



# THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2020

To say that the days, weeks and months have been going by in a blur is an understatement. This could be considered a gift during a pandemic but we need and appreciate reminders to breathe and focus on the work we have done. An annual report that we recently submitted left us all feeling surprised and extremely proud of everything accomplished by the AHA Centre in the last fiscal year. It was encouraging to see that, despite all the hurdles of 2020, our work was still able to shine. We are ten months deep into this unforgettable year and although we still have to bob and weave, our purpose remains clear, and our mission and vision strong. We are looking forward to sharing our report in the coming months and, again, send well wishes of love and health to our AHA Centre family and friends.

## The Feast Centre Launch

The AHA Centre is proud to be a partner of [The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research](#). A virtual launch celebration for the centre took place on October 14<sup>th</sup> and it was an incredible event. Renowned artists and performers lent their time and talent to celebrate the beginning of the Feast Centre's journey. We are looking forward to sharing more details on our upcoming collaborations.

The launch can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube. It was a spectacular event!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny4gdITEd9U&feature=youtu.be>

## JIHR (Journal of Indigenous HIV Research)

As our personal and professional worlds continue to shift under the weight of the global pandemic, the mission and vision of the AHA Centre has been the beacon of light keeping us on course. It is with this and the communities that we serve in mind that we have come to the decision to postpone the publication of volume XI of the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR).

While we have had to navigate myriad circumstances brought on by COVID-19, we are committed to maintaining the high-level quality that the JIHR brings to our readership. In light of this, **we are planning for a soft launch of Volume XI as part of our contribution to Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (AAAW), December 01 - 07, 2020.** At this time, we will announce the names of the authors and article titles along with a sneak peek by way of abstracts that showcase the exceptional submissions that make up this special issue dedicated to allyship.

## CAAN Dialogue Sessions

Like all organizations, we are moving our annual general meeting (AGM) online this year. We have been thinking a lot about **the spirit of dialogue**, which is such an important part of CAAN's AGM gatherings. A virtual platform means that we can **join together** without leaving our home, but it also means that we aren't leaving our home to join together.

We are hosting dialogue sessions leading up to the AGM. Between **October 19 & November 13**, members have a chance to get together and discuss important issues in the lead up to the AGM. These sessions are a chance to **share your perspectives on priorities and develop resolutions**.

We are hosting dialogue sessions for:

- Indigenous People Living with HIV (IPHAs)
- Indigenous People Living with Hepatitis C
- Women
- Youth
- Individual (Associate) CAAN members
- Organization CAAN members

Please contact **Patrick Brownlee** for more information: [patrickb@caan.ca](mailto:patrickb@caan.ca)

### **CIHR Pre-Announcement**

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is pleased to pre-announce the launch of the **Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 Knowledge Synthesis, Evaluation and Assessment Grants Rapid Research Funding Opportunity**.

This funding opportunity will provide research funding for Indigenous communities (i.e., First Nations, Inuit, Métis and/or Urban Indigenous communities), Indigenous organizations and researchers of Indigenous ancestry (or researchers who provide evidence of having [meaningful and culturally safe involvement](#) with Indigenous Peoples) in Canada who are responding to the unique health and well-being needs of Indigenous Peoples as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, this opportunity will support strengths-based, solutions-focused research that is bold, innovative, Indigenous community-led, and that addresses the immediate, intermediate, and/or long-term consequences of COVID-19 and/or informs future preparedness.

For complete details, please visit: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52095.html>

### **Knowledge in Indigenous Networks**

Our Māori colleagues have put together a webinar series on: **WEBINAR 2020: ACCESSING DEEP INDIGENOUS KNOWING AMIDST COVID-19**

The purpose of this webinar speaker series is to facilitate online space to hear Indigenous speakers as a way to access the tools and mātauranga (Māori knowledge and ways of knowing) to strengthen our response and methods for connection during this particular time of uncertainty with emergence of the COVID-19 virus. It's an opportunity for us as an Indigenous global community to reflect on questions arising within our networks of family, community and colleagues.

<https://indigenouknowledge.net/webinar-2020/>

### **GIPA Homefire: Research Participants Wanted**

"Understanding IPHA Leadership towards a Wholistic Response to STBBIs"

This research study focuses on the strengths, benefits, and needs of Indigenous people living with HIV in leadership roles in community.

Participants will receive a \$50 honorarium for their participation.

[https://survey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cZaJgA0japce06N](https://survey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZaJgA0japce06N)

For more information, please contact the Research Coordinator, Michael Parsons, at [michaelp@caan.ca](mailto:michaelp@caan.ca)

### **HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund and Harm Reduction Fund Letter of Intent Review Committee**

This fall, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will launch concurrent open and competitive solicitations for time-limited project funding under the [HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund \(CAF\)](#) and the [Harm Reduction Fund \(HRF\)](#). To support the review of the funding applications, PHAC is seeking individuals who would like to participate as members of External Review Committees. The

external review process is an integral component of the solicitation process. It is a model that empowers community representatives, including people with lived and living experience and individuals from key populations, in selecting applications to recommend for funding.

PHAC is looking for people living with HIV, people with lived or living experience of hepatitis C, individuals from key populations, individuals who work in community-based organizations and researchers with a range of expertise in STBBI and harm reduction. We hope to recruit enough people to ensure the committees are diverse, inclusive and can help assess the extent to which funding applications support the objectives of the funding programs.

If you are interested in participating as a reviewer, please complete the attached application form by **October 26, 2020** and submit it to: [phac.cp-pc.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.cp-pc.aspc@canada.ca). PHAC will notify you with the results of the application process. Please note that all reviewers will be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest in advance of the review process.

### **Launch of The Turtle Island Journal of Indigenous Health. Vol 1, Issue 1.**

Published by the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health Research, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and University of Toronto.

Check out the amazing first issue:

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/tijih/issue/view/2264/374>

### **Global State of Harm Reduction 2020**

Join the online launch of the new report to see the latest tracking of harm reduction services worldwide and hear from health and human rights experts from around the world.

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 8am EST.**

Register here to join: <https://bit.ly/33V1iEM>

### **Métis Women, Two-Spirit People and COVID-19: A Kitchen Table Conversation**

This panel will be bringing together Métis Women and Two-Spirit front-line health service providers to have a discussion around Métis identity, health, COVID-19, and culturally-safe service access.

Event Registration:

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/648123456789>

Facebook Event Link: <https://fb.me/e/1elgrGHfi>

### **Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network Emergency Relief Bursary for COVID-19**

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network is aware that the current COVID-19 pandemic may be impacting our trainees and early career investigators in a variety of ways. This Emergency Relief Bursary is for trainees (this includes Undergraduates, Masters, PhD, and Post-Doc students), along with Early Career Investigators who have been impacted by the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Students who are already enrolled in a program or are accepted into a program for Winter 2021 are eligible to apply. Funding amounts between \$500-\$1,000 (amount awarded will depend on the number of applicants) are available for Indigenous trainees and early career investigators who express a need through the current pandemic. Priority will be given to individuals who are undertaking Indigenous health research that serves to benefit Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada. Limited funds are available.

#### Application Instructions

Please complete the application and submit via email to [info@atlantic-immn.ca](mailto:info@atlantic-immn.ca) by **November 16th, 2020** at 9pm ATL. If you are a graduate student, it is required for you to submit a signed statement or e-mail from your supervisor, which can be found at the bottom of this application form.

The application can be found on our Bulletin Board: [www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html](http://www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html)

## **Suggested Reading** **Fighting the COVID Infodemic**

*Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Adeeba  
Kamarulzaman*

Countering the COVID-19 infodemic requires not only facts, but also the coordinated and strategic advocacy for which those fighting HIV are renowned. Now more than ever, scientists need to counter lies and myths, and defend the integrity and independence of their enterprise.

To read the article:

<https://tinyurl.com/y696qjsa>

## **Contact Us**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments, or if you want to learn more about research:

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

