



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2018

AAAW 2018 – Ottawa, ON

The AHA Centre team had the opportunity to be in Ottawa this year to attend CAAN's launch of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week. It was an excellent event filled with powerful words shared by CAAN staff members, partners, and the Minister of Health, The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor. Throughout the day, we were entertained by incredible singers and dancers.

As members of CAAN's Research and Policy Unit (RPU), we were invited to give a 20-minute presentation on the activities of the RPU. This included the AHA Centre talking about building capacity with IPHAs as they learn more about the research process. Also highlighted was the history of research and how the AHA Centre can assist with this.



From left to right: Renée Masching, Doris Peltier, Andrea Mellor, Jasmine Cotnam, Sherri Pooyak

We were also given the opportunity to attend a Parliamentary breakfast co-hosted by CAAN,

Interagency Coalition on AIDS & Development (ICAD), Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada, Results Canada, HIV/AIDS and TB (HAT) Parliamentary Caucus, and Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS). The event was attended by International and Indigenous community leaders as well as Parliamentary representatives. The Minister of Indigenous Services, The Honourable Jane Philpott, was the keynote speaker. It was a memorable experience and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

For additional information on Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week, please visit: aboriginalaidsawareness.com

Partnership with CANFAR: Voices for World AIDS Day

This year the AHA Centre and CAAN partnered for the first time with the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR) on their national social media campaign: **Voices for World AIDS Day**. As a partner, we shared media posts via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that focused on a wide range of HIV and AIDS related topics such as U=U, testing, HIV statistics, testimonials, etc. The goal of the campaign was to "Use #Voices4HIV and #VoixSIDA to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, challenge stigma, advocate for accessible testing, treatment and care, and remember those we have lost to AIDS." It was a pleasure to partner with the Voices for World AIDS Day campaign and if you would like to learn more about it, please visit their website: voicesforworldaidsday.ca

Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR):

Volume 9 available online!

Officially published on our website on December 1st, we are very excited to promote this incredible body of work.

Articles published in Volume 9 demonstrate the strengths-based stance we have come to expect from our authors and from our community. We are excited to bring our readers two peer-reviewed articles that have been written in more of a narrative, storytelling form, two peer-reviewed articles that share information about two very important projects presented in a more traditionally academic writing style, as well as a commentary on the new term 'HIV Older' (not peer reviewed).

The articles can be downloaded from our site: ahacentre.ca/volume-9.html

Volume 10: Call for papers

We are now accepting submissions for volume 10. Articles will be accepted related to the following themes:

- **Aboriginal community-based HIV/AIDS research and development:** Either quantitative or qualitative research, community-based in design and process.
- **Dissemination of Results / Findings:** These articles focus on results or recent findings related to Aboriginal Community Based HIV/AIDS Research.
- **Commentary:** Opinion pieces which speak to trends in Aboriginal HIV/AIDS CBR, Knowledge Translation or other issues of importance to Aboriginal stakeholders.
- **Emerging Issues in Community-based HIV/AIDS Research in regard to Aboriginal people:** These articles focus on ground-breaking issues, findings and/or reports grounded in CBR and Aboriginal people.
- **Ethical CBR in the Aboriginal Community:** Articles will highlight ways of doing good, ethically sound HIV/AIDS research in the Aboriginal community.
- **International work that includes an Aboriginal Canadian component:** Articles written for an International audience about Indigenous peoples, HIV/AIDS and/or

related issues. Articles must include a Canadian component.

- **Stories:** Personal accounts of experiences related to HIV/AIDS or accounts of successful and innovative approaches that address HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal communities.
- **Student work:** Students can submit articles (term papers, thesis, etc) that focus on HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal communities.

Submission deadline: April 1, 2019

For more details, please visit: ahacentre.ca/about.html

STBBI Centre application

AHA Centre Co-Director (Renée) and Governing Council member (Randy Jackson) are partnering on an application that will look at developing Indigenous research methodologies and will support Indigenous researchers who are implementing an Indigenous methodology. If funded, this Centre will work closely with the AHA Centre.

SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are calling on the expertise of our AHA Centre team to help us develop and deliver a 2-day CBR Capacity-Building Workshop Stream at Wise Practices VII.

The AHA Centre and CAAN are applying to SSHRC for the Connection Grant Program for the first time! The goal of this application will be to secure funds that support a two-day Community-Based Research Capacity-Building Stream at Wise Practices VII (date and location TBD).

We have heard from many of our IPHAs (Indigenous People Living with HIV) that there needs to be more research capacity building opportunities and that we need to still offer, but move beyond, the "Research 101" workshops in an effort to provide support for IPHAs who are already engaged in research and who wish to go deeper and learn more.

We see this as an opportunity to engage the AHA Centre team by drawing on the incredible expertise and skill to put together an innovative capacity-building opportunity that fills a need for our community and the Wise Practices delegation. We envision a CBR Capacity Building Workshop Stream that offers 90-minute workshops that run in tandem with the overall Wise Practices sessions. Topics can range from 'CBR 101' to, 'Indigenous Knowledge Sharing' to 'Conducting Epidemiology with Indigenous Communities' and beyond!

If you are interested in being on this team, please email Marni (marnia@caan.ca) no later than January 12, 2019. We will set up a conference call in the new year and have a draft of the proposal to share/work from. **The application is due to SSHRC, Feb 1, 2019.**

Partnership on an Indigenous one-day workshop

The AHA Centre is partnering with CIHR, CAHR and REACH on an Indigenous one-day workshop that will be held at the annual CAHR Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This one-day event will be held as a means to support Saskatchewan's Indigenous communities in their involvement in research. To date, the workshop is currently in its planning stages, but it looks like it will be a great event.

WISE PRACTICES VII (2019)

Preparations have begun for Wise Practices VII. Dates and location have yet to be finalized so please stay tuned for the official announcement!

SUGGESTED READING

In an effort to promote our Indigenous colleagues who may or may not be directly engaged in HIV research, we want to share articles, videos and other relatable information to our research team.

Research team, if you have an article you would like us to promote, please send it to Jenn at jenniferm@caan.ca

We would like to highlight an article published in *Critical Social Work*, 2006 Vol. 7, No.1: *Allying With the Medicine Wheel: Social Work Practices with Aboriginal Peoples*
Author: **Laura Verniest**, B.A. Adv (Psychology), B.S.W., M.S.W.

Abstract:

This article uses a Medicine Wheel model, a structural social work framework and an anti-oppression stance, to practice culturally sensitive social work with Aboriginal peoples. The Medicine Wheel model is appropriate when working with many Aboriginal peoples because it considers spirituality important to healing. Using the Medicine Wheel guides the social worker to holistic, balanced practice. The recommendation of respectful social work practice tailored to the treatment of the client's belief systems encourages healthy identity development. The Medicine Wheel model is used as an analytic tool used to illustrate the client's states of being, location, and analyze various roles of, and form action plans for, social work practice.

The full article is available online:
www1.uwindsor.ca/criticalsocialwork/allying-with-the-medicine-wheel-social-work-practice-with-aboriginal-peoples

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CAAN'S offices will be closed from December 22 till January 6. Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!

CONTACT US

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

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