



# THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2019

Hello AHA Centre family and friends! It has been an incredibly busy summer for us and while our team is laser-focused on preparing for the Wise Practices and Skills Building Gathering at the end of August, we always look forward to sending an update on our comings and goings.

## Cliff Thomas – In loving memory



It is with very heavy hearts that we announce that our dear friend and Elder, Cliff Thomas passed on to the Spirit world on July 22, 2019. A memorial will be held at our Wise Practices gathering in Montreal at the end of the month.

In Cliff's own words, "we will miss your smiling voice ..."

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/kelly/obituaries/clifford-charles-thomas/37074>

## New Fact Sheets

Two new facts sheets have recently been developed by our team and we are very happy to share them with you!

### Joining a CBR Team:

This fact sheet will be helpful for people who are curious about what it's like to join a research team. In it, you will learn more about what may be expected of you and what you can expect from the research team, for example. We want everyone involved to get the most out of their involvement!

### Jargon Busting 101:

If you've ever heard people who do research talk, you have probably heard them use a lot of words that you may not understand! This fact sheet offers a list of acronyms and jargon

(special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand) and spells them out for you – kind of like we just did with the word jargon here!

These and more can be found on our website: [www.ahacentre.ca/fact-sheets--policies.html](http://www.ahacentre.ca/fact-sheets--policies.html)

## Recipients of the Community Engagement Fund

Congratulations to the successful applicants to this year's Community Engagement Fund competition!

### **CHIWOS-PAWS Closing Gathering and Stakeholder Consultation**

**Principle Applicant:** Angela Kaida, Simon Fraser University.

### **Niikaniganaw (All My Relations) II: Building Capacity for HIV-Stigma Free and Culturally-Safe Care for Indigenous People Living With or Affected by HIV in Ottawa-Gatineau.**

**Principle Applicant:** Dr. Tracey Prentice, University of Victoria for Somerset West Community Health Centre

Keep an eye out next spring for the 2020 call for proposals!

### **CBR Workshop**

The AHA Centre hosted a community-based research workshop in Vancouver on the evenings of July 16, 17 and 18 in partnership with the Dr. Peter Centre in Vancouver. We hosted a total of twelve delegates who were keen on learning about research and knowledge translation and also what can be expected of someone when they join a research team. We were very fortunate to have a lot of experience and expertise among the delegates that attended, which lent itself to rich discussion and learning opportunities for everyone, no matter whether they were new to research or seasoned researchers, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, HIV positive or an ally.

The AHA Centre hopes to be able to offer more of these workshops across the country. If you or your team are interested, please don't hesitate to contact us!

### **WoW Study Gathering**

The WoW Study is seeking Indigenous people living with HIV (IPHAs) to participate in a Gathering from September 30 - October 4 in Saskatoon, SK. The Gathering will help us understand how connecting to land-based teachings can be protective to health and wellness while living with HIV.

Travel, accommodation, foods, and activities will be provided through the project.

You are eligible if you are:

- Indigenous
- Living with HIV

- Living in **BC, AB, or SK**
- Interested in land/culture/HIV connections
- Interested to learn about community-based research
- Are over 18 years old (AB) or 19 years old (BC/SK)

For more information, please e-mail [andream@caan.ca](mailto:andream@caan.ca) or visit [www.weavingourwisdoms.com](http://www.weavingourwisdoms.com)

### **CIHR Info Session**

The CIHR is pleased to announce that they will be offering an interactive information sessions to students and institution staff about CIHR award programs, including relevant policies, tips for applicants and guidelines on how to submit an application

If you or your institution are interested in participating, please access their [website](#) to register for the session in the language of your choice.

## **Webinar on training awards in health research**

English – **September 9, 2019 @ 11 a.m., EST**  
French – **September 11, 2019 @ 11 a.m., EST**



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### **Good News to Share**

We are happy to announce that our incredibly hardworking and dedicated CRA, Renée Monchalin, has successfully defended her PhD. Congratulations Dr. Monchalin! We are so proud of your accomplishment.

## Suggested Reading

In tribute to our Elder Cliff Thomas, we would like to share an article that he was a co-author of and that demonstrates the importance of Elder involvement in CBR research.

### Research Done in “A Good Way”: The Importance of Indigenous Elder Involvement in HIV Community-Based Research

Sarah Flicker, Patricia O'Campo, Renée Monchalain, Jesse Thistle, Catherine Worthington, Renée Masching, Adrian Guta, Sherri Pooyak, Wanda Whitebird, and Cliff Thomas

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2014.302522>

#### Abstract

**Objectives:** We examined the role that Indigenous Elders can play in ensuring that community-based research (CBR) is conducted ethically.

**Methods:** We present data from a larger qualitative study exploring ethical issues that occur in HIV-related CBR through the experiences of researchers engaged in CBR. Between May 2010 and July 2011, we interviewed 51 academic and community research team leaders of federally funded HIV CBR studies. We used thematic analysis techniques to identify themes.

**Results:** Participating researchers engage Elders in research because Elders are keepers of Indigenous knowledge, dynamic ethical consultants, community protectors, and credible sources of information who are able to counsel and support, mediate conflict, provide local context and history, and conduct ceremonial roles. Potential challenges cited by participants to engaging Elders in research include finding the right “fit,” approaching Elders in a culturally appropriate way, and bureaucratic environments that do not honor Indigenous processes.

**Conclusions:** Culturally appropriate Elder engagement in HIV CBR with Indigenous communities is vital for promoting positive relationships and culturally safe research that respects ceremony and Indigenous ways of knowing.

## Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments:

<http://www.ahacentre.ca/contact-us.html>

