

# ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

December 1-6

CAAN

## National Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week 2014: Leaders gather in Regina to announce Indigenous HIV and AIDS Strategy

**Regina, SK (November 4, 2014)** – The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) and All Nations Hope Network (ANHN) will co-host the Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week Launch Event on December 1, 2014 in Regina, SK. National Aboriginal leadership will be present to support the launch and the release of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Strategy on HIV and AIDS. The Public Health Agency of Canada, through its Enhancement Program in Saskatchewan, will launch the projects selected to implement the strategy. In the following days, there will be workshops across the country (Montreal, Ottawa, New Credit First Nations, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver) to continue discussions on Aboriginal HIV and AIDS issues in Canada Dec 2 – 6, 2014.

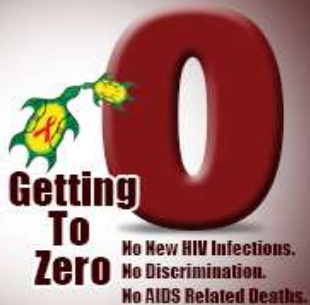
Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week 2014 reaches out to include Aboriginal People Living HIV and AIDS (APHAs), national Aboriginal organizations, government partners, health care providers, and community leaders to focus on how Aboriginal people can continue to work together to reach the UNAIDS 2010-2015 goal of: **Getting to Zero. Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths.**

While World's AIDS Day reminds us that progress has been made in finding solutions and moving towards zero, the improvements amongst Aboriginal communities lag far behind the rest of the population. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people continue to respond to HIV and AIDS with community-based initiatives, but are still experiencing epidemic proportions **3.5 times higher** than other Canadians. The HIV and AIDS rates among Saskatchewan Aboriginal people is among the highest in the world and, until this year, there has been no Indigenous strategy to address it.

"Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week will celebrate our successes so far and explore how we can get to zero by introducing culturally specific approaches that will address the legacy of residential schools, poverty and racism," stated CEO of CAAN, Ken Clement. "It is critical that Aboriginal people feel comfortable discussing the risks and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities take a non-judgmental approach to testing and cultural care, treatment and support."

The collaboration created between cultural, social, health, and political organizations during Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week reaches across all barriers to create a unified approach to solutions for Aboriginal HIV and AIDS in Canada. We invite you to join us





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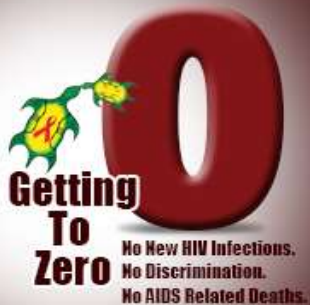
*December 1-6*

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## Objectives:

- Increase awareness among Aboriginal including First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership;
- Provide up to date relevant information to at-risk groups around HIV and AIDS;
- Influence and reduce risk behaviors so there are fewer Aboriginal people sero-converting; and
- Create more supportive environments as a result of the afore-mentioned objectives by reducing stigma, ignorance and discrimination.





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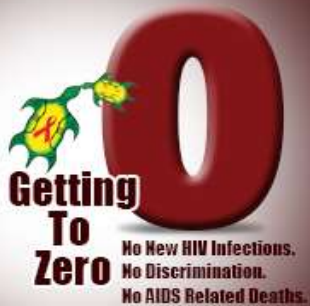
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## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND HIV?

- Aboriginal peoples – First Nations, Inuit and Métis- make up a unique segment of the concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada.
- Aboriginal people are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
  - At the end of 2011, it was estimated that Aboriginal people represented 8.9% of all those living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.
  - At the end of 2011, it was estimated that Aboriginal people represented 12.2% of all new cases of HIV/AIDS in Canada.
  - According to the 2011 census, Aboriginal people made up 4.3% of Canada's population.
- Aboriginal women are over-represented in cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection
  - From 1998-2012, Aboriginal women represented 47.4% of positive test reports among Aboriginal peoples.
  - Among non-Aboriginal populations, women represented 20.1% of positive test reports.





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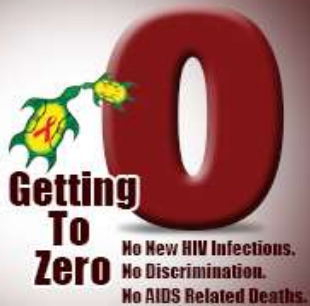
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**Getting To Zero**  
No New HIV Infections.  
No Discrimination.  
No AIDS Related Deaths.

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## ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

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*Traditional Knowledge Keepers  
and Doctors Creating Cultural Safety*



Elder Harry Francis

Dr. Stu Skinner

Aboriginal People are Accessing  
Traditional and Western Healing

**LIVE WHOLISTICALLY, HEALTHIER & LONGER**



For more information  
please visit:  
[www.caan.ca](http://www.caan.ca)

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*Honoring leadership and vision of Aboriginal Women.*



AWAIS: A Sacred Journey

Donna Lorat

*"I am walking for my sisters in a sacred manner."*

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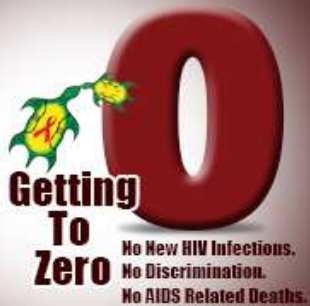


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*"HIV is not the problem. The what and how were easy to answer, but the why was more difficult. I had to look deep within to find the answer."*



Ron Horsefall

Two-Spirited People are living healthy balanced lifestyles.

**LIVE WHOLISTICALLY, HEALTHIER & LONGER**



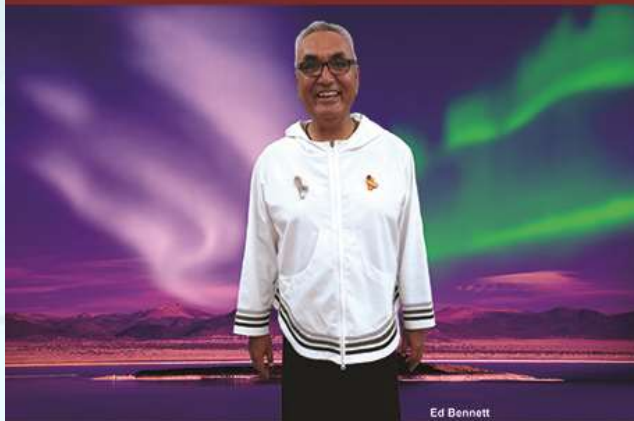
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*"Here's what I know - HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections do not discriminate."*



Ed Bennett

Respect and protect yourself. Know your status. Get tested!"

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*Stigma and discrimination ends with us!*



Aboriginal youth leadership for the next seven generations.

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*Aboriginal people in prisons are part of our families and communities.  
 End stigma and discrimination now!*



Access to culturally safe care, treatment and support is a human right!

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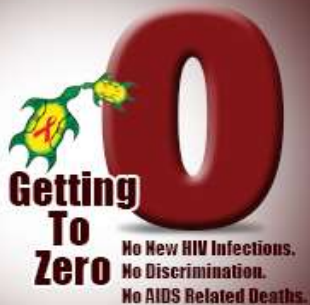


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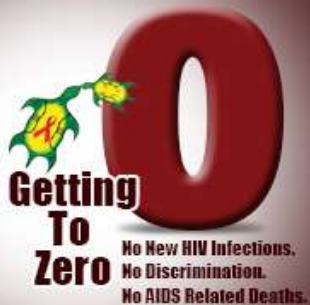
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## AAAW Schedule of Events

Day	Dec 1 Monday	Dec 2 Tuesday	Dec 3 Wednesday	Dec 4 Thursday	Dec 5 Friday	Dec 6 Saturday
Target Group(s)	<p>"Launch Day" CAAN &amp; ANHAN Regina, ON</p> <p>"First Nations Student Union" UBC Vancouver, BC</p>	<p>"Youth Event" New Credit First Nations &amp; "North Nunavit Regional Health and Social Services</p>	<p>Parliamentary Breakfast Ottawa, ON &amp; Ka Ni Kanichihk, CAAN, Two Spirited People of Winnipeg, MB</p>	<p>"Women &amp; Girls" Native Women's Shelter of Montreal</p>	<p>Men's Health CAAN &amp; Vancouver Native Health</p>	<p>International Indigenous Peoples Gathering</p>
Location	<p>Regina, SK</p> <p>Vancouver, BC</p>	<p>New Credit, ON</p> <p>Nunavit</p>	<p>Ottawa, ON &amp; Winnipeg, MB</p>	<p>Montreal, QC</p>	<p>Vancouver, BC</p>	<p>Toronto, ON</p>





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## About CAAN. [www.caan.ca](http://www.caan.ca)

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is a not-for-profit coalition of individuals and organizations which provides leadership, support and advocacy for Aboriginal individuals living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, regardless of where they reside. Their philosophy is that all Aboriginal Peoples deserve the right to protect themselves against infectious disease and thrives on providing the Aboriginal community with accurate and current information about HIV including risks of contracting the virus, issues of care and treatment, and support for families and those living with the disease.

For more information about AAWW please visit  
<http://aboriginalaidsawareness.com>

