

Positive Journeys

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- CFI Launch Program at First Nations University of Canada
- HIV Diagnosis in Indigenous Peoples

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*From the Staff and Board of All Nations Hope
Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of
peace and happiness.*

Well another year has flown by and the All Nations Hope team has had another busy year.

We would like to take this time to wish you all the best in this holiday season and to express our gratitude and appreciation for your support throughout the year.

Thank you to our clients, our members, our volunteers, our funders, our sponsors, the community, the people we do business with, the national organizations and to our friends and family.

*“The smallest act of kindness is worth more
than the grandest intention.”*

Oscar Wilde

First Nations University of Canada Launches Their CFI Program

Oct 31, 2011

Dr. Doyle Anderson, President of FNU, announced the launch of the university's new community-based health research labs, a groundbreaking new facility that will provide unique research and training opportunities focusing explicitly on Indigenous community-based health research.

ANH was invited and we were honored to be included in the list of invitees to be present as community partners. It was an excellent avenue for networking, meeting new people and of course testing out the Sioux Chef's healthy and tasty morsels of Aboriginal cuisine.

It was a time to witness

the commitment and dedication that Professor Carrie Bourassa has bestowed upon the FNU and to the students. What a powerhouse of vision and work that Carrie has given to the movement forward of research among Indigenous people. The words of welcome and knowledge shared were inspirational to those who attended.

Congratulations to FNU for their leadership and guidance to First Nation, Métis and Inuit people in education and research.

ANH would like to commend and thank Professor Carrie Bourassa for her commitment to the

Network in being the Academic Advisor in the position of ex-officio to the ANH board of directors. We ask for many blessings for you and your family.

As an Aboriginal Community Based organization, we look forward to enhancing and building partnerships in working towards community based research in HIV and AIDS, plus other health and social issues impacting the communities.

We acknowledge the value that research has in addressing root causes of the issues affecting the community vs. providing band aids. ANH believes and support that research has the capacity to bring life to the people.



Margaret Poitras, Professor Carrie Bourassa

These times are exciting: Aboriginal research by Aboriginal people.



Inspiring words from the President of First Nations University of Canada – Dr. Doyle Anderson



SK HIV Conference



The Saskatchewan HIV Conference took place on December 1 & 2, 2011 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre in Regina, SK. The vision for the conference was to bring together two worlds: the western and the traditional and look at how they can complement each other in the treatment of HIV & AIDS and how we can begin working together in the fight against the disease that is impacting Aboriginal families in alarming numbers in Saskatchewan.

The opening guests included the Chairperson of the ANHAN Board, Mr. Albert Robillard, The Minister of Health, the Honorable Don McMorris, the MLA of Regina Elphinstone Centre, Mr. Warren McCall, and the Regional HIV/STI/BBP Coordinator of First Nations and Inuit Health, Brett Dow.

The keynote speakers included Mr. Ron Horsefall, Clifford Cardinal and Dr. Kurt Williams to provide the delegates with information around the use of traditional and western medicines in the treatment of HIV & AIDS.

Dr. Johnmark Opondo from the Saskatchewan HIV Strategy Provincial Leadership Team presented an update on year one of the strategy activities with goals to reduce the number of new HIV infections, to improve the quality of life for HIV infected individuals and to reduce risk factors for acquisition of HIV infection.

The panel included speakers from three Traditional organizations located in Saskatchewan that provide holistic approaches to health by taking care of the four aspects of the medicine wheel to deal many of the issues that Aboriginal people face today.

The evening banquet “ A Celebration of Life” was focused on creating awareness around World AIDS Day and Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day/Week by honoring those that have passed into the Spirit World and by honoring those that work in the field of HIV & AIDS. The evening included dinner and the musical sounds of Joe and Violet Naytowhow and concluded with a round dance.

Day two of the conference consisted of a diverse group of presenters from community members, to academics to doctors. The workshops touched on pregnancy planning, women and HIV, traditional ceremonies and HIV, prenatal services for women with substance abuse issues, grief and recovery, aboriginal cultural support, stories of positive women, supporting our relatives, and the stories/effects of Indian Residential School. Counselors were available throughout the conference.

Traditional ceremonies offered included the pipe ceremony, a cleansing ceremony and a sweat lodge ceremony, along with a traditional opening and closing of the conference.

Experiential learning opportunities included the Eagle Moon Healers, foot care by Alice Morris, yoga/zumba by Faye Katzman and manicures by students from Avant-Garde.

Exhibits and resources were available for the delegates to take home to their communities to share the knowledge they took away from the conference.

ANHAN was able to provide 5 full scholarships and 14 partial scholarships to people that would not have been otherwise able to attend.

The conference was a full two days of knowledge exchange and a chance to network and learn how we can work together to help people that are living with HIV & AIDS.

Thank you goes out to the Elders, the healers, the delegates. Thank you to the ANHAN staff, the ANHAN board and the Conference Planning Committee, who worked tireless hours organizing this annual event.

Images from the SK HIV Conference



Finding Inspiration Through his Art work

March 14, 2000 was the day that Ron will always remember...it was the day he chose to live.

His name is "Mashkiki-waabika-inini" (Medicine Circle of Stones Man). His given name is Ron Horsefall. He is originally from Pasqua First Nations and is currently living in Vancouver, BC.

His childhood was filled with traumatic events that included sexual and physical abuses and Residential School. After Residential School, he spiraled downward with destructive and high-risk behaviour using drugs and alcohol. While residing in the Downtown Eastside of

Vancouver, Ron was diagnosed with AIDS in December 1996.

His diagnosis with HIV/AIDS was led him to sobriety in March of 2000 and has followed his healing journey since then, reclaiming his identity as a Two-Spirited Aboriginal person, his culture and his spirituality.

Today Ron is living a healthy lifestyle and is a truly gifted self taught bead artist.

His work is finely detailed and the photos simply do not do justice for viewing his work. You have to see it first hand to appreciate the beauty and the detail in each one of his pieces.

He often speaks of doing an art show close to home as he has already shown his work in Vancouver.

His project is titled "Out of the Ashes" and represents how he rose out of the darkness and into the light. He dedicated his project to his niece who died of AIDS in 2006.

If you would like to see more of Ron's art work, check out YouTube and search Ron Horsefall or check out the link below:

[Ron Horsefall's Art](#)

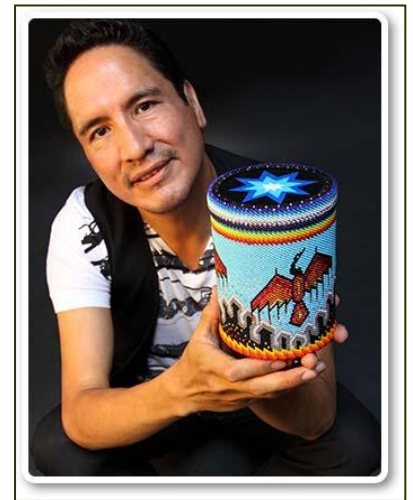


Photo by Tiffany Cooper

Aboriginal Youth working to help solve Aboriginal AIDS Crisis

Aboriginal youth from across Canada participated in the Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week in Ottawa on December 1-5.

The National Aboriginal Youth Council on HIV and AIDS travelled to Ottawa to have their voices heard on the importance of creating community leadership amongst Aboriginal youth and the need to engage youth when it comes to dealing with and promoting AIDS Awareness.

The council is made up of youth from across Canada, which meets

monthly through teleconferencing.

Krista Shore from Regina, Saskatchewan is an honorary council member and an HIV positive mother of four. She went to the event to learn and share with everyone who is willing to participate.

Krista says "We are the population that is being affected, it is heart wrenching when you look at the numbers."

There is definitely cause for worry, especially in Saskatchewan, with 157 out of 200 new cases of HIV being Aboriginal people.

The council was created to help address those numbers by reaching Aboriginal youth across Canada, and they hope their participation in the awareness week will help reduce those numbers.

157 out of 200 new cases of HIV in Saskatchewan were Aboriginal people.



Male Call Canada survey addresses the health and well-being of MSM across Canada

Attitudes, behaviour, lifestyle, health, sensibilities, relationships, well being, knowledge, issues, intimacy, biases, opinions, points of view, love, perspectives, beliefs, frame of mind, inclinations, notions, prejudices, proclivities, views, happiness, understandings, assumptions, predilections, sex, experiences, observations, self knowledge, insights

Let's Talk.

Male Call Canada is a bilingual toll-free telephone survey of the health-related attitudes, knowledge and behaviours of men who have sex with men (MSM).

Researchers from several Canadian universities and community partners are collaborating in the Male Call Canada study, with the hope of building a healthier

community.

Men are asked to call for a free, anonymous and confidential interview about current issues, wherever in Canada they may live.

The information gathered will be used to educate, promote and develop effective programming for the challenges facing MSM, and the fight

against HIV and other issues.

Men: if you have ever had sex with another man – call now to contribute your unique perspective to this important study.

Call 1-855-846-MALE (6253)

Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. (EST)
Saturday & Sunday 12 p.m. (noon) to 8 p.m. (EST)



Join our national study of men's attitudes towards sexual health and well-being.

malecall.ca

1-855-846-MALE (6253)

We want to hear what's on your mind. We're Male Call Canada – a confidential telephone survey of men who have had sex with men.

Please give us a call and help us build a healthier community.

HIV Diagnosis in Indigenous Peoples

In a recently published international article, it reports some very sobering evidence about the impact that HIV is having on Aboriginal people, especially in Canada. It also raises some serious questions about the impact that HIV is having on Indigenous peoples other than the ones that are mentioned in the report.

The conclusion of this report reads as follows:

Comparisons between indigenous and non-indigenous diagnosis rates

cannot summarise the full impact of HIV infection on indigenous peoples, for whom they are part of broader health disparities. The data nevertheless open a window to increase understanding of indigenous health in the face of ongoing challenges associated with HIV. Our results show the value of including indigenous status in HIV diagnosis notification. Indigenous peoples have strengths that have helped them to survive and to overcome serious challenges to their health.

Further research can draw on these strengths to identify factors that will help in overcoming the challenges of HIV.

In Canada, the HIV epidemic among Aboriginal peoples requires urgent attention, with available evidence informing policy and action by all stakeholders in the communities and all levels of government.

For more information on this report:

[HIV Diagnosis in Indigenous People](#)

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ANHAN Client Services and More

Working with clients is fairly new for ANHAN. Without duplicating services, it has turned out that the clients have led us in what services they need. By keeping track we can improve the services provided.

April 1, 2011 to October 31, 2011 ANHAN service provided to clients include;

- 168 phone calls were received or made by clients who requested different services
- 237 clients dropped in
- 47 home visits were made

Services provided:

- Information was provided on 60 different occasions that varied on topics from health, life, crisis, and current situations people live through.
- Education was given on 9 different occasions when requested or through a workshop.
- Support was given on 193 different occasions this can be as simple as listening. Being able to talk with a confidant is comforting.
- Ten people requested specific resources.
- 31 R-cards were given to help people attend appointments, transportation is provided for emergency or when support is requested, the transportation provided doubled the amount of r-cards given.

Referrals Made:

All Nations Hope works in partnership within the city of Regina, regionally and nationally. We do believe that surrounding a person with support of their choice, creates a team of advocates that allows a seamless service flow.

- 193 people have requested support from the agency since April 1, 2011.
- To date we have provided service 200 times to people who were living with HIV and/or hepatitis C
- Service is also offered to those who are unaware of their status for either lack of testing or currently awaiting their results. The majority of people who accessed services are learning how to live and cope with both; HIV and Hepatitis C.

Service has been ample and a wide variety offered including:

- speaking to lawyers with limited knowledge of HIV
- attending court appearances for moral support
- transport children for visitation when parents communication is limited or restricted
- Mediation to help children and families stay united

We have made housing referrals, medical referrals, detox/treatment referrals, social services advocacy, both financial and child protection, accompanying clients to the police station, advocating with lawyers to keep clients freedom, hospital visits, assisting clients to obtain proper birth control, mental health referrals, palliative care referrals, providing basic education, workshop recommendations to increase knowledge, create awareness and stop stigma and discrimination related to the illness.

At ANHAN we work to help people where they are at, to move forward in life, everyone is capable but sometimes we need help along the way. If you are in need of services, confidentiality is guaranteed. We are open to hear what you need and will assist you in any we possibly can.

SK gov't seeks to increase HIV awareness and testing

Health Minister Don McMorris made an announcement on Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day at the Saskatchewan HIV Conference in Regina, hosted by All Nations Hope AIDS Network.

"We're trying to look at different ways to get our message out to make sure that the awareness is there, the education is there so that people that are using drugs and intravenous drug

use realize the impact of sharing" says McMorris.

The highest increases in HIV cases were in 30-39 year old men and First Nations people. Their new campaign targets people at risk though online videos that can be found at www.health.gov.sk.ca/hiv-aids.

The SK HIV Strategy released that there has been a slight decrease of newly reported cases from

200 in 2009 to 172 in 2010, and McMorris said it is too early to tell if this number will continue to decrease.

Dr. Johnmark Opondo says that 17 HIV point of care testing sites in seven regional health authorities were first established in 2010 and the number will increase over the next few years. Testing can be done in an outreach setting.

"Do the people most at risk really have access to the internet to view online videos?"

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.allnationshope.ca

December 1 – World AIDS Day “Getting to Zero”

World AIDS Days this year is about “Getting to Zero.” Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths.

Backed by the United Nations the “Getting to Zero” campaign runs until 2015, it’s envisioned that different regions and groups will each year choose one or all of the Zeros that best addresses their situation.



10 Goals for 2015

Sexual transmission of HIV reduced by half, including among young people, men who have sex with men and transmission in the context of sex work;

Vertical transmission of HIV eliminated and AIDS-related maternal deaths reduced by half,

All new HIV infections prevented among people who use drugs.

Universal access to antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV who are eligible for treatment;

TB deaths among people living with HIV reduced by half;

All people living with HIV and household affected by HIV are addressed in all national social protection strategies and have access to essential care and support.

Countries with punitive laws and practices around HIV transmission, sex work, drug use or homosexuality that block effective responses reduced by half;

HIV-related restriction on entry, stay and residence eliminated in half of the countries that have such restrictions;

HIV-specific needs of women and girls are addressed in at least half of all national HIV responses;

Zero tolerance for gender-based violence.

A Good Son

We need to teach our daughters
the difference between
A man who flatters her
... and A man who compliments her
A man who spends money on her
And A man who invests in her
A man who views her as property
and A man who views her properly,

A man who lusts after her
and A man who loves her,
A man who believes
He is GOD'S Gift to women
and A man who remembers
A woman was GOD'S Gift to Man
and then teach OUR SONS
To be that kind of man

All Nations Hope AIDS Network will be closed over the holidays

From December 23, 2011 –
January 2, 2012.

*Always time for some
ghoulish fun on
Halloween!!!*

*Left to right: Debra
Agecoutay, Wesley
Keewatin, Margaret
Poitras*

