

Journal of Indigenous HIV Research

Volume 11 – Summer 2021



Brief Overview of CAAN

CAAN, previously known as 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

CAAN provides a National forum for Aboriginal Peoples to wholistically 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 Aboriginal Peoples wherever they reside.

Acknowledgements

CAAN is grateful for the participation of Indigenous people living with HIV and AIDS and of the health care and support of professionals who shared their time and wisdom.

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Editorial Policies: Purpose and Audience

The JIHR is an annual on-line and paper journal published by CAAN as a service to its members and anyone with an interest in Indigenous Community-Based Research.

The JIHR is a peer-reviewed journal which welcomes contributions from any author. Priority however, may be given to an author of Indigenous 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 Community-Based Research (CBR) methods and/or philosophy.

Articles published in JIHR are directed toward several audiences. The primary audience is Indigenous HIV and AIDS service organizations and Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS (APHAs). The JIHR secondary audiences include community leaders, policy and decision-makers, and anyone with an interest in HIV and AIDS, particularly within Indigenous populations and communities.

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Volume 11 Introduction

Letter from the Editors

The AHA Centre and REACH's CBR Collaborative Centre have a decade-long and celebrated history of collaboration. We sit on each other's leadership committees and have co-facilitated and co-hosted many events over the years too. Still, we are always looking for ways to stretch the boundaries of partnership between the AHA Centre and the CBR Collaborative in support of our respective communities. And so, when we approached our colleagues at REACH to gauge whether they would consider co-editing a volume of the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR), they jumped at the idea. We knew that a collaboration between the two Centres would be an opportunity to create something special together, but we had no idea just how extraordinary our journey to publishing Volume 11 would be.

AHA and REACH staff chose the theme of allyship in January 2020, not knowing that it would be so timely and poignant. The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA on May 25th 2020, and the on-going discovery and proof of children's remains on former Indian Residential School grounds across the country in 2021—well known among Indigenous communities, reported in the [Royal Commission on Indigenous People](#) (1996) and in [the Truth and Reconciliation Report](#) (2015)—have given many of us cause to dig deep, challenging us to question mutually valuable and true allyship, reconciliation and the intricacies of working cross-culturally in good and meaningful ways.

We knew that the theme of allyship would hold special relevance for our colleagues as we look for ways to work together to create positive change where issues surrounding HIV, Hepatitis C and STBBI are concerned. We hoped that our call for papers would inspire submissions from *all* those doing Community Based Research (CBR)—our colleagues who generously share their lived experience and perspectives in efforts to make research accessible, relevant and useful to the people and communities we serve. We hoped to hear fresh perspectives from new researchers and have wise practices offered up from reciprocal learners who have been engaged in CBR work for a long time. We were excited to see capacity building in action!

Volume 11 has yielded the largest number of articles in the history of the JIHR (13) and, for the first time ever, we have received articles that span all submission categories too! We hope that in addition to the research-focused articles on offer in Volume 11, you take the time to read the rich stories, commentaries and student papers where authors share their thoughts on, and journeys of allyship that, in some cases, move beyond what we think of as reciprocal and equitable working relationships to enter realms of friendship and, in some cases, even take on family-like bonds.

The JIHR is a community-led (and community-inspired) journal and this year, our CBR community has truly stepped up to contribute. AHA and REACH staff, and JIHR authors, peer reviewers and translators have all worked tirelessly on getting Volume 11 out the door, despite the individual and collective challenges we've experienced trying to maintain a somewhat 'normal' level of operation while navigating a global pandemic. We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that publishing Volume 11 has taken much longer than we could have anticipated. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their determined efforts and incredible patience over the course of this past year and a half.

The AHA Centre extends a huge and heartfelt thank you to our colleagues at REACH/PAN for their drive, hard work and for the innovation they've inspired in the process of publishing JIHR Volume 11. Through this collaboration, we've expanded JIHR authorship and peer review, we've hosted webinars and workshops and even loosely developed a mentorship program for first-time peer reviewers.

May the knowledge and lessons learned shared by the authors of JIHR Volume 11 be useful in your own journey toward allyship and in working cross-culturally.

2021 JIHR Editorial Team is:

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