

Moving Mountains: Addressing HIV/AIDS in Northern BC through Community Based Research

Authors: Tiegán Daniels, MPH candidate, UBC; Jamie Reschny, PhD candidate, UNBC; Andrea Langlois, Director of CBR, PAN; Janice Duddy, Manager of Evaluation, PAN

The Purpose

Strengthen the regional response to HIV/AIDS through collaborative efforts

The Aim

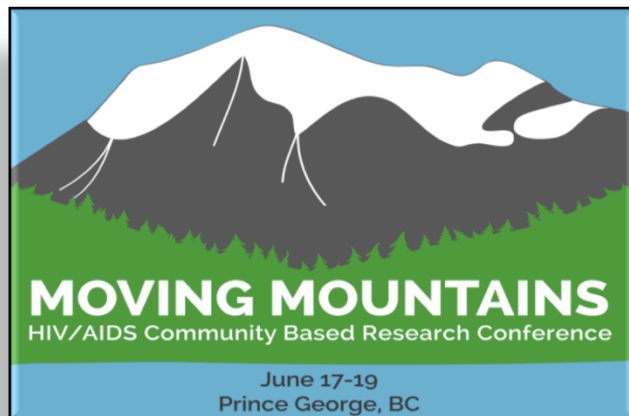
A long-term process to support the development of intersectoral, cross-disciplinary community-driven HIV/AIDS research in communities throughout Northern BC

Background

From 1995 to 2012 there have been 318 cases of HIV reported in the Northern Health Authority

Worrying trends exist among populations at greater risk for HIV/AIDS, most prominently including Aboriginal peoples, people who use illicit drugs, and sex workers. These groups are party to unique regional barriers that we find in Northern Communities including mobility between home communities and larger urban centres

Challenges associated with healthcare intervention delivery within such an expansive and diverse geographic area are multiple



Advisory Committee (AC)

An AC was formed, consisting of members from national, provincial and regional groups; Northern BC non-profit organizations; municipal government; academics, including trainees; health professionals; peer researchers; people with lived experience and interested community members

The Event

The goals of this meeting were to share key findings from community-based research (CBR) happening in the region, provide capacity building opportunities around CBR, and to set some regional research priorities.

Day 1 - Opening – PG Native Friendship Centre

Day 2 - Setting the stage: exploring current research

Day 3 - Priority Mapping: hands on workshop

Regionally Responsive Research Priorities

1. The impact of natural resource-development industries, worker migration and economic boom in the region on the HIV/AIDS epidemic
2. Stigma and discrimination
3. Improved HIV prevention, treatment and care



Continuing the Journey

Research Working Group

The purpose of the RWG is to further develop a research project(s) based on one or more of the identified research priority themes identified at the Moving Mountains conference. They have prioritized their work and are beginning with a scoping review.

Phase 1: Scoping Review

Guiding Question: “How are marginalized populations of sex workers and those who use illicit drugs accessing health services, such as HIV and STI services, in rural and remote regions engaged primarily in natural resource development activities?” Sub-questions may include:

- (1) How do those who use illicit drugs and sex workers define, experience, mobilize, or take care of their own health?
- (2) How are health services reaching and engaging with these populations?

To Learn More

<http://pacificaidnetwork.org/programs-projects/community-based-research/cbr-pan/moving-mountains/>

