

List of Commonly Used HIV/AIDS Terms and Acronyms

This glossary has been developed to support the work of staff, board and members of All Nations Hope AIDS Network and is not intended to be a comprehensive or definitive list of terms and acronyms, but a guide to assist in the work of the network.

A

AAAD – Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – December 1st. The day set aside for public awareness and promotion of Aboriginal HIV/AIDS issues in Canada.

AASO – Aboriginal AIDS Service Organization

ACAP – AIDS community Action Program – A program created by Health Canada that provides funding to Community Based AIDS Organizations to set up projects to deal with HIV/AIDS in their communities.

ACBAO – Aboriginal Community-Based AIDS Organization

ACBO – Aboriginal Community-Based Organization

ACBR – Aboriginal Community-Based Research

AFN – Assembly of First Nations – National Political Organization representing First Nations.

Affected – To experience the consequences of HIV, either directly through friends or family, or indirectly, through economic, social, or political instability caused by the virus being present in your community.

AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome – the syndrome caused by the HIV virus. Also known as late stage HIV disease.

AIDSPhobia – an irrational fear of AIDS, HIV, or those living with the disease.

AIWG – Aboriginal Interim Working Group – a working group struck at the First Aboriginal Summit on HIV/AIDS in Winnipeg, Manitoba to develop the framework for the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS.

APHA – Aboriginal Person Living With HIV/AIDS

APHI – Aboriginal Peoples Health Institute – A National Aboriginal Health Organization

ART – Anti-Retroviral Therapy – Western medicines(drugs) developed that affect and inhibit on a human cellular level the replication of HIV.

ASO – AIDS Service Organization – an organization providing AIDS services.

Asymptomatic – a person who has HIV but does not show any signs of AIDS.

B

BCR – Band Council Resolution

BD/SM – sexual behaviors, short for bondage and discipline/sadomasochism. Sexual pleasure through the use of power or submission and/or the infliction of or receiving of pain. Behavior is mutually pleasurable for both parties.

BHST – A Bureau of HIV/AIDS, STDs and TB – a department at Health Canada responsible for monitoring the spread, distribution and control of these particular diseases among the Canadian population.

Bill C-31 –

Bisexual – a person attracted to members of the same and opposite sex.

C

CA – Contibution Agreement – A legal document that sets out the obligations of both parties around government funding.

CAAN – Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network – A national Aboriginal non-governmental HIV/AIDS organization.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network – A national non-governmental HIV/AIDS organization.

CAP – Congress of Aboriginal Peoples – A national Aboriginal political organization.

CAS – Canadian AIDS Society – A national non-governmental AIDS organization.

CATIE – Canadian AIDS Treatment Exchange – A national HIV/AIDS treatment information program.

CBR – Community Based Research – National research policy that promotes community involvement of the design, implementation and use of data from research initiatives.

CHN – Community Health Nurse

CHR – Community Health Representative

CHW – Community Health Worker

CIDPC – Centre For Infectious Disease Prevention and Control – A department at Health Canada

CIHR – Canadian Institute of Health Research

CIHAN – Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network – A national Inuit HIV AIDS network.

Consensus – to agree collectively as a council on a decision

Contractor/Consultant – an individual hired to carry out a piece of work, but not as a full-fledged employee or the organization who hires them.

CPHA – Canadian Public Health Association – A non-governmental advocacy organization that monitors various health issues in Canada and provides independent health information to Canadians. Also home to the **HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse** – a national mega-project that maintains depository of information related to AIDS and HIV.

Crossdresser – an individual who dressed in the clothing of the other sex on occasion but do not desire to change their sex. They dress for personal reasons which can range from a need to express their feminine or masculine side, to in a way which provide erotic pleasure.

CSC – Corrections Services of Canada – a government department responsible for maintaining Canada's federal correctional system.

CSHA – Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS – The third Health Canada strategy to deal with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

CTAC – Canadian Treatment Action Council – a national non-governmental HIV/AIDS treatment advocacy organization.

CTN – Canadian HIV/AIDS Trials Network – a national non-governmental network that monitors and sets ethical standards for clinical trials of HIV/AIDS drugs in Canada.

D

DIAND – Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Direction-Setting – a meeting held by Health Canada to help determine the future directions of the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS

Drag – Drag Queen/Drag King – people who present larger than life images of the opposite sex (men as queens, women as kings) exaggerating sexual stereotypes for entertainment or self-gratification.

E

EPI – a short form meaning epidemiological or referring to epidemiological data – the collection and study of information about the prevalence and incidence of a disease

Elder – a person that carried Aboriginal heritage, cultures and traditions.

Email – an electronic way to transmit messages between individuals with computers

F

FI – Fusion Inhibitor – A type (class) of HIV drug. As of December 1, 2001, no Fusion Inhibitors have been approved for use in Canada.

First Nations – The Indian people of Canada both status and non-status.

FNIHB – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

FTE – Full Time Equivalent - a position that works on an average of a full-time employee.

FTM – a person who changes their gender from female to male.

F/P/T/ AIDS – Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on HIV/AIDS

G

Gay – a person who is homosexual. More commonly used to describe homosexual men.

Gender – a classification for identifying as masculine or feminine

GLBTT – Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/Transgendered/Two-spirit

GN – Government of Nunavut

GNWT – Government of the Northwest Territories

GNP – Global Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS – an international network of people living with HIV.

Gray Rocks – A national HIV/AIDS direction setting meeting for the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS held in Grey Rocks, Quebec in 2000.

H

HAART – Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

Hamlet – an Inuit Community

Harm reduction – a National HIV/AIDS prevention strategy

HBV – Hepatitis B Virus – a virus that attacks the liver, related, though considered not as severe as Hepatitis C.

HC – Health Canada

HCV – Hepatitis C Virus – a virus that attacks the liver and for which there is no known cure. Prolonged and acute Hepatitis C infection can often result in liver disease and cirrhosis. The virus is passed on through blood to blood activities, such as sharing needles and unprotected sexual intercourse.

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus – the virus that causes AIDS

Hep C – short for Hepatitis C

Hermaaphrodite – a person born with genitals that show characteristics of both sexes

Het – short for heterosexual

Heterosexism – domination by heterosexuals that leads to the ignoring of homosexuality and the assumption that heterosexuals are superior

Heterosexual – a person attracted to members of the opposite sex

Homophobia – an irrational fear of homosexuals or homosexuality

HPB – Health Protection Branch – A department at Health Canada (obsolete)

HPPB – Health Promotion and Protection Branch – A department at Health Canada (obsolete, now known as Population and Public Health Branch)

I

ICAD – International Coalition on AIDS Development

ICASO – International Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations

IDU – Injection Drug User

IDUphobic – an irrational fear of people who use needles to inject illicit drugs

Indigenous – refers generally to the original peoples of any land, country or geographic area

Infected – refers to an individual living with the HIV disease

Innu – The Nescapi and Montagnais First Nations peoples who live in Quebec and Labrador

Internet – An international network of computers

Intersexed – another term for hermaphrodite, a person born with genitals which show characteristics of both sexes

Inuit – Canada's Aboriginal peoples of the Arctic

Inuk – singular form of Inuit, Use Inuk when speaking of one Inuit person

Inuktutut – language of the Inuit

ITC – Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (obsolete, now the Inuit Tapiriiksat Kanatami)

ITK – Inuit Tapiriiksat Kanatami – the national political organization for the Inuit in Canada

J

Journal Voucher – a government process to move money between Federal Departments

Jurisdiction – *lit.*, authority and control of a particular land base, service, municipality, territory, country or government. In the Aboriginal community jurisdiction may also refer to issues of Aboriginal identity, culture, language, treaty rights, land claims and/or self-determination.

K

KY – a brand name of a water-based lubricant often recommended for use with condoms during sex. Helps reduce tearing and breaking of condoms during sexual activity.

L

LCDC – Laboratory Centre for Disease Control – a department at Health Canada (obsolete, now known as CIDPC)

Legal Network – See **Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

Lesbian – a woman attracted sexually to other women

LIHC – Labrador Inuit Health Commission

LMN – Labrador Métis Nation

M

MCHA – Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS – Council that advises the Minister of Health on all issues related to HIV/AIDS

Medicine Wheel – First Nations spiritual symbol representing all of creation. In graphic representation, the medicine wheel is drawn in the shape of a wheel divided into four quadrants. These are meant to symbolize the four sacred directions, the four elements, the four grandfathers, the four winds and the four races of man.

Métis – Peoples of mixed First Nations and European ancestry

Mechief – the language of the Métis

Microbicides – protective jellies or creams used in the vagina or rectum during sexual intercourse that reduce risk of HIV or other sexually transmitted infection. (STI's)

MNC – Métis Nation Council - a national Aboriginal political organization representing Métis in Canada

MNCW – Métis National Council of Women – a national Aboriginal political organization representing Métis women in Canada

MOH – Medical Officer of Health

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MSB – Medical Services Branch – (obsolete, now known as First Nations and Inuit Health Branch FNIHB)

MSM – Men who have Sex with Men – an epidemiological classification for HIV transmission and the literal translation of a gay Inuk.

MTF/M2F – a person who has surgically reassigned their gender from male to female

N

NAAS – National Aboriginal AIDS Strategy – (obsolete, now known as the Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS in Canada)

NACHA – National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS

NAHO – National Aboriginal Health Organization

NAPHAN – National Aboriginal People Living with AIDS Network – a national organization formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba in the early nineties to advocate on behalf of Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS. NAPHAN became the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) in 1997.

NARGHA – National Aboriginal Reference Group on HIV/AIDS established to provide advice to Health Canada on the development of administrative guidelines for the CSHA Aboriginal allocation of \$1.2 million in solicited funding

NAS I/II – National AIDS Strategy I and II – The first two Health Canada Strategies created to deal with HIV/AIDS in Canada. (Note: The third HIV/AIDS funding strategy created in 1998 is known as the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS)

NEP – Needle Exchange Program

Net – short for Internet

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization – a community organization created to promote or advocate for specific issues that is independent from government organizations

NHRDP – National Health Research and Development Program – A Health Canada Research Department now operating through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

NIICHRO – National Inuit and Indian Community Health Representatives Organization – A national organization that represents community health representatives among Inuit and First Nations across Canada

NIHB – Non-Insured Health Benefits

NIYC – National Inuit Youth Council

NNRTI's – Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors – a type (class) of HIV drug

Non-nuke – see NNRTIs

NRTI's – Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors - a type (class) of HIV drug

NS – Northern Secretariat

NWAC – Native Women's Association of Canada – a national Aboriginal political organization representing Aboriginal women in Canada

NWT – North West Territories

Nunavut – Inuit Region in the North

Nunavik – Inuit Region in Quebec

O

OCAP – Ownership Control Access Possession – a national policy governing the ownership and use of information produced on Aboriginal people to be owned, controlled, accessed and possessed by Aboriginal people

OI's – Opportunistic Infections – infections present in a person with HIV, usually die to the failure of the immune system to stave off infection and disease in the late stages of the illness (See HIV and AIDS in Understanding Epidemiology)

P

Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association – a national Inuit women's health organization

PCAP – Prevention and Community Action Program – a national funding program at Health Canada, The 1.2 million dollars dedicated under the CSHA to urban and off-reserve Aboriginal HIV/AIDS issues is administered through this program.

PEP – Post Exposure Prophalixsis – preventative anti-retroviral treatment for HIV disease after potential exposure to HIV in an attempt to prevent sero-conversion

nPEP – Non-occupational Post Exposure Prophalixsis - preventative anti-retroviral treatment for HIV disease after potential exposure to HIV in an attempt to prevent sero-conversion, refers to those who are assumed exposed outside of a workplace environment

PH – Population Health – a department of Health Canada

PHA – Person Living with HIV/AIDS

PI's – Protease Inhibitors – a type (class) of HIV drug

Population-based/Population-specific – initiatives that address issues unique to a group of people

PPHB – Population and Public Health Branch

Pre-op – individuals who are changing their gender but haven't been physically altered by surgery to their genitals, pre-operative transsexuals may already have breast implants/reductions, be taking hormones or undergone electrolysis

Prophylaxis – any preventative measure, in HIV/AIDS, usually means preventative treatment for opportunistic infections in people who are HIV positive, such as medication given to positive patients to prevent pneumonia. Also, treatment given to those assumed exposed to HIV but before evidence of sero-conversion. (See PEP)

Q

Queer – a term used to capture gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual/trans-gendered and two-spirit

R

RCAP – Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

Reserve – A First Nations Community

RFP – Request for Proposals

RHA – Regional Health Authority

RIA – Regional Inuit Association

S

Sex – the two divisions of an organism distinguished as male or female

SIS – Safe Injection Site

S/M – SadoMasochism

STD – Sexually Transmitted Disease

STI – Sexually Transmitted Infection

Straight – slang meaning heterosexual

2-spirit – Individuals of Aboriginal descent who, either by behaviour, sexual preference, belief or practise, identify outside of the traditional characteristics of their sex

Symptomatic – a person who has HIV and shows signs of AIDS

SWGAI – Special Working Group on Aboriginal Issues, a sub-committee of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS

T

TB – Tuberculosis – an infectious disease, caused by a bacteria that affects the human lungs and lower respiratory system

TB – Treasury Board of Canada – a government department that sets financial policy and standards for all government departments, responsible for establishing Treasury Board Guidelines

TPB – Therapeutics Products Branch – a department at Health Canada

Transsexual – a person who has changed their original sex through a medical operation to change their genitals and/or the use of hormones treatments, electrolysis, plastic surgery; transsexuals identify completely as members of their new gender

Transvestite – a person who dresses as the opposite sex for sexual gratification, transvestites do not desire to change their gender and are most often heterosexual men

Trans-gendered – live as members of the opposite sex but without the need or desire to change their bodies as shown by transsexuals, trans-gendered people may take hormones but do not have genital surgery

Transphobic – an irrational fear of transsexual/transgendered people

TS/TG – transsexual/transgendered

Two-Spirit/2-spirit - Individuals of Aboriginal descent who, either by behaviour, sexual preference, belief or practise, identify outside of the traditional characteristics of their sex

U

UN AIDS – A United Nations special department that monitors and attempts to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic across the planet

UNGASS – United Nations General Assembly Special Sessions on HIV/AIDS

Universal Precautions – standardized, routine precautions taken by health professionals to protect themselves against HIV

V

VD – Venereal Disease

W

WWW – World Wide Web – information resource accessed by the Internet

WSW – women who have sex with women

WSM – women who have sex with men

Y

YOA – Young Offenders Act

YOF – Young Offenders Facility

Youth – young people usually means under the age of 25