

Positive Journeys

All Nations Hope AIDS Network

Special Interest Articles:

- 200 new cases of HIV in 2009, 79% are of Aboriginal origin.
- September 25, come out and support the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life!
- Deadline for Common Experience Payment: September 19, 2011

Individual Highlights:

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Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 2735 5th Ave.

Registration begins at 12:30 pm and the Walk will start at 1:00 pm.

Come out and join us, your efforts will help increase awareness about HIV/AIDS and raise money to provide essential services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in your community. All

monies raised will be kept in the community at your local AIDS Service Organizations.

Start a competition with your co-workers, your family members or other organizations. Just begin by registering and your team online. There will be prizes for the top walker and the top team, so those that collect the most pledges will win the prizes.

Did you know that you can now register, pledge or



donate online by clicking on this link: [Register, pledge or donate.](#)

This year All Nations Hope AIDS Network is partnering with AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan, please come out and support us.



HIV amongst Aboriginal people Saskatchewan

The number of new HIV cases in Saskatchewan has steadily increased from 26 new cases in 2002 to 200 new cases in 2009.

In 2008, there were 174 new cases of HIV reported in Saskatchewan, 94 males and 80 females.

Throughout 2009, the number of new male cases (111) continued to increase compared to the number of new female cases (89). 78 of the 111 male cases were Aboriginal males. 79 of 89

female cases were Aboriginal females. 79% (157 out of 200) of new cases of HIV in 2009 are people of Aboriginal origin.

Injection drug use (IDU) remains one of the major risk exposures reported by HIV infected cases in Saskatchewan. In 2009, 154 of the 200 reported cases of HIV self-reported injection drug use and 130 of those 154 self identified as Aboriginal.

These statistics are staggering as we continue

to see a rise in HIV among Aboriginal people. When these reports talk about "clusters" of new cases, they are talking about families that are sharing their needles.

This information was taken from the HIV and AIDS in Saskatchewan 2009 Annual Report that was released on November 30, 2010 done by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.

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Neckbone Festival – August 25, 2011



The day started off the way it usually does when All Nations Hope AIDS Network plays host to the community. This day was no exception. Today would be the day of our Neckbone Festival. All of our staff must have been dreaming about 'neck bones' and the many recipes that come with making them, making them as tasty as they could possibly be! We began by setting up the main area, under our carport, where we would feed the many that would come to taste our legendary neckbones which have come to be known ever since our first Neckbone Festival! The local dignitaries and the media were invited to attend, and they did; everyone from CBC news, Global News to CTV News. Our festival began with our gracious MC, Mr. Ken Ward, introducing our CEO, Mrs. Margaret Poitras. She opened up the festival with many kind words of appreciation and with many thanks to the

people of the community for coming out. She had asked our Elder in attendance, Mr. Gordon Keewatin, to say a prayer before we began our festival. Our Elder spoke of this much needed celebration as time is nearing for the **deadline for the Common Experience Payment**. And this was why we had this celebration, to let the people know that time is running out for those that yet have to apply. She introduced the Resolution Health Support Workers, explaining why this event was being put on. Our reason was to let the community know that we are still here for people, for the people that still need to fill out forms for The Residential School experience. The community was fed the most delicious neck bones that anyone could possibly come up with. We had them served over hot steaming sauerkraut, sweet and sour, broiled to a crisp, boiled till the meat fell off the neckbones, any

way that they were made they were easily devoured. We also had coffee and juice for the people, it was a rather hot day out, and luckily we were all under the carport. Everyone in attendance received a door ticket, from which we drew tickets for free door prizes. All who won were asked their name and they were also asked to perform the 'Neckbone dance', which I'm sure, stunned the winners but had them dance anyway! All who attended enjoyed their feast on our tasty neck bones and I'm sure that they will be counting the days before our next annual Neck bone Festival. All Nations Hope AIDS Network wants to take this time to thank the community and to also ask those that still need to fill out applications from their Indian Residential School experiences: Please do so!

"Our Elder spoke of this much needed celebration as time is nearing for the deadline for the Common Experience Payment."

More Images from the Neckbone Festival





*"Welcome to our territory,
any negative feelings or
energy leave behind you
and come and feel what
we have to offer."*

Land of the Cedar: Two Spirits, One Circle

The 23rd Annual Two-Spirit Gathering – July 27-30, 2011 – Gambier Island, BC

All Nations Hope AIDS Network gave me the honor of taking part in this glorious and much needed gathering of men and women who identify themselves to be Two-Spirit. I had the privilege of representing Regina at the 23rd Two-Spirit Gathering.

Healing Our Spirits (HOS) APHA Advisory Committee and Four Feathers Society had welcomed all the Two-Spirits from the 4 corners of Turtle Island. It is a calling that all Two-Spirits look forward to yearly since the inception of the first gathering back in 1988.

First and foremost I want to give my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to their coordinator of this Gathering, Winston Thompson. If it were not for Winston, this Gathering may not have come to a realization. He had found the most beautiful yet delicate and sacred grounds to host this Gathering. Upon arriving at Vancouver's International Airport, I was sort of lost and out of place, I had no idea how my hosts looked. I ventured further and suddenly I recognized other Two-Spirits that I had met at other gatherings, my mind settled and I knew I was here.

We then all headed to our waiting shuttle that would take us to Horseshoe Bay, from there on to a ferry for a 20 minute ride to our destination which was Gambier Island. And let me tell you, this place was a wonder in itself. The beauty was indescribable it was like I was walking to heaven. The greenery and lush bush captivated me instantly it made me feel like I was in a fairy tale (no pun intended!) or on Fantasy Island minus Tattoo. There, we were greeted by the territory Elders, with them stating: 'Welcome to our territory, any negative feelings or energy leave behind you and come and feel what we have to offer'. That welcome itself had all of the participants feeling like they had made it home, in my mind, I most certainly felt that way!

At our camp we were given a tour and a brief history of Gambier Island. We shown and told everything that we needed to know from protocol to our lodging along with their very limited set rules. It was such an experience in getting to know new people and to say hello to old acquaintances. We started by doing ceremony for the Sacred Fire, everyone attended and the Gathering was under way.

The ceremonies that were presented at the Gathering were offered to individuals who wanted this more than anything else, this is the healing and ceremonies that many had come for, they seemed to have been prepared because there is certain protocol to attend certain ceremonies. Each participant had their own story and reason for their attendance at this gathering. All wanted to be the best that they could; health wise, most wanted emotional healing, and they also wanted their spirituality enhanced. We had elders and medicine carriers there to do their needs. The 4 days of ceremony went by as fast as the rising sun, all felt renewed and blessed for having made the gathering. This Gathering generated a new appreciation for healing, love, caring and sharing. Once again, my many, many thanks to All Nations Hope for believing in me and for giving me that chance again to heal and to feel love.

Wesley Keewatin



Saskatchewan's Leading Recycling Experts



**Crown Shred
& Recycling Inc.**

We are an independent company owned and operated by Jack Shaw, mandated to collect, process and market recyclable material generated by municipal recycling programs, commercial businesses, industrial institutions and individual residents.

We have two plants located in Saskatchewan, one is in Prince Albert and our main plant is located at 225 – 6th Avenue East in Regina. As well, we have a manufacturing plant located at 485 – 6th Avenue East in Regina which produces plastic planks and posts manufactured from household plastic for the retail market.

Question:
How can Crown Shred & Recycling Inc. help First Nations People deal with the growing issue of

recyclable material on Reserves?

Option #1
First of all, I would encourage everyone to visit our website at www.crownshredandrecycling.com

Second, I would encourage everyone to assess what items can be recycled in their homes following the guidelines set out on our website under Residential Services.

Third, I would suggest that each Reserve set up a delivery system for the recyclable material. As mentioned earlier, these commodities would be accepted at our Drop-Off Centers in Prince Albert and Regina. We would require these items to be sorted by

commodity and bagged separately.

We do have a minimal drop-off fee for certain commodities at our plants. A phone call advising us of a delivery would be appreciated.

Our hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday except for statutory holidays.

Option #2
Let's discuss the option of recycling bins being placed on the reserve for residents to use as a drop-off.

Please do not hesitate to call me a 306 543 1395 for further information.

Elmer A. Epp
Residential Sales Manager



Waste is a terrible thing to mind – Recycle!

Save the Date....December 1st & 2nd, 2011 - Saskatchewan HIV Conference

Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre
1818 Victoria Ave.
Regina, SK

Traditional Healers have a crucial role to play in the health of Aboriginal people by strengthening and supporting the people that are living with HIV/AIDS. The tradition/culture and ceremonies deal with the mental, emotional and spiritual, while Western medicine will deal with the physical through the principles of science, technology and knowledge. A combination of the two different methods can provide balance and alternative ways to begin a healing journey.

Who Should Attend?

Frontline workers, professionals, students, youth, healers, therapists, people living with HIV/AIDS, addictions counsellors, Chiefs/council members, physicians, and any community member that would like to make a difference.

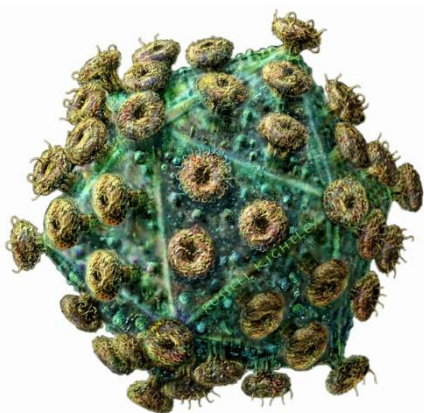
For more information contact:

All Nations Hope AIDS Network
Phone: (306) 924-8424 Toll free: 1-877-210-7622

****Scholarships will be available for APHAs and people at risk that are living in Saskatchewan. ****



"Watch for conference updates on our website www.allnationshope.ca"



Can a vaccine be developed for the HIV epidemic in Saskatchewan?

HIV infects cells by using its surface protein (Env) to bind to, and enter, human cells; thus giving access to the human genome, where it integrated within it; this results in a 'latently infected' cell. Latently infected cells are difficult for the immune system to recognize and it is currently impossible to "cure" cells from latent infection. Thus, it is believed that a vaccine that prevents HIV infection is required to stop the epidemic worldwide. It is agreed that to be effective a vaccine must induce antibodies that block the virus's ability to infect cells, by binding to Env. A significant barrier to producing such a vaccine is the high variability of the viral Env among HIV+ people. In most parts of the world, one would need to make a vaccine that includes hundreds, if not thousands, of different HIV Env variants to vaccinate against all possible HIV infections. Yet, it has been found that the variation among viruses in the Saskatchewan (SK) HIV epidemic is far more restricted, giving rise to the question: Can an effective vaccine be produced for the viruses circulating in the SK epidemic?"

The goal of the project we will be presenting is to determine whether the variability of Env in the HIV+ Saskatchewan (SK) population is restricted enough for antibodies from people whose viruses are closely related to cross neutralize each other's virus. If that were the case, it would suggest that a strain-specific vaccine might provide protection from infection. Such a finding would justify the development of an Env specific vaccine lead that could undergo normal testing and trials prior to any attempt at human clinical trials. Similarly variation of the Gag protein of HIV, is also restricted; this indicates that this protein could also be used to induce cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) that recognized and kill infected cells that have begun to produce virus (i.e., the infection is no longer latent in those cells). This would allow both arms of the immune response, antibodies and CTLs, to participate in protective immune responses, and thus to increase the efficacy of a vaccine.

Since May 2011, the project has gathered a bit of momentum as presentations have been made to research and policy staff at the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) and subsequently to the Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHA) Caucus at the CAAN annual general meeting (AGM) in Quebec City, QC. The outcome of those presentations was a passed resolution that CAAN and their APHA caucus would unanimously support the project.

At this point, the project team would like to make a similar presentation to a broad group of local (SK) stakeholders such as health authorities, prospective partner clinics and institutions, and community and Aboriginal groups. The objective is to solicit input and endorsement for an agreed path forward on the project.

While the project currently lacks funding, a funding application is under review at the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR), and should be soon decided. Moreover, other funding avenues may surface, particularly if the project has community and Aboriginal support.

Jamie K. Scott, MD, PhD

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the CTN
CIHR Canadian
HIV Trials Network

le Réseau
Réseau canadien
pour les essais VIH des IRSC

Lateral Violence in our Communities

Lateral Violence is:

- ☞ Behavior that includes gossip, blaming, shaming, putting others down, family feuds.
- ☞ When oppressed people act out rage, anger and frustration.
- ☞ When violence is directed at one's own people.
- ☞ When oppressed groups turn on each other.
- ☞ Outward jealousy and envy of others

Lateral violence describes the organized, harmful behaviors that we do to each other collectively as part of an oppressed group; within our families, within our organizations and within our

communities.

As I watch the evening news, I continue to see Aboriginal organizations and leaders going down. (FSIN, FNU and now SIGA is under the microscope) These stories present a fine example of the oppressed becoming the oppressors of themselves and each other.

"Be proud of who you are and where you come from!" How can we be proud of who we are when our leaders continue this "internalized colonialism"? Wasn't colonization enough?

This type of behavior prevents positive change amongst the Aboriginal people. Our leaders need to

lead by example. This type of behavior is no better than the gang activity that goes on in our communities. Same crap, different level!

It is time for the leaders of the Aboriginal people to wake up!! Our children are involved in drugs, gangs and prostitution. Our people are suffering from diseases, poverty, addictions, and homelessness, (just to name a few) and none of that will change until our leaders "dummy up!"

Lana Holinaty

Maybe my mom should be Chief!



ANHAN Wins Again!!!

Another chili cook off at Indian Métis Christian Fellowship Centre (IMCF) took place on Sept. 14, 2011. This time it was a vegetarian chili cook off but ANHAN was up to the challenge. The competition was fierce. The opponents: Four Directions, Circle Project, Catholic Family Services, SWAP and Albert Library.

Missing competitors: Regina City Police, but we let them know it was criminal and someone should be arrested. Their excuse was that the police force likes meat! So we shall meet up with them again in February.

Thank you goes out to our culinary expert Mr. Charles RunningELK, our server Wesley Keewatin and our judge Debra Agecutay.

Elphinstone-Centre MLA Warren McCall was once again in attendance and participated by being one of the judges.

Charles spent all morning in the kitchens of ANHAN coming up with an award winning recipe after stating that he had never cooked a vegetarian chili before.

Missing a few key ingredients, Charles had to come up with his own broth from scratch, a pinch of this and a teaspoon of that, a kiss and a prayer, and voila.... Charles came up with the perfect pot of vegetarian chili.

The community came out on a beautiful fall day to support IMCF in their fundraising efforts and of course to feast on the chili.

A drum roll please.....once again 1st and 2nd place is

between Four Directions and ANHAN.....and the winner is.....ANHAN!!!!!!

All in all, it was a great lunch. Thank you to IMCF for this event, it provides some fun competition for the community organizations, an opportunity for fellowship and a little networking.



Left to right: Elphinstone-Centre MLA Warren McCall, Wesley Keewatin, Charles RunningELK, Debra Agecutay, Bert Adema

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.allnationshope.ca

Welcome New Board Members

The ANHAN Annual General Meeting was held on July 21, 2011.

All Nations Hope AIDS Network is pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors:

- Albert Robillard
- Greg Riehl
- Charles Pratt

All three have experience in the non-profit field and bring new and invaluable expertise to All Nations Hope AIDS Network.


This coming year brings new opportunities to build upon the mandate of the Network.


With the new Board in place, the staff at ANHAN

looks forward to achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan of the Network.

Welcome back for another term: Diane Kaiswatum, Jacqueline Anaquod, Amy Gordon, Krista Shore, Iris Acoose and Angie Brabant.

Important Upcoming Dates

 September 25, 2011 – Scotia bank AIDS Walk – Don't Just Stand There - [Register, pledge or donate](#) online today!

 December 1 & 2, 2011 – SK HIV Conference – Stay tuned for updates on our website and register early to get your seat at this annual event.

About All Nations Hope AIDS Network...

MANDATE:

Being a network of Aboriginal people, organizations and agencies, we respectfully strive to provide support and services to our First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities who are experiencing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.



ANHAN Team

Staff

Margaret Poitras
Chief Executive Officer
Leona Quewezance
Program Director
Lana Holinaty
Director of Operations
Wesley Keewatin
Community Outreach Worker

Resolution Health Support Workers

Gordon Keewatin
Cultural Support
Viola Gordon
Cultural Support
Selina Brittain
Resolution Health Support Worker
Derrick Sasakamoose
Resolution Health Support Worker

Board of Directors

Diane Kaiswatum
Krista Shore
Iris Acoose
Jacqueline Anaquod
Albert Robillard
Greg Riehl
Charles Pratt
Angie Brabant
Amy Gordon

