

Network news

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Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

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AGM honours Jamaican hero, Stella, offers rights-centred workshops

The joint annual general meetings of the Legal Network and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), held in Gatineau, Quebec in late September, was a rich experience of inspiration and learning. Many members remarked on how deeply they were moved by this year's winners of the Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, and reactions to the Legal Network workshops were enthusiastically positive.

The international recipient was **Gareth Williams**, the coordinator of Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG), who spoke movingly about the hostility and abuse faced by gay men and lesbians in Jamaica. His address followed an inspiring tribute, delivered together with Legal Network board member Robert Carr, to Steve Harvey, the Jamaican human rights and AIDS activist who was murdered in December 2005. Williams was equally eloquent at a meeting with officials from the Canadian International Development Agency and Foreign Affairs Canada on the second day of the AGM, remarking on the impossibility of implementing effective HIV/AIDS programs when gay men — one of the most affected groups — face violent abuse with impunity.



Silhouette of Gareth Williams,
international recipient of the
Awards for Action

Claire Thiboutot, Executive Director of **Stella**, accepted the Canadian award on behalf of her outstanding Montréal-based sex worker organization. She noted the continuing challenge of criminalizing sex work in Canada and worldwide, which keeps sex workers from being able to work as safely as possible. She decried the constant tendency of donors and governments to view sex workers as “vectors” of HIV who need to be targeted with HIV/AIDS programs for the purpose of saving the “respectable women” whose husbands frequent sex workers. Stella shared its fast-moving short film capturing the highlights of the May 2005 “Forum XXX,” a groundbreaking international conference of sex worker organizations united in their struggle for human rights.

Members enjoyed three Legal Network workshops. Director of Communications **Leon Mar** shared his expertise on how small AIDS organizations can make use of mass media. Senior Policy Analyst **Alana Klein** led a session on barriers to syringe exchange services in Canada. Former board member **Jacqueline Gahagan** and her colleague **Jane Maloney**, both of Dalhousie University, engaged members in a discussion of the importance of gender considerations in HIV/AIDS research.

For more information, please visit www.aidslaw.ca/agm.

Missing the point: Ottawa cancels pilot prison tattooing program

For more information on HIV in prisons, visit www.aidslaw.ca/prisons.

Federal Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day officially axed the Correctional Service of Canada's pilot prison tattooing program on Monday, December 4, just three days after a World AIDS Day opinion column by Director of Communications **Leon Mar** was printed in the *Toronto Star*. Clearly, the Legal Network's call for Day to open safer tattooing parlours in all Canadian prisons fell on deaf ears.

While the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and the Union of Canadian Correctional Officers labelled the pilot program as a waste of taxpayers' money and a failure in stopping underground tattooing, the Legal Network called the cancellation "fiscally irresponsible and a threat to public health and human rights."

"The federal government says it won't spend money now on a safer tattooing program for prisoners," said Executive Director **Joanne Csete** in a news release issued shortly after Day's announcement. "This means that taxpayers' dollars will instead be spent later on treating HIV and hepatitis C infections that could have been prevented in the first place."

The story generated significant press coverage. The Legal Network received 12

media requests on this issue, and appeared in 38 newspaper articles and 6 radio and television spots. (See also "Legal Network in the news," p. 9)

Corrections Canada began the safer tattooing pilot project last year at six pilot sites: two prisons in Abbotsford, British Columbia, as well as institutions in Renous, New Brunswick, Cowansville, Quebec, Bath, Ontario, and Stony Mountain, Manitoba. Minister Day's cancellation of the program came before all of the sites had finished their one-year trial period and even before a final evaluation was completed.

As early as 1994, the federal Expert Committee on AIDS and Prisons (a Corrections Canada committee) recommended establishing safer tattooing programs to address higher prevalence rates of HIV in prisons. In Canada, people in prison are 7 to 10 times more likely to be infected with HIV than people outside prison. The lack of sterile tattooing equipment is partly to blame. (The lack of prison needle exchange programs — an issue on which the Legal Network has done extensive work — is a related factor.) Prisoners fashion makeshift tattooing needles and inks that are reused and shared, increasing the risk of HIV transmission.

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The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research, legal and policy analysis, education, and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada's leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

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Legal Network calls for reforms to law on generic medicine exports

The Legal Network, in collaboration with other members of the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG), continued to press for reforms to the *Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa*, the compulsory-licensing law intended to facilitate the production and export of lower-cost generic medicines to developing countries in need. Since the law was passed unanimously by Parliament in May 2004, not a single pill has been exported.

As part of a government review of the legislation, Deputy Director **Richard Elliott** spoke to a meeting of members of Parliament in Ottawa. He highlighted some of the flaws in the law and identified reforms that are needed to make it work for patients in developing countries.

On World AIDS Day, December 1, Richard spoke at a rally in downtown Toronto organized by the activist group AIDS Action Now and called on all parties in Parliament to act quickly to replace the existing cumbersome process with a simpler, more streamlined process that will be more user-friendly for both developing countries needing to purchase medicines and generic manufacturers that can supply them.

The Legal Network is preparing a submission to the federal government recommending reforms that would deliver on the humanitarian promise of the legislation.



For more information, please visit www.aidslaw.ca/gtag.

Minister of Health reviewing Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS

Federal Health Minister Tony Clement is undertaking a review of *The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada*, under which the Legal Network and the other national HIV/AIDS organizations receive some financial support. The review is meant to answer questions about the Initiative's expected results, whether the strategies in use are correct, whether the resource allocation is appropriate to match the goals, and what partnerships should be struck to ensure goals are met. A spokesperson for the Minister said that the funding level for the five-year Initiative — ratcheting up to \$84.4 million in 2008 — will not be affected by the review, but later funding may be affected.

A first meeting of the review team took place in November, with the national HIV/AIDS organizations represented by the Canadian AIDS Society and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Centre. According to the review plan, other parties to be consulted in addition to the National Partners include provincial and territorial authorities, international authorities, the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS (on which Deputy Director **Richard Elliott** currently sits), the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS, and researchers. At this stage, the nature of these consultations is unclear.

To read *The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada*, visit www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Commons report on prostitution fails sex workers

To read the Subcommittee's report, visit www.parl.gc.ca/sslr.

To read the Legal Network's report, *Sex, work, rights*, visit www.aidslaw.ca/sexwork > Publications.



On December 13, exactly one year after the Legal Network released a report calling on the federal government to decriminalize sex work, the House of Commons Subcommittee on Solicitation Laws released its final report — and the Legal Network gave it a failing grade.

“After hearing the testimony of sex workers and sex worker organizations, the Subcommittee had a chance to make informed recommendations on how to modernize Canada’s outdated laws on prostitution,” said Executive Director **Joanne Csete** in a news release issued minutes after the report was tabled in the House of Commons. “Instead, what we have is a report, years in the making, that does too little to protect sex workers or to promote their dignity and equality.”

Senior Policy Analyst **Glenn Betteridge** testified before the Subcommittee in 2005 and called for the decriminalization of adult prostitution. The Legal Network also submitted its full-length report *Sex, work, rights*, which presented the case for reforming the laws to better protect the health safety and human rights of sex workers in Canada.

Sadly, the Subcommittee’s report, *The Challenge of Change: A Study of Canada’s Criminal Prostitution Laws*, does not call for the decriminalization of adult prostitution. The majority of Subcommittee members — all from Opposition parties — recognized that the status

quo is unacceptable; that there is a bias in the application of the criminal law; that prostitution is above all a public health issue; and that Canada’s legal approach to prostitution is contradictory and causes more harm than good. Despite these facts, they recommended no law reform whatsoever and the report’s seven recommendations failed to propose concrete action to address the health and human rights of sex workers.

Media coverage of the report included a national news item featuring Executive Director Joanne Csete on *CTV News with Lloyd Robertson*. Glenn responded to interview requests from CBC Radio One and *CBC News: Morning*, among others. (See also “The Legal Network in the news,” p. 9)

The Subcommittee’s parent committee, the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, called on the Government to respond to the report within 120 days.

The Legal Network is consulting with long-standing partner organizations, including **Maggie’s** in Toronto and **Stella** in Montréal, to write a briefing paper responding to the report. The briefing paper, along with our previously published *Sex, work, rights* report, booklet and info sheets, will form the backbone of our advocacy for real law reforms to protect the health and human rights of sex workers.



Nairobi consultation on women’s rights

In early December, senior policy analysts **Richard Pearshouse** and **Alana Klein** travelled to Nairobi to consult with experts from across sub-Saharan Africa on the Legal Network’s model law on women’s rights and HIV/AIDS. Once completed, the model-law resource will serve as an advocacy tool for African groups pushing for legal reforms to address the gender inequalities that drive the epidemic. The consultation brought together lawyers and community leaders from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, Ghana, Swaziland, Uganda, and the United States, as

well as UNAIDS officials, to share their experiences and expertise.

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, women are disproportionately vulnerable to and affected by HIV/AIDS due to gender inequalities reflected in and supported by often antiquated laws that are inconsistent with human rights norms. Studies have shown that in some African countries, married women are more vulnerable to HIV than their unmarried sexually active counterparts. For example, under some legal systems, married women

are unable to own property, making it difficult for a wife to leave her husband if their marriage turns violent. There are no laws on domestic violence and existing laws don't allow women to refuse sex or negotiate safe sex with their husbands.

AIDS has highlighted the need for law reform — particularly in areas such as domestic violence, marriage, divorce and inheritance — to fight the epidemic. Efforts to do so are underway across Africa, and advocates have expressed the need for model laws that reflect best practices in human rights. The Legal Network's project aims to address that need.

Throughout the two-day meeting, participants enthusiastically expressed views and shared experiences on all of the issues addressed by the model law, including rape and sexual assault, domestic violence, female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices, the law of marriage and cohabitation, and divorce.

Richard and Alana will continue to engage in in-depth thematic discussions with the consultation participants and other experts to fine-tune the model law and ensure that it realistically addresses the needs of law reformers.

Legal Network testifies before House committee

At the end of September, Deputy Director **Richard Elliott** appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to highlight the ways in which Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conditional sentence of imprisonment)*, would undermine efforts to respond to HIV among people who use drugs.

Conditional sentencing allows sentences of imprisonment to be served outside of correctional facilities; house arrest is an example of a conditional sentence. In May, the Government introduced Bill C-9 to remove conditional sentencing as an option for anyone convicted of an indictable offence that carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment of 10 years or more. In other words, anyone convicted and sentenced for an offence of this sort would have to serve the sentence — whatever its length — in prison. As originally drafted by the Government, the bill was very broad and would have required mandatory incarceration for some of the drug offences in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, including “trafficking” or “[possessing] for the purposes of trafficking” any quantity of certain substances, such as heroin, cocaine or methadone.

In urging the Justice Committee to amend the

bill so that it would not apply to drug offences, Richard pointed out that the burden of mandatory incarceration would be borne by people involved in small-scale, street-level drug distribution and consumption to support their addictions. He also cited evidence from the U.S. indicating that mandatory minimum sentences for drug offences don't curb drug use or drug-related crime, but simply lead to greater incarceration of non-violent drug offenders. Richard also argued that it would be bad public health policy to simply incarcerate more people who use drugs, especially since Canadian prisons fail to provide access to sterile syringes, and that mandatory incarceration would be contrary to fundamental sentencing principles, and would infringe human rights by denying judges' discretion to make sentences proportionate to the seriousness of an individual case.

As a result, the Justice Committee introduced amendments making the legislation much narrower — it precludes the option of conditional sentencing only in cases of certain “serious personal injury offences” (including sexual assault), terrorism offences, or criminal organization offences, where these carry a sentence of up to 10 years. The amended bill was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

An update on Bill C-9 and the full text of the Legal Network's submission to the Justice Committee are available at www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy > Publications.

Model law on drug use and HIV/AIDS

In December, the Legal Network published a new model-law resource in English and Russian that includes a detailed framework of legal provisions and accompanying commentary.

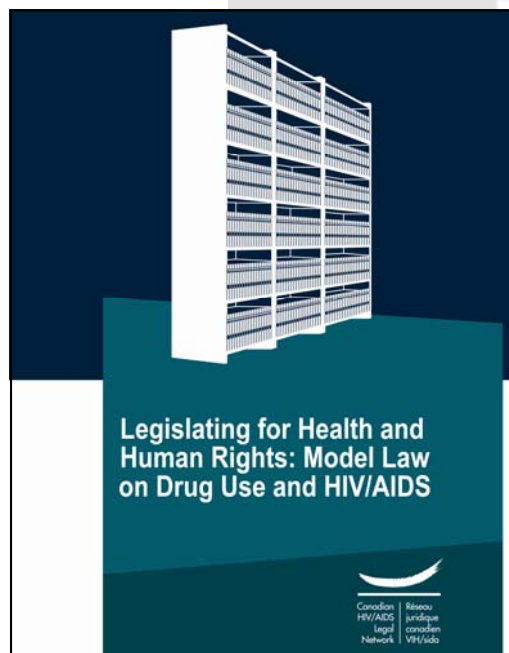
Legislating for Health and Human Rights: Model Law on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS refers to examples of law from jurisdictions that have attempted to establish a clear legal framework for addressing HIV/AIDS issues among people who use drugs. The document also incorporates human rights principles and the obligations of states throughout.

“It’s designed to help policy-makers and advocates approach the task of reforming

existing laws or making new ones to meet the legal challenges posed by HIV among people who use drugs,” says Senior Policy Analyst **Richard Pearshouse**, the principal author.

The model-law resource addresses eight main topics:

1. Criminal law issues;
2. Treatment for drug dependence;
3. Sterile syringe programs;
4. Supervised drug consumption facilities;
5. Prisons;
6. Outreach and information;
7. Stigma and discrimination; and
8. Heroin prescription programs.



To read *Legislating for Health and Human Rights: Model Law on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS*, visit www.aidslaw.ca/modellaw.

For more information on drug policy and harm reduction, visit www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy.



Network News Flashes

Legal Network helps review AIDS law in West Africa

Executive Director **Joanne Csete** spent a week in Senegal in October to review a project of the Open Society Initiative of West Africa (OSIWA) and the Open Society Institute's Network Public Health Program to support the development of human rights-based AIDS laws in 18 countries of West Africa. The regional workshop that Joanne attended included consultants from the 18 countries who had submitted written assessments of the status of AIDS laws in the region, as well as other regional experts from the United Nations and universities. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to meet West African experts concerned about AIDS and the law, and Joanne was pleased that so many of them said they use the Legal Network's materials regularly.

A number of the AIDS laws already passed or being considered in the region are based on a model law developed by AWARE (Action for

the West Africa Region), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Unfortunately, the AWARE model law does not address the equality of women, the human rights of sex workers, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, or the human rights of prisoners beyond the right to information. The AWARE model law opens the door for elaborate criminalization of HIV transmission and exposure, which is not in line with UN recommendations, and it also has some questionable provisions on HIV testing. Joanne made recommendations to OSIWA and OSI as they face the challenge of finding ways to support human rights-based AIDS laws in the region in light of these realities.



Equal marriage debate

In early December, the Legal Network called on federal members of Parliament to vote against a motion presented in the House of Commons to revisit the right to equal marriage for same-sex couples.

Same-sex marriage was legalized in July 2005 with the passage of the *Civil Marriage Act*. But during the last federal election campaign, Stephen Harper promised to reopen the debate. As a result, the Government introduced a motion to "introduce legislation to restore the traditional definition of marriage without affecting civil unions and while respecting existing same-sex marriages."

In a December 5 letter to MPs, the Legal Network highlighted that stigma and discrimination of gays and lesbians are among the many challenges that hinder effective responses to HIV/AIDS, and noted that political agendas should not rule the rights of sexual minorities. As the letter stated, "by reopening debate on this issue in the House of Commons and possibly backpedalling on the equal right of same-sex couples to marry, Canada is in danger of joining the ranks of countries that champion human rights only selectively to suit political circumstances."

The motion was defeated in the House on December 7 by a vote of 175 to 123.

To read the letter to MPs, visit www.aidslaw.ca/orientation > Publications.

Drug policy reform in Russia and Tajikistan

As part of the Legal Network's ongoing work in former Soviet Union countries, Senior Policy Analyst **Leah Utyasheva** spent part of November and December in Russia and Tajikistan, where she met with partner organizations in Moscow, St. Petersburg and



Senior Policy Analyst Leah Utyasheva (second from left) met with activists, including RAN Director Murtazokul Khidirov (third from left).

Balakovo (Saratov region). The meetings focused on human rights-based drug policy reform, including establishing a legal framework to make opioid substitution therapy (OST) available to drug users. Currently, OST remains illegal in both countries, denying injection drug users a key HIV prevention tool.

Leah shared the Legal Network's training materials on Russian law and international

human rights norms with harm reduction and HIV/AIDS service-providers and activists. These materials will help them and their organizations to incorporate up-to-date legal

and human rights components into their own training sessions.

In Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Leah met with colleagues from the country's leading drug policy and harm reduction NGO, RAN. A key aspect of the Legal Network's work in Tajikistan includes technical assistance to RAN to build legal and human rights expertise for drug policy reform. The first phase of this project will be to take training materials on international human rights, humane addiction treatment and OST that were originally developed by the Legal Network for use in Russia and adapt them to the Tajik context. Leah and RAN's director, **Murtazokul Khidirov**, also discussed a future collaboration to address Tajikistan's newly adopted AIDS law, which is too vague in its current form and requires guidance for implementation.

Throughout her visit, Leah distributed Russian-language copies of the newly published *Legislating for Health and Human Rights: Model Law on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS* (see related story, page 6), which received positive feedback from colleagues in both countries.

Montréal methadone conference

Over 200 people, from academic researchers and health care professionals to front-line outreach workers and methadone users, attended the sixth annual *Colloque de formation interdisciplinaire sur les traitements de substitution* (Interdisciplinary Training Conference on Substitution Treatments) in Montréal, November 30 to December 1. Thanks to the generous invitation of **Guy-Pierre Lévesque**, Executive Director of Legal Network member organization Méta d'Âme, Executive Director **Joanne Csete** and Director of Communications **Leon Mar** were among them.

The conference covered a wide range of issues related to opioid substitution therapy (OST).

The Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services welcomed delegates with the release of a new OST best-practices and reference manual, *Cadre de référence et guide de bonnes pratiques* (available in French from www.dependances.gouv.qc.ca), and criminology professor **Line Beauchesne** of the University of Ottawa gave an overview of the history of OST.

Joanne and Leon attended two days of seminars on topics including opioid dependence and social stigmatisation, the effectiveness of supervised injection sites, peer interventions in OST, and the different national experiences of OST in the Netherlands, Switzerland and France.

For more information on drug policy and harm reduction, visit www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy.

The Legal Network's work on drug policy was congratulated at the conference's closing plenary by **Dr. Pierre Lauzon** of the Centre de recherche et d'aide pour narcomanes (CRAN), the host organization.

The Legal Network is seeking funding for a

documentary film on the barriers to accessing methadone treatment in Canada. The Montréal conference provided a timely opportunity to hear from international experts and to meet key players and potential partners working on the ground here at home in Quebec and Ontario.

The Legal Network in the news

The federal government's official cancellation of the pilot prison tattooing program, its much-anticipated (and long-delayed) funding announcement on AIDS, and a parliamentary report on sex work translated into 42 media requests between September 1 and December 15. As a result, more than 50 print media stories cited the Legal Network, and two Legal Network letters to the editor were published. Four staff members — Executive Director **Joanne Csete**, Deputy Director **Richard Elliott**, Director of Communications **Leon Mar** and Senior Policy Analyst **Glenn Betteridge** — appeared in 12 radio and television news reports and programs.

National TV appearances included *CTV News with Lloyd Robertson* (Joanne in a pre-taped news item by Graham Richardson, "Committee examining solicitation laws can't agree," December 13) and *CBC News: Today* (Richard interviewed live by guest host Jackie Perrin on prison tattoo parlours, December 4).

The print edition of the *Toronto Star's* opinion page on World AIDS Day (December 1) featured two side-by-side columns: "Closing prison tattoo parlours can only cause infectious diseases to spread beyond jails, warns Leon Mar" was published alongside an article by Dr. Mark Wainberg, Director of the McGill AIDS Centre and co-chair of AIDS 2006, ensuring prominent World AIDS Day exposure for the Legal Network in the country's largest newspaper. (To read the opinion piece, visit www.aidslaw.ca/publications and look under "Recent Publications".)

Richard and Leon were both quoted in *Globe and Mail* stories in early December (Richard in "Ottawa announces millions in AIDS fight," December 1, and Leon in "Ottawa shuts down prison tattoo parlour," December 5). A *National Post* article also mentioned the Legal Network ("Conservatives axe pilot program that let prisoners get cheap tattoos," December 5).

Apart from this national newspaper coverage, Joanne, Richard and Leon were widely quoted in dailies big and small all over Canada, from the *Times & Transcript* in Moncton, New Brunswick, and *The Record* in Sherbrooke, Quebec, to the *Daily Herald-Tribune* in Grande Prairie, Alberta and *The Daily News* in Kamloops, British Columbia. The three directors were also guests on radio programs in Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver and London, Ontario.

Finally, eight media advisories and news releases were issued during this period, six of which were joint news releases with other NGOs (e.g. Médecins Sans Frontières and Human Rights Watch), the Global Treatment Action Group (GTAG), or the other national HIV/AIDS organizations (e.g. the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, the Canadian AIDS Society, the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Centre, the Canadian Treatment Action Council, the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation, and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development).

For more information on the Legal Network's media activities, visit www.aidslaw.ca/media.



To read the report,
please visit
www.euro.who.int/aids.

WHO Europe meeting on criminalization of HIV

In October 2006, Deputy Director **Richard Elliott** attended an expert regional consultation the criminalization of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, organized by the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the European AIDS Treatment Group. The consultation brought together representatives of organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental technical experts, as well as representatives from the WHO and UNAIDS. By sharing experiences from select European countries, the participants identified urgent needs for further collaborative action, including a WHO or UN position statement.

Discussions addressed the application of criminal law to situations involving unprotected sexual relations; the relationship between criminal law and the assumptions and principles underlying HIV/AIDS and public health policy; and the potential impact of the application of criminal law on the legal and social position of people living with HIV and on AIDS policy.

Conclusions and recommendations were presented in several areas to address the need for additional research on the public health impact of criminalization, as well as to guide the conduct of police and prosecutors in handling such cases.



Legal Network testifies on AIDS and human rights in China

In 2004, the Legal Network became the first non-governmental organization in Canada to participate in the Canada-China Human Rights Dialogue, a government-to-government discussion of human rights issues. In that year, former board president **Lori Stoltz** represented the Legal Network as the Dialogue focused on HIV/AIDS. Since that time, the Legal Network has worked as part of a coalition of NGOs called the Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China, which includes Amnesty International and Rights and Democracy. Both the Coalition and an independent evaluation by **Prof. Charles Burton** of Brock University concluded that this bilateral dialogue was too superficial in its current form to make a meaningful contribution to improving human rights in China.

Coalition members, including the Legal Network (represented by Deputy Director **Richard Elliott**), were invited to testify on November 28 before the House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights. Richard spoke from his own experience in China and from the Legal Network's collaborations with Chinese NGOs to describe the human rights challenges related to HIV/AIDS in China, particularly the challenges faced by gays and lesbians, sex workers and people who use drugs. He underscored the need for a bilateral human rights dialogue that would take place at a higher government level than the current dialogue, that would include legitimate civil society organizations in both countries, and that would have the clout to influence the programming of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the policies of Foreign Affairs Canada.



Inside the Network

Honouring Ruth Carey

A Legal Network Board of Directors without **Ruth Carey** is something almost unheard of in the annals of the organization. In December, President **Le-Ann Dolan** accepted Ruth's resignation with regret, but also with deep appreciation for her exceptional service.

After 10 years, Ruth resigned as executive director of HALCO, the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario), Canada's only legal aid clinic specializing in assisting people living with HIV/AIDS. Ruth worked tirelessly to protect and promote the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. As a result of her dedication to HALCO's day-to-day services, as well as to broader advocacy with provincial authorities, Ruth is a hero to thousands of people whose lives have been touched by her work.

Her service to the Legal Network was equally

heroic. She brought to the Board a steady fount of specialized knowledge and strategic wisdom that guided our work. In 2002–2003, she helped reorganize the Legal Network staff into more effective teams. She served us in a number of leadership positions and was frequently the Board's best authority on legal questions and issues of process. Most of all, she always gave generously and cheerfully of her time and expertise, despite her more-than-full-time commitment to HALCO. From helping to research and write the Legal Network's report on privacy law to analyzing developments for the *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review*, Ruth's contribution has been exemplary. Her expertise will be missed.

The staff and Board of the Legal Network wish Ruth enormous success in her new position on the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal.

Alana Klein appointed to the OHRC

Congratulations to Senior Policy Analyst **Alana Klein** on her recent appointment as a commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Alana brings with her a breadth of experience on issues pertaining to women's rights, harm reduction and immigration.

"This is a very exciting time to be appointed," said Alana. "Recent amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code put the Commission in a better position to address systemic discrimination. I'm happy to be able to contribute to this cause."

The Ontario Human Rights Commission was established in 1961 and is an arm's-length

agency of government accountable to the Ontario legislature

through the Attorney General. Its mission is to protect Ontarians against discrimination and human rights abuses by investigating complaints of discrimination and harassment; making efforts to settle complaints between parties; preventing discrimination through public education and public policy; and looking into situations where discriminatory behaviour exists.

The Commission is staffed by a full-time Chief Commissioner and a varying number of part-time commissioners.



Ontario
Human Rights Commission

Commission ontarienne des
droits de la personne

For more information,
visit www.ohrc.on.ca.

Welcoming new board members

Three new members joined our Board of Directors after being elected at the 2006 Annual General Meeting:

For more information,
please visit
www.aidslaw.ca >
Who We Are >
Board of Directors.

William Booth is the Executive Director of AIDS Vancouver and an instructor of HIV/AIDS with the United Nations Development Programme Virtual Development Academy. He also holds an appointment as Clinical Instructor in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care at the University of British Columbia's College of Health Disciplines. Previously, he was the Deputy Director of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service. He also worked with several international organizations, including Care International and Habitat for Humanity.

Anna-Louise Crago recently returned to her studies after working as the communications director of Stella in Montréal. She is a founding member of La Coalition pour les droits des travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe, a Montréal

sex worker action group. As an AIDS activist, she has worked at needle exchange and mobile vaccination clinics for homeless youth and injection drug users. She also authored a research report for the City of Montréal on the effects of the criminalization of street youth, as well as numerous articles on the effects of U.S. HIV funding restrictions on sex worker groups in sub-Saharan Africa.

Rosemary Fayant is an outreach worker with Streetworks, a harm reduction and needle exchange program in Edmonton's inner city, where she works with high-risk populations to try and prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C. Rosemary, who is of Métis descent, also serves as president of the Alberta Provincial Drug Users Group and sits on a number of committees at the municipal, provincial and national levels.

Thanks to outgoing board members **Carolann Brewer**, **Wayne Campbell** and **Michèle Lalonde** for their dedicated service to the Legal Network.



New Resources

- Legislating for Health and Human Rights: Model Law on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS
www.aidslaw.ca/modellaw
- Правотворчество в области здоровья и прав человека: Модельный закон о потреблении наркотиков и ВИЧ/СПИДе
www.aidslaw.ca/modellaw-ru
- *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review* 11(2/3) — AIDS 2006 Supplement issue
www.aidslaw.ca/review
- Misleading and Misguided: Mandatory Incarceration for Certain Drug Offences — Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights regarding Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conditional sentence of imprisonment)*
www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy > Publications
- Update on Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conditional sentence of imprisonment)*
www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy > Publications
- Proceedings: Global Networking for AIDS, Law and Human Rights — A Satellite of the XVI International AIDS Conference (in English, French, Spanish and Russian)
www.aidslaw.ca/aids2006
- “Pledges and pitfalls: Canada’s legislation on compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals for export” — Article by Deputy Director Richard Elliott in *International Journal of Intellectual Property Management*, Vol. 1, Nos. 1/2, 2006
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