



Are you a leader? Can you help us?

Seeking Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS to attend an APHA Leadership Research Consultation

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is in the process of seeking Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS (APHAs) to actively participate in a one-day research planning meeting on March 23, 2013. **We especially encourage applications from: men who have sex with men, women, people who inject drugs, past prison inmates, heterosexual men, and trans people.**

The *Sharing the Lay of the Land: Developing an APHA Leadership Intervention Initiative* Project Research Team is hosting a one-day consultation on **Saturday, March 23, 2013** in Toronto, Ontario. The objectives of the consultation are:

- To review models of APHA engagement and leadership training;
- To explore intervention research methodologies;
- To identify an outline for an APHA Leadership community-based research proposal.

Who should apply?

- APHAs who have an understanding of HIV/AIDS and its impact on urban, rural and on-reserve and northern First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities;
- APHAs who have an interest in sharing their lived experience, knowledge and expertise at the local, regional and national level;
- APHAs who have a minimum of 5 years of experience in navigating holistic care services including counselling, HIV and AIDS health care, income support and housing, AIDS service organizations and traditional healing methods;
- APHAs who support and mentor other APHAs as well as people in risk, and who function as leaders at the local, regional and national levels;
- APHAs who are front-line workers in agencies that promote health and wellness, and/or Aboriginal AIDS service organizations or HIV/AIDS projects.

Roles and Responsibilities of Selected Applicants

- Review consultation documents and related materials prior to the meeting;
- Attend a one-day consultation and planning meeting in Toronto on March 23, 2013;
- Provide the Project Research Team with guidance and input on project activities and design.

A CAAN Program Consultant will facilitate and provide support for the planning meeting. All travel and related expenses will be covered by the project.

Why get involved?

CAAN is committed the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA)

PHAs have consistently advocated for their rights from the beginning of the worldwide HIV pandemic up to the present day. As a result, there are PHA identified principles, values, and policies which inform governments, health providers, judicial systems, researchers, employers, and the general public about how to insure they have access to appropriate health care, confidentiality, and human rights protection. One of the most important principles is that PHAs be involved at every level of policy, program, and research development process that directly affects their lives. These principles are generally known as:

- MIPA: Meaningful Involvement of People living with HIV and AIDS
- MEPA: Meaningful Engagement of People living with HIV and AIDS
- MIWA: Meaningful Involvement of Women living with HIV and AIDS

Through the collaborative efforts of APHAs, CAAN, and various Aboriginal AIDS service organizations, the following principles have also been established:

- MEAP: Meaningful Engagement of Aboriginal People, (CAAN, 2006)
- MEPAW: Meaningful Engagement of Positive Aboriginal Women (PAW), (EONS, 2010)

“The GIPA Principle aims to realize the rights and responsibilities of people living with HIV, including their right to self-determination and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives. In these efforts, GIPA also aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the AIDS response.” (UNAIDS, 2007, p.1)

If you are interested in being considered for this APHA Research Consultation:

Please complete the attached application form and email it to Albert McLeod at awmbizon@mymts.net or mail it to the address below **by Monday, February 25, 2013** with your name, contact information and a brief description of your community knowledge and/or personal experience. **All expressions of interest received will be held in the strictest confidence.**

The Research Team will inform selected applicants on Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact Albert McLeod by email at awmbizon@mymts.net or call 204-783-6424.

Attention: Albert McLeod, Project Coordinator

Sharing the Lay of the Land

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Background of the *Sharing the Lay of the Land* project

The Sharing the Lay of the Land project is a community based research project implemented by CAAN in collaboration with its APHA Caucus, which is composed entirely of APHAs. At CAAN's annual general meeting in 2007, the caucus passed a resolution that directed CAAN to develop an APHA Leadership Development Strategy. CAAN and its APHA Advisory Committee initiated the project to better understand how to maximize an APHA leadership process. It is hoped that the project will increase the APHA response to HIV/AIDS and identify ways to formalize APHA peer-to-peer mentorship in Canada.

The research arm of CAAN submitted a proposal to the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and received funding for a Catalyst Research Grant in 2011. This type of grant provides seed money, on a short-term basis, to support health research activities which represent a first step towards the pursuit of more comprehensive funding opportunities (e.g. operating grants, team grants). This phase of the project will end in June 2013.

Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of this phase of the SLL: DALII project is to undertake an intervention research initiative, which will achieve the following objectives:

1. Explore APHA peer leadership models that sustain engagement and result in high impact for the leaders, community members at large and CAAN as an organization;
2. Strategically identify the skills and resources required by APHAs to engage as leaders;
3. Develop a Leadership Intervention initiative centred on Aboriginal resilience and living a good life which mitigates exposure to HIV and contributes to maintaining health and well-being for those living with HIV and AIDS;
4. Evaluate the impact of the initiative among APHA leaders and the community to inform the development of future/ongoing APHA Leadership Interventions in response to HIV and AIDS within the Aboriginal community.

About the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is a not-for-profit coalition of individuals and organizations which provides leadership, support and advocacy for Aboriginal people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, regardless of where they reside. More information is available online at www.caan.ca