

POSITIVE JOURNEYS

Volume 15 Issue 2

March - April/2010

Save the Date! November 3rd & 4th, 2010

"The Journey of an Honorable Warrior"



**Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, SK**

This year's conference will focus on men. Men need to be fully committed in the fight against the epidemics that are affecting our communities at alarming numbers, and this calls for our men to be warriors in this battle. Men can be influential by making sure that HIV is not brought into the family, caring for those in the family that are infected, talking to their partners and educating their children.

The conference will encourage men to seek health care and to take better care of their health. Men, especially young men, need to be encouraged to adopt positive behaviors and to play a greater role in caring for their partners and families.

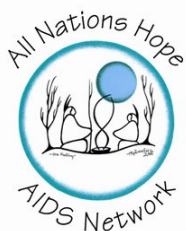
Who should attend?

Frontline workers, professionals, students, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, and/or hepatitis C, addictions counselors, Chiefs/Council members, physicians and any community member who wants to make a difference.

Features:

- ∞ Traditional teaching & ceremonies
- ∞ Displays with current resources
- ∞ Grand Entry
- ∞ Honor songs for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or HCV

All Nations Hope AIDS Network is in the early planning stages for this conference, please visit the website for updates as they become available.



For more information contact:

All Nations Hope AIDS Network
2735 5th Ave. Regina, SK S4T 0L2
Ph: (306) 924-8424
Toll Free: 1-877-210-7622
Fax: (306) 525-3698
Email: allnationshope@sasktel.net
Website: www.allnationshope.ca

For more information on how your organization or business can become a sponsor of this annual national event, please contact us at the office.

Our sponsors:



Agence de santé
publique du Canada

Public Health
Agency of Canada

SASKATOON INN

HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE



Health Canada
Santé Canada

Upcoming Events

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**Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network
12th Annual General Meeting
Edmonton Marriot River Cree Resort
June 14-18, 2010**

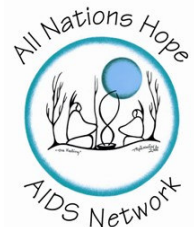
Deadline for Scholarship applications: April 30, 2010
www.caan.ca

**19th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research
May 13-16, 2010
TCU Place - Saskatoon, SK**
www.cahr2010.ca

**Canadian HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Exchange
Western Educational Conference
May 12-13, 2010
Saskatoon, SK**
www.catie.ca

**Your ANHAN Membership
expired on March 31, 2010**

**For more information about how to renew
your membership or how you can become a member of the
network...see page 7**



Saturday, September 11, 2010

AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan and All Nations Hope AIDS Network will be partnering on this annual fundraising event. The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is a national event raising funds in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Canada. During the week of September 11-19, over 130 communities will unite to support their local AIDS Service Organizations

We are currently in the early planning stages for the walk, but we are excited about the online program we will be using this year to collect donations and pledges. Stay tuned to our websites for more information.

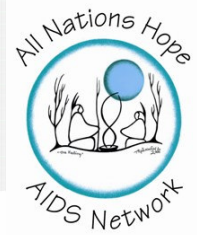
For more information:

Laurie Sampson
lauriesampson@sasktel.net

Leona Quewezance
lquewezance@sasktel.net



Aboriginal Teachings & Life Skills Sessions



Spring Session
May 3 – June 25, 2010

**All Nations Hope AIDS
Network**

2735 5th Ave.

Regina, SK S4T 0L2

Phone: (306) 924-8424

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Fax: (306) 525-3698

Email:

allnationshope@sasktel.net

Website: www.allnationshope.ca

Summer Season
July 12th – Sept. 3, 2010



Monday – Thursday
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Fall Season
Sept. 20 – Nov. 12, 2010



Monday – Thursday
1:00m – 4:00 pm

Winter Season
Nov. 29, 2010- Jan. 21, 2011

To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under the sun.
A time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is
planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal ...
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance ...
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from
embracing;
a time to lose and a time to seek;
a time to rend and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Monday – Thursday
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Corrections Canada data contradicts HIV study

By Rob Tripp, QMI Agency - April 25, 2010



Kingston, ON - Corrections Canada has disclosed more data about the prevalence of HIV among inmates that fuels uncertainty about a new study.

Last week Corrections Canada released the results of a survey conducted in 2007 that concluded that 4.6% of federal inmates have the virus that causes AIDS, a figure that is more than 20 times greater than in the general population.

On Friday, Corrections provided at QMI Agency seven years of internal data showing the HIV rate hovered between 1.4% and 2%. Those figures, based on voluntary blood testing, cover the period from 2001 through 2007.

The blood testing data for 2007 pegs the HIV infection rate at 1.8%, a level that is two and a half times lower than the figure contained in the newly released report, which also covers 2007.

The new study relied on anonymous questionnaires administered to inmates.

Corrections can't explain the discrepancy, except to say that the results were obtained by different methods.

Christelle Chartrand, speaking for Corrections in Ottawa, said the blood testing findings are considered more reliable.

"I don't think we're suggesting that the (new) number is not correct but we are acknowledging that the numbers are different," she said.

Corrections won't reconsider its firm stand against a program that would provide clean needles to intravenous-drug using inmates. Sharing dirty needles fuels the spread of infectious diseases.

It is estimated that one needle is typically shared in a Canadian prison by 20-30 inmates.

"CSC is not looking at implementing a needle exchange program," Chartrand said. "The Government of Canada has a zero tolerance policy on drugs and in August 2008, the minister of public safety announced over \$120 million over the next five years for an anti-drug strategy.

"We strongly believe that this will have an effect on the numbers of drugs that are inside our institutions." She said the new data will guide decisions about improvements to inmate health care.

"We are enhancing existing programs since we have the results of the survey," she said. "We already had programs and I think we're always looking at ways to improve our current programs."

CSC blood testing results show that the rate of HIV infection was the highest in the seven-year period in 2002 when it was 2%, representing roughly 250 prisoners. During this period, the rate was the lowest in 2004, when it was 1.4%.

The new study also sampled risk behaviors. It found that 39% of male prisoners reported using illicit drugs in the past six months and 17% reported injecting drugs. More than half of the men who report injection use shared needles. Opiates and cocaine are the most frequently injected drugs.

Experts have warned that Canada's prisons are sitting on a looming public health crisis, since most inmates are eventually released. Most go on to continue risky behaviors and spread their infections.

The latest study found that inmates reported significantly higher level of risky sex and drug use in the community.

HIV, Hep C a crisis in federal prisons, advocates warn

By Bryne Weese, Parliamentary Bureau - April 21, 2010

OTTAWA - Federal prisons are rife with HIV and Hepatitis C, and advocates are calling on the government to intervene.

A new study by the Correction Service of Canada has found that the rate of HIV, at 4.6% of the inmate population is 15 times greater than the rate in the community as a whole and rivals some sub-Saharan African countries.

The rate of Hep C, at 31% is 39 times the rate outside prisons, and women - in particular Aboriginal women of whom 11.7% are infected with HIV - are disproportionately affected with both HIV and Hep C.

According to Sandra Ka Hon Chu with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, half the prisoners surveyed who reported injecting drugs said they shared used needles or syringes to inject drugs, and about one third of injection drug users in prisons reported sharing a needle with someone who has HIV, Hep C or other "unknown" infections.

"This clearly poses a risk of HIV or hepatitis C transmission, a risk that could be remedied with prison-based needle and syringe programs," she said in a statement released Wednesday.

But it's not enough for some advocates to introduce clean needle and syringe programs in prisons.

Some want the government to rethink its tough on crime agenda, which they worry would incarcerate more people for minor crimes.

"Given the dire conditions in federal prisons today, our federal government should respond with a sensible approach to drug policy based on solid scientific evidence, sound public-health principles and respect for human rights - both in and outside prisons," said Seth Clarke, federal community development coordinator at the Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network.

"That means doing away with crime bills that incarcerate people with addictions and introducing needle and syringe programs in prisons to mitigate prisoners' risk of harm."

At a minimum, said Greg Simmons of the Canadian Treatment Action Council, prisoners should have access to uninterrupted medical treatments for their HIV and Hep C infections.

"Any interruption in their regimen could have serious implications on their health, and lead to them becoming resistant to medications. CSC must allow prisoners to retrieve their medication upon incarceration and change the way pharmacies in federal prisons monitor and order medications," Simmons said.

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/canada/2010/04/21/13662541-qmi.html>



**NEEDLE AND SYRINGE
SHARING AMONG
PEOPLE WHO USE
INJECTION DRUGS
IS A MAJOR VEHICLE
FOR THE
SPREAD OF HIV.**

Religious groups pledge to end AIDS stigma

By Mike Corder

March 23, 2010 - THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Religious groups from around the globe pledged Tuesday to prevent the stigmatization of people living with HIV and AIDS, in a joint statement welcomed by a senior U.N. official as a sea change in attitudes.

Representatives of some 40 religions and faith groups including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism ended a two-day retreat in the Netherlands by signing a "personal commitment to action" in which they vowed to "be clear in my words and actions that stigma and discrimination towards people living with or affected by HIV is unacceptable."

Canon Gideon Byamugisha, an Anglican priest from Uganda, said the way his church treated him after he discovered he had HIV should set an example.

"They reacted with support and understanding," he said in a telephone interview. "There were sections who were annoyed and disappointed I was HIV positive, but a big number opted to give me the love, care and support I needed."

Byamugisha lost his first wife to AIDS and has since remarried to a woman with HIV. He told church officials in 1992 that he had HIV and was one of the first African clerics to reveal he had the disease.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, the United Nations Population Fund's executive director, called Tuesday's statement "a sea change."

"There is no talk about sinning or repentance," she said. "It is more about acceptance of people living with HIV."

The delegates acknowledged that some church and faith groups had played an active role in the stigmatization they now have committed to end.

"With remorse we regret that those living with HIV have at times been at the receiving end of judgment, rejection ... ," they wrote in a statement. "We need to make greater efforts to ensure that all people living with HIV find a welcome within faith communities."

The statement came after two days of discussions in which Byamugisha said that delegates sometimes struggled "with how to balance between communicating the religious messages that talk about morality and spirituality (and) public health challenges on the ground."

The use of condoms to fight the spread of HIV infections also was discussed, but only as a side issue, Byamugisha said.

A year ago, Pope Benedict XVI drew unprecedented criticism when he said that distributing condoms was not the answer to Africa's AIDS problem and could make it worse.

He said a moral attitude toward sex — abstinence and marital fidelity — would help fight the disease.

Rev. Richard Fee of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, which helped organized the meeting, said that religious groups can now join the front line in battling AIDS and HIV.

"If we are going to deal with this pandemic, the way we are going to get the message to every village in the world through education is through faith based groups which do touch every village in the world," he said.

The Associated Press



ANHAN Membership

Please note that all ANHAN memberships expired on March 31, 2010 and your membership renewal is now due.

If you are not a member and would like to support All Nations Hope AIDS Network by becoming a member, please fill out the contact info at the bottom of the page and mail it, fax it or drop it off at the ANHAN office.

As a member you will receive a free subscription to the newsletter by mail or where possible, electronically. You will also receive special discounts on conferences and events hosted throughout the year by All Nations Hope AIDS Network.

It is that time of the year again. Membership fees to All Nations Hope AIDS Network are now due. Please send a cheque payable to: All Nations Hope AIDS Network to renew your membership. All membership fees must be sent to:

All Nations Hope AIDS Network
2735 5th Ave.
Regina, SK S4T 0L2 Fax: 306-525-3698



The categories of membership are:

FULL MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Person living with HIV/AIDS (Lifetime membership) | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elders (Lifetime membership) | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Aboriginal ancestry that supports the mandate of ANHAN | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal organization/group that supports the mandate of ANHAN | \$25.00 |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (14-18 years) Birth date: _____ | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Aboriginal person that supports the mandate of ANHAN | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Aboriginal organization/group that supports the mandate of ANHAN | \$25.00 |

Please update your contact information with our office if it has changed in the past year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patricia by email at allnationshope@sasktel.net or call (306) 924-8424 or toll free (Canada wide) 1-877-210-7622. Thank you for your support.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

***** Members are an important aspect of our organization, broadening our support and knowledge base for HIV/AIDS and related issues. Membership benefits encourage this participation and serve to further share information.**

Positive Journeys

Is published six times per year by All Nations Hope AIDS Network. Articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors and are not meant to represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada or other funders including the Government of Saskatchewan.



Agence de santé
publique du Canada

Public Health
Agency of Canada

Individual Healing Sessions

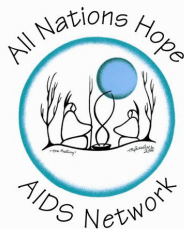
The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's Eagle Moon Health Office (EMHO) assists the region to enhance services to better serve First Nations and Métis people. EMHO also works with the community to bring the Traditional Pathway to those who seek health in this way. EMHO engages the community to bring community voice to the region, and works to bridge understandings amongst the region, First Nations and Métis communities.

Healer consultants offer individual Healing Sessions to address a wide range of physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental issues to people of all backgrounds. Sessions help people to restore their sense of balance, well being and good health. All sessions are confidential.

Healer consultants are available every last Wednesday of the month at All Nations Hope AIDS Network, 2735 5th Ave. Bring a small tobacco offering and drop in for your individual healing session.

CONTACT US

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Email: allnationshope@sasktel.net
Website: www.allnationshope.ca



All Nations Hope AIDS Network has been incorporated since 2004 and is a member of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.

Charitable Tax Registration #: 85497 0407 RR0001

All Nations Hope AIDS Network Staff

Operational

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Leona Quewezance, Program Director
Lana Holinaty, Director of Operations
Gordon Sinclair, Community Outreach Coordinator

Project

Wesley Keewatin, Life Skills Coach
Patricia Smoker, Administrative Assistant
Ashley Norton, Youth Coordinator

Board of Directors

Art Kaiswatum Krista Shore
Vern Bellegarde Aaron Sinclair
Iris Acoose Glenda Sinclair
Angie Brabant

Thank you to Dr. June Ledrew & the University of Regina students!

ANHAN would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. June Ledrew and her students from the University of Regina.

Since February, 2010, the students have worked hard at completing some projects at the ANHAN office. As staff members that are usually juggling a variety of projects, we greatly appreciate their efforts and hard work.

Some of the work they assisted us with included the latest edition of the Positive Journeys newsletter, the Live Safe Play Safe project, the youth group graduation, the ANHAN website, presentations, final reports and general office duties. We look forward to seeing them back in the future.

Volunteers are an essential and important aspect of the organization. Volunteers assist us in delivering services and the time they dedicate to us is invaluable. It is a great way to learn valuable work experience.

To volunteer for ANHAN, visit our website and fill out the form or call us at the office.