIPCHA), which included delegates from multiple countries for 2.5 days. Programs and Research around HIV and AIDS were shared, and a consultation was hosted where CAAN's Commitment to Action was created. Many delegates then stayed to attend the 24th International AIDS Conference, which was also a hybrid event, reaching folks across the world with 23 of the 39 presentations available virtually.

Moving into the start of 2023, CAAN grew! We added new staff, in several new positions to meet the needs of our membership and partner organizations. CAAN welcomed our Indigenous Leadership Practitioner, Harm Reduction Coordinator, Promising Practices Coordinator and more. As we continue into 2023 and head into 2024, I am excited to see CAAN continue to grow and serve our membership!

Harm Reduction - The Canoe Project

The Canoe Project outcomes will see training manuals and teachings to share with 13 communities around Turtle Island. These trainings are meant to educate and empower Indigenous Peoples and their allies within the community, allowing safe cultural spaces and bringing tradition, medicines, and knowledge to each person. The goal is for stories to be shared, and healing spaces to be accepted and honoured.

I'm Indigenous and I'm Ready! INSTI HIV Self-test Project

The INSTI HIV Self-Testing Project is a partnership between CAAN, Reach Nexus, and the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB). This project was created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and is part of the "Indigenizing movement"; to create pathways around colonial structures, systemic discrimination, racism, and stigma. This project will facilitate access to culturally safe approaches for Indigenous people by Indigenous peoples, by providing access and wraparound support for communities to implement INSTI HIV self-test technology in the best way.

Promising Practices - Keeping Our Fires Project

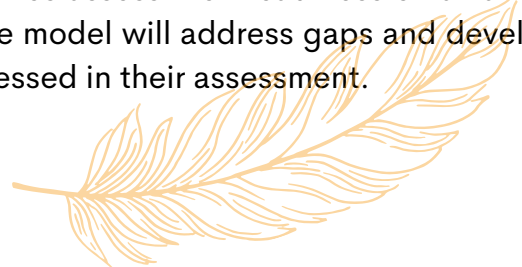
The Keeping Our Fires Project addresses the issues and needs presented to CAAN by participating members (Indigenous peoples, communities, people with lived/living experiences, and service providers) on HIV, HCV, and STBIs, and responds in the form of resources to identify wise practices for communities to utilize in their own way.

The Well-Being Project

In partnership with the Dr. Peter Centre, the Well-Being Project engaged with women across the Nation who have lived/ living experience of GBV (Gender Based Violence) to form recommendations and resources. The developed resources will assist in mitigating some of the barriers around IPHAs/IPHCs accessing GBV resources.

Community Readiness

CAAN is using the Community Readiness Model to help communities assess their readiness on a variety of topics facing Indigenous communities today. The process of the model will address gaps and develop strategies to elevate communities' readiness to tackle issues addressed in their assessment.



Research Unit



Kris Kelly Research Manager

I joined CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks in February of 2023, as the Research Manager. During the last 6 months with CAAN I have had the opportunity to journey alongside an incredible and determined team of research staff.

2022-2023 has brought about many exciting avenues for growth and development at CAAN, as we continue to serve our membership and communities through our research and programs. This year we have welcomed several new staff members to our teams, and we will welcome more in the near future. Research staff, Elders, and community members have travelled nationally and internationally presenting at conferences, engaging in sharing circles and ceremony, celebrating existing partnerships and creating new ones!

Our research teams have been deeply engaged in community-based research efforts domestically and globally, always ensuring Indigenous ways of knowing and doing are at the forefront of the work we do alongside Indigenous communities. Our research staff are committed to doing the work 'in a good way'. This means ensuring rigorous literature reviews and analysis are conducted, developing consultations and community outreach, alongside engaging with community members, academic institutions, and funders in ethically responsible ways every day.

There is learning and 'un-learning', knowledge mobilization, energy, and empathy required in the day-to-day work of being a 'researcher'. As we continue into 2023, I am tremendously grateful and appreciative of the continued passion and focus of our research staff.

Measuring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Responding to the Needs of Indigenous Women and Girls in a Global Context

Working with teams of Elders, people with living experience, and researchers in Canada, Guatemala, India, Nepal, Nigeria, New Zealand and Peru, this project seeks to develop specific understandings of how to effectively respond to and measure the sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) of Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQ Living with HIV in culturally relevant and context-specific ways. 2022 included gatherings, ceremonies, literature reviews, and conference presentations for this project as it continues to co-create specific understandings of how to effectively respond to and measure the SRHR of Indigenous Women Living with HIV.

AHA Centre

The AHA Centre builds capacity in and supports culturally-responsive community-based HIV and determinants of health research, through meaningful engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples living with HIV, communities, researchers and policymakers while utilizing knowledge translation to inform evidence-driven action. 2022 included conference presentations, delivery of the community engagement fund, 'wise practices and skills building gathering', hosting 'sharing space community of practice', Journal of HIV Research (JIHR) management, and capacity building and knowledge translation through various projects and partnerships.

Indigenous-Led Responses to Intersecting Pandemics Project

The scope of this project is national and works in partnership with four trusted Indigenous-led organizations that provide HIV and STBBI outreach and services to Indigenous communities affected by HIV, HCV, and TB. The purpose of this project is to understand how organizations adapted to national and local ongoing restrictions to continue program delivery to members of the community, as well as to identify any parallels observed and/or experienced between the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics. We look forward to sharing more as this project moves forward!

k^wiishinčičił: Transformation

The project seeks to carry out research and knowledge translation driven by Indigenous women living with HIV, to further strength-based and culturally grounded research for the wellbeing of Indigenous women living with/or affected by HIV. In 2022 this project created a partnership with the BMJ to create a video project, held a national retreat, and participated in webinars, events, and conferences.

WOW

This research sought to understand how living well as an Indigenous person living with HIV (IPHA) is optimized by engaging with teachings and activities rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and doing on the land, with the land, especially when they are led and shared by 'HIV Olders'. Our 'on the land, with the land' approach (including traditional food-based activities, medicine walks, horse therapy, tipi teachings, pipe and sweat ceremony, sharing circles, tea teachings, etc.) to be collectively impactful and enduring. More specifically, our findings suggest that IPHAs found our land-based methods for wellness, both within research participation and within day-to-day life, to contribute to increased cultural understanding and spiritual connection, positive social-relational relationships, increased short and long-term wellbeing, increased physical health, increased self-confidence, and positive changes in healthy behaviour.



WOW II

Given that our original WoW Study focused on HIV specifically, we have more to learn about how STBBI more widely affects the lives of Indigenous people; so we applied for a catalyst grant to further explore this space. The WoW II team will develop new and strengthen existing partnerships between the WoW Study I & II teams, CAAN's membership of Indigenous people living with HIV and other STBBI, affiliated researchers, and program facilitators to further develop the concept of HIV Olders as an HIV/STBBI-integrated intervention framework. We look forward to updating the team with highlights as this project unfolds!

DRUM and SASH

The focus of our project is Indigenous-led responses to the disproportionate burden of HIV, HCV, and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) and related mental health issues and stigma in Indigenous communities. The project integrates community-based and Indigenous understandings of culturally safe and responsive programming and ways of assessment with Western academic ways of program development, implementation, and evaluation. In 2022 Drum and Sash hosted a research gathering, sharing circle, attended conferences, and supported many community-based interventions.



9 Genders

The Nine Genders project brings together a team of community members and researchers to explore the concept of the 'nine genders' which was given to the Nominated Principal Applicant at his Elder's home in ceremony, and through a connection to the ancestors. In 2022 the 9 Genders project participated in conferences and presentations, hosted a team gathering, and hosted team medicine picking.

GIPA Homefire

This project seeks to evaluate the holistic impact of GIPA for current IPHA leaders, investigate the needs of 'up and coming' IPHA leaders, and analyze how HIV and AIDS organizations and initiatives implement GIPA in partnership with Indigenous stakeholders. In 2022 GIPA team presented research findings at a variety of conferences and lectures and began drafting qualitative papers and reports.

Mobilizing Indigenous STBBI Research

CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks has led or partnered on more than 50 community-based HIV/AIDS Research projects from 2002 to 2021. Mobilizing Indigenous STBBI Research is a 4-year project that will identify and develop effective Indigenous knowledge translation and mobilization (IKTM) strategies to enact research findings that are meaningful to communities and inform policy and health program action in ways that lead to healing and reconciliation. We look forward to updating you as this project moves forward!

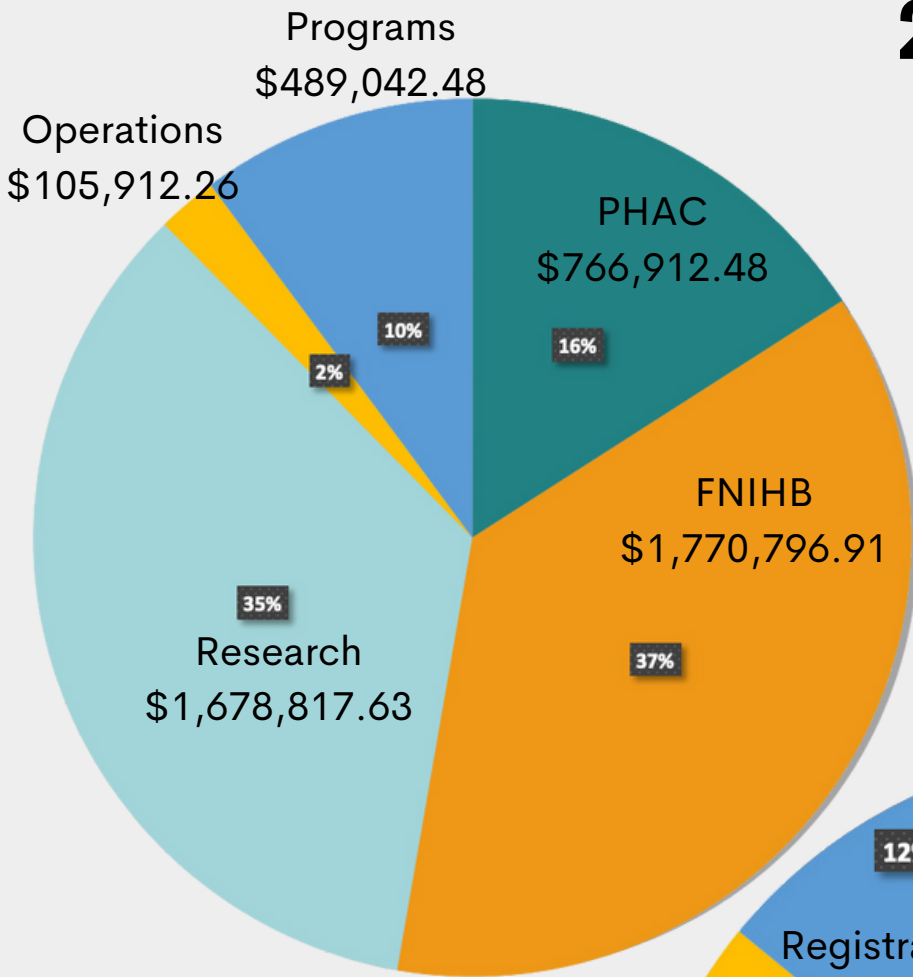
HIV and Ageing

This research project focused on Ontario and sought to better understand how Indigenous Peoples living with HIV/AIDS (IPLWH) in the province age well, and what 'promising practices' help them to age well. Indigenous Community Research Associates, who were living with HIV themselves, met with 27 IPLWH in individual interviews and talking circles. The goal of this engagement was to explore what wellness and healthy aging means, how this is or can be achieved for IPLWHs, and how wellness may differ for Indigenous women, men and non-binary/2SLGBTIQ+ people.

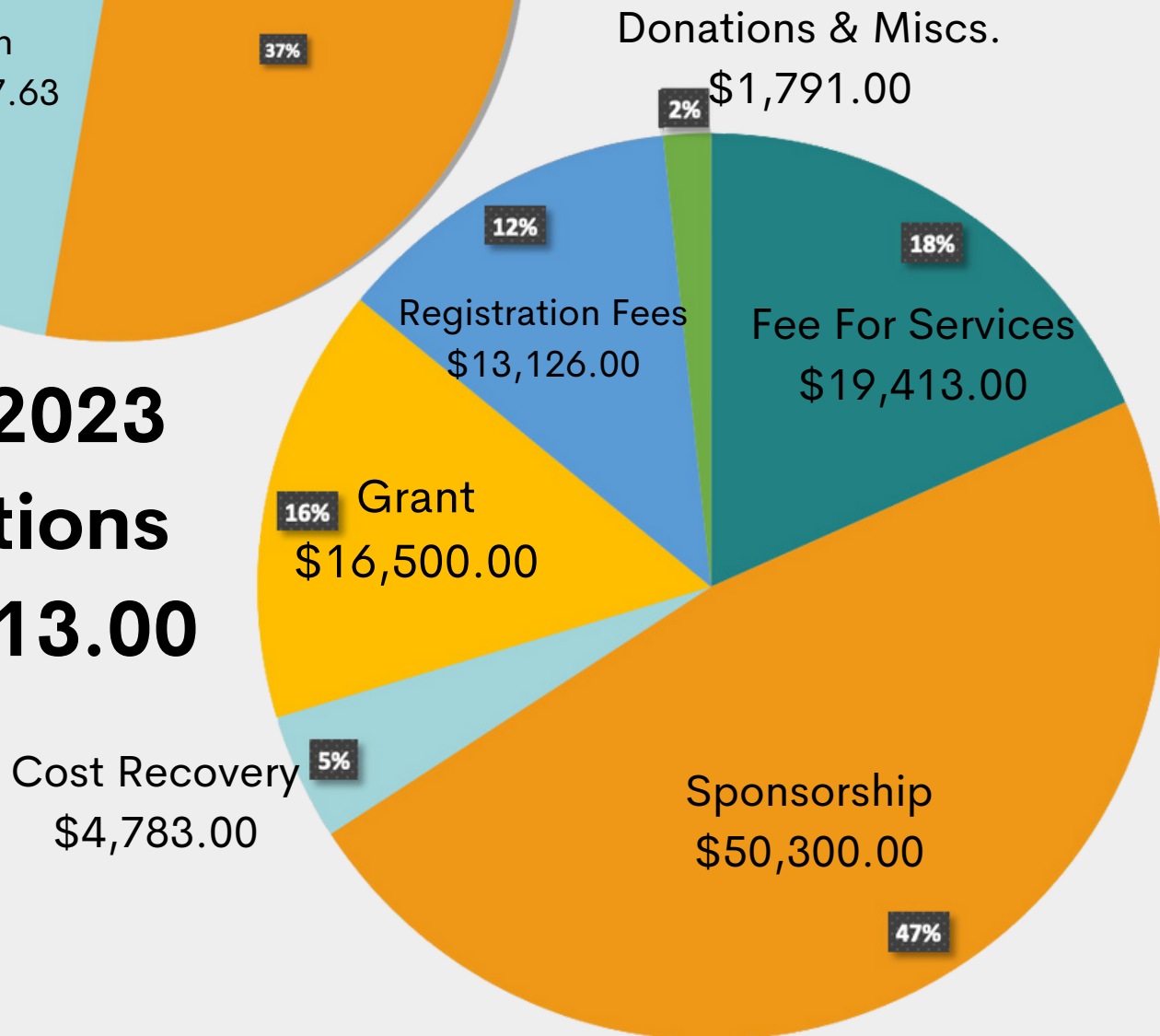


CAAN's Funding

**2022-2023 Total
Revenue
\$4,811,481.76**



**2022-2023
Operations
\$105,913.00**



Events



Check out what CAAN got up to in 2022/2023!

IIPCHA & AIDS 2022 Preconference

CAAN Staff and Members attended IIPCHA, and the International AIDS Conference hosted in Montreal from July 29 - August 3rd, 2022.

To read the full highlights, scan this QR code!



International AIDS Awareness Day (IAAD) December 1, 2022

International AIDS Awareness Week (IAAW) December 1 - 6, 2022

CAAN Staff on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to speak about CAAN's work in HIV/AIDS research and movement.



UNDRIP Consultation - February 2023

CAAN hosted a UNDRIP consultation meeting, inviting people from all walks of life. For two days, 10 important key points were discussed and written into the final report and recommendations.





One Vision, Many Paths: INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS FOR TUBERCULOSIS & HIV

For Indigenous people across Canada, tuberculosis (TB) is not a thing of the past. In *One Vision, Many Paths*, we uncover why that is – and what’s being done about it. Host Jen Quesnel speaks with some of the nation’s foremost Indigenous policy makers, nurses, researchers and community organizers on the front lines of the TB response. Over four episodes, guests highlight Indigenous-led solutions, best practices and the policy changes that are still needed to eliminate TB by 2030. Throughout each episode, the lived experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit breathe new life into the stories and legacy of TB in Canada, while providing hope for the future.

One Vision, Many Paths is recorded and produced on Treaty Six territory. It is brought to you by CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks. Funding for this podcast was made possible by ViiV Healthcare’s Community Education and Services Grant.



Listen to the
Podcast Series
here!

Join CAAN's Membership!

Full Voting Membership is open to all Indigenous Persons living with HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis C and all Indigenous-led organizations or communities with a significant focus on HIV and AIDS, HCV, STBBIs, TB, Mental Health, aging and related co-morbidity issues.

Membership with CAAN allows you to:

- Attend events, trainings, and gatherings put on by CAAN and it's projects;
- Stay informed with the work, events, resources and initiatives of CAAN throughout the year; and
- Access to support and information from our amazing CAAN team

Becoming a **Voting** member also allows you to:


- Attend the CAAN Annual Meeting;
- Nominate members, or stand for election, to the CAAN Board of Directors; and
- Propose resolutions and help direct and inform the work of CAAN

Head to www.caan.ca and visit our **Membership page**, or give us a call to have a membership form mailed to you!

Thank you Funders!

A special thank you to our funders, granters, partners and supporters. Without your selfless dedication to the work of CAAN, our programs, research and membership resources would not be possible.

Canada

 Indigenous Services Canada Services aux Autochtones Canada

 Women and Gender Equality Canada Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada

 MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK



Red Road HIV/AIDS Network Society



University of Victoria

 CATIE

 HIV LEGAL NETWORK RÉSEAU JURIDIQUE VIH

 IMPACT

 ViiV Healthcare



All Nations Hope Network



Universities Without Walls

The next generation of HIV researchers in Canada

 CHIWS
Etude sur la santé sexuelle et reproductive des femmes vivant avec le VIH au Canada
Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study



CanHepC
Canadian Network on Hepatitis C
Réseau Canadien sur l'Hépatite C

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health



CIHR IRSC



National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health



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

 AIRN

Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information



the CTN
CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network

le Réseau
Réseau canadien pour les essais VIH des IRSC



