**COAST Community Advisory Board**

**Key Questions and Answers for members**

**What is the COAST Community Advisory Board (CAB)?**

* The COAST CAB will bring together a group of people who are living with, and at risk of, HIV to give feedback on the COAST study.
* CAB members will be asked to provide their input about issues that are important in their own lives, and in their communities.
* The COAST CAB is being set up to **help shape the research studies that are based on COAST data.** This may mean providing ideas for what issues are thought to be important to communities to study using COAST data, or providing input on studies that are already set up.
* The CAB’s feedback is important for making sure that the needs of the community are understood. **It is important that community members’ most important issues drive what is studied, and how it is studied.**

**Who will be involved in the COAST CAB?**

* The CAB will bring together 5-10 folks from various backgrounds.
* The CAB will aim to have representation from people who self-identify as:
  + Indigenous people,
  + Transgender people,
  + Women,
  + People who use drugs (currently or previously)
  + Folks who have had poor experiences in healthcare settings or have avoided healthcare at times.

**What will the COAST CAB do?**

The CAB will share their experiences and opinions with the research team on many topics, including:

* What **health and social issues do we need to learn more about**? (e.g., side effects of HIV medications).
* What are the **needs of their communities**? (e.g., services for people who use drugs)
* **Who is missing** – are there people or communities who are not being considered in the research?
* What are the **greatest strengths** of the community?
* What are the **biggest challenges** concerning CAB members and their communities?

**Answering questions like these will help to make COAST study more relevant to the community.**

**What will be expected of members of the COAST CAB?**

* Members will be asked to attend and actively participate in meetings that occur four times per year, lasting about 1.5-2 hours.
* Members might be asked to **review materials** and offer their feedback. For example: posters to help recruit clients to participate in a research project.
* CAB members will be asked to participate for **one year**. Membership can be renewed after one year.
* Members are free to end their commitment at any time.
* A “community agreement” will be established by the CAB to make sure CAB members feel safe and **supported to share their honest opinion** about the study. Members can be assured that their **healthcare will not be impacted.**
* The time commitment for CAB members will range from 12-20 hours per year, depending on how much work there is to do.
* An honorarium of **$30/hour** of time spent will be offered to CAB members. Members who need childcare or pay for transport to attend meetings will be reimbursed for those costs.

**Where can I receive more information about the COAST study, and the COAST CAB?**

We are thankful you are interested in the COAST study and the CAB.

If you wish to have more information on COAST, or have ideas for how to make the study better, please contact:

Navneet Gill (ngill@bccfe.ca), Surita Parashar (sparashar@bccfe.ca), Katherine Kooij (kkooij@bccfe.ca) and Kathleen Inglis (klinglis@bccfe.ca)