



# THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2019

Taking a moment to reflect on a year as it draws to a close can bring on all kinds of emotions. It was a big year for our team – monthly travel, presentations, collaborations, Wise Practices, lots of amazing work with IPHAS was accomplished through workshops and projects like the WoW Study too. Our community experienced great loss this year too, and so we encourage you to take a moment to remember all of those who have left us for the Spirit World.

Memory lane can be an emotional journey but it can also be an opportunity to recognize all that was achieved, the teamwork that makes the AHA Centre what it is, and the incredible individuals that inspire us and our work every day. We leave 2019 with gratitude and welcome 2020 with hope.

The AHA Centre wishes you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

## Plan of Action for 2020

AHA Centre staff will meet together in-person in the new year to put together a plan of action for 2020. The goal of this plan will be to prioritize the scheduling of our CIHR and SSHRC funded projects, to align schedules for workshops and collaboration commitments, and, most importantly, create a timeline for new projects. We have reached the halfway mark in our 5-year funding schedule and we are looking forward to changing gears and putting our big ideas into action. Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming projects!

## CAAN Names Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis as Chief Executive Officer

Effective December 1, 2019, Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis will step into the role of CEO of CAAN. The organization's Board of Directors and acting CEO Renée Masching are very pleased to make this announcement following a

nationally advertised search and competitive round of applications.

Margaret is of Cree ancestry from Treaty Four Territory on land now called Saskatchewan. She stands strong in her Indigeneity, gives gratitude to the Creator and her Ancestors and is celebrating 20+ years of responding to HIV, HCV and colonial impacts among Indigenous communities through culture, ceremony, humour, and Indigenous ways. Margaret has an impressive array of experience with a wide range of understanding and knowledge that will greatly benefit CAAN and its staff.

We are looking forward to the new knowledge and new skills that Ms. Kisikaw Piyesis will bring to the organization as we move forward.

## JiHR Volume 10

[www.ahacentre.ca/volume-10.html](http://www.ahacentre.ca/volume-10.html)

We are excited to present the tenth volume of the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR). Compiling this volume has given us cause to reflect on the journey that our publication—not to mention our research community—has been on since Volume I was published in 2006.

If there is a theme that runs through the offerings in Volume 10, it is that the tides in Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) research in Canada are changing. Each article, in its own way, speaks to this change. Whether the authors write in hopes of disrupting the tendency of working through a pan-Indigenous lens or challenge us to seek new and more culturally relevant ways to engage Indigenous Peoples and communities in research, the reality is, traditional qualitative and quantitative research methods are simply not enough anymore.

We are excited to share three excellent articles:  
**A Culturally Specific Approach: Developing A Métis Methodology for HIV Research**  
*Renée Monchalain and Carrie Bourassa*

**Graphic Facilitation as a Tool to Guide Community-Based Research on Indigenous Boys' and Men's Sexual Health**

*Nicole Doria, Maya Biderman, Dave Arthur Miller, Aaron Prosper, Matthew Numer*

**The WoW Gathering: A Land-Based Positive Action Initiative to Support Indigenous People Living with HIV**

*Andrea Mellor, Madison Wells, Sherri Pooyak, Valerie Nicolson, Chad Dickie, Sandy Lambert, Knighton Hillstrom, Renée Monchalain, Stephanie Nixon, Marni Amirault, Tracey Prentice, Renée Masching*

Thank you to all of the authors who chose to share their hard work with us.

We also would like to bring attention to the upcoming special edition of the JHR which will feature articles from the Two Shawls project, so stay tuned for that

Volume 10 is available on our website:  
[www.ahacentre.ca/volume-10.html](http://www.ahacentre.ca/volume-10.html)

**Toolbox of Research Principles in an Aboriginal Context: ethics, respect, fairness, reciprocity, collaboration and culture**

We are delighted to share this incredible resource produced by First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, Université du Québec en

Abitibi-Témiscamingue, and Université du Québec en Outaouais.

This toolkit provides sources for existing protocols and initiatives for every province and territory in Canada as well as the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Africa. Also included is over a dozen articles addressing issues of research ethics.

English version:  
<https://files.cssspnql.com/index.php/s/8aBAkl1pjHeOWd0>

French version:  
<https://files.cssspnql.com/index.php/s/fGuCd9fh79f4rsN>

**Good news to share**

We are happy to share that Michael Parsons, a member of the AHA Centre, GIPA Homefire and FEAST Centre research teams, recently had an article published in the *Nova Scotia Journal of Social and Environmental Justice*. The article titled *Circles* can be found online. Congratulations Michael!

[www.nspirg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Margins\\_2019\\_web.pdf](http://www.nspirg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Margins_2019_web.pdf)

**Dates and Deadlines to remember**

**CAHR 2020:**  
<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/>  
**Where:** Quebec City  
**When:** April 30 – May 3  
**CAHR Abstracts:** December 20, 2019  
<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/abstract-submission/>  
**CAHR Scholarships (Including Community Registration):** January 24, 2020  
<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/conference/scholarships-awards/>

**AIDS 2020:**  
<https://www.aids2020.org>  
**Where:** San Francisco & Oakland California, USA  
**When:** July 6. – 10, 2020  
**Abstract submission** on January 18, 2020  
**Scholarship submission** closes January 15, 2020:  
<https://www.aids2020.org/scholarships/>

## HIV 2020:

<https://www.hiv2020.org/registration>

**Where:** Mexico City, Mexico

**When:** July 5 – 7 2020

**Abstract Submission** closes January 31, 2020:

<https://www.hiv2020.org/program>

**Registration** closes June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020:

<https://www.hiv2020.org/registration>

**Scholarships:** we have requested information about scholarships, which we will share as soon as this information becomes available.

## Contact Us

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

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

