

# Network news

ISSUE 6

CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK

FEBRUARY 2001

## Network Welcomes 200th Member

Since September 2000, 55 new members have joined the Legal Network, bringing the total number of members to 205. Slightly less than half of these are AIDS service organizations or organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS, such as prison issues, drug-use issues, and Aboriginal issues. The rest are individual members from across Canada and a small number from other countries. Some of our new members include YouthCo AIDS Society, Care Canada, the John Howard Society of Canada, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, the Canadian Association of Social Workers, and the Australian Federation of AIDS Service Organizations. We welcome all new members and look forward to working with them in the coming years. For additional information about issues related to membership, contact Anne Renaud at [arenaud@aidslaw.ca](mailto:arenaud@aidslaw.ca).

## Network Participates in United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS)

At its 55th session, the United Nations General Assembly, in a resolution of 3 November 2000, decided to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special session of the General Assembly "to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects." The aim of the special session is to "secure a global commitment to enhancing coordination and the intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat the epidemic in a comprehensive manner." The special session will take place in New York City from 25 to 27 June 2001.

Civil society, including people with HIV/AIDS and NGOs, must play an important role, both in the session itself and in the preparations for the session. Therefore, the Legal Network applied for accreditation to participate in UNGASS. In addition, we are a member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee, which advises the United Nations AIDS Programme (UNAIDS) on all forms of involvement of civil society in UNGASS, both in the preparatory process and the Special Session itself. The other members of the Committee are CONGO (the Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations), the European Council of AIDS Service Organizations, the Global Business Council on HIV and AIDS, the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, the International AIDS Society, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions – African Regional Organisation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Society of Women Against AIDS, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Council of Churches, and the NGO delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. Finally, Ralf Jürgens participated as delegation observer representing Canadian NGOs on Canada's



CANADIAN RÉSEAU  
HIV/AIDS JURIDIQUE  
LÉGALE CANADIEN  
NETWORK VIH-SIDA



Canadian  
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## Network news

*Network News* aims to keep readers up to date on activities undertaken by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, and serves as a means of information sharing among Network members. It is published every four months by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

Contributions by Network members about their own HIV/AIDS-related activities in the area of law, ethics, and human rights are welcome and encouraged. Please submit such contributions in electronic format to Anne Renaud at:

### *Network News*

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### Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

The Network is a charitable organization engaged in education, legal and ethical analysis, and policy development. We promote responses to HIV/AIDS that

- implement the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights;
- respect the rights of people with HIV/AIDS and of those affected by the disease;
- facilitate HIV prevention efforts;
- facilitate care, treatment, and support to people with HIV/AIDS;
- minimize the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and communities; and
- address the social and economic factors that increase vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and to human rights abuses.

We produce, and facilitate access to, accurate and up-to-date information and analysis on legal, ethical, and policy issues related to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally. We consult, and give voice to, Network members and a wide range of participants, in particular communities of people with HIV/AIDS and those affected by HIV/AIDS, in identifying, analyzing, and addressing legal, ethical, and policy issues related to HIV/AIDS. We link people working on or concerned by these issues. We recognize the global implications of the epidemic and incorporate that perspective in our work.

The Network is a partner organization of the AIDS Law Project, South Africa. It is based in Montréal. We welcome new members. For membership information, contact Anne Renaud at [arenaud@aidslaw.ca](mailto:arenaud@aidslaw.ca).

delegation to the Preparatory Consultations for UNGASS from 26 February to 2 March 2001.

For more information on UNGASS, consult the Network's website at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events.htm> or contact Ralf Jürgens at [ralfj@aidslaw.ca](mailto:ralfj@aidslaw.ca).

## Listserv on Legal, Ethical, & Policy Issues Related to HIV/AIDS Launched

On 5 March 2001, the Legal Network launched the AIDSPOLICYLAW-list, the first Canadian listserv dedicated to the discussion of legal, ethical, and policy issues related to HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of the list is to exchange information of interest among people and organizations who provide legal and advocacy services to people with HIV/AIDS or who are interested in public policy issues relevant to HIV/AIDS. The list is a forum for connecting lawyers, paralegals, and community legal workers; community activists and other advocates; people working in AIDS service organizations and other community-based organizations who deal with, or are interested in, legal and policy issues; and public policymakers.

Subscribers to the list generate its content by posting inquiries, summaries, and analyses of legal cases, comments on law and policy issues, announcements of relevant events or developments, and other items of interest to people active or interested in the field of HIV/AIDS law and policy.

For example, a member might ask other subscribers for suggestions about advocacy strategies for helping an HIV-positive client in prison, or how to locate an expert witness or other evidence needed for a legal case. List members can also keep each other apprised of policy developments relating to HIV/AIDS in their respective provinces, territories, or regions, or discuss the implications of a court decision or legislation for people with HIV/AIDS.

If you would like to subscribe to the list, visit the Legal Network's website at [http://www.aidslaw.ca/mailling\\_list/subscription.htm](http://www.aidslaw.ca/mailling_list/subscription.htm) to complete and submit a short questionnaire. Once your application has been processed, you will receive a "welcome" message from the list operator, with technical details about how the list operates.

For more information about the AIDSPOLICYLAW-list, contact the Legal Network's list operator, Thomas Haig, at [thaig@aidslaw.ca](mailto:thaig@aidslaw.ca).



Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
International Program – Guiding Principles

Because there is a moral and legal imperative to respond to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic;

Because the global HIV/AIDS epidemic requires a response that is ethical and respects human rights;

Because the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada can benefit from engaging in the international dimensions of the epidemic; and

Because the Network has substantial knowledge and expertise in the area of legal, ethical, policy and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS,

The Network will proactively address these issues based on its long-term vision, and in accordance with the following:

- The Network's international program will be based on international legal principles and policy guidance, as reflected in the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, the Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS, and international human rights law.
- The Network's international program will be developed in consultation with the Network's members and partners in a spirit of collaboration and to avoid duplication of activities.
- The Network will work with individuals, organizations, and communities to develop their capacity to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in ways that are culturally sensitive, ethical, and respect human rights.
- The Network's international program will complement the Network's activities in Canada.

## Guiding Principles for the Network's International Program Adopted

The Legal Network has always incorporated international activities into its work, recognizing not only that we can contribute to work being done internationally, but also that there is much we can learn from work in other countries. In recent years, we significantly strengthened the international component of our work. This has been very well received by the Network's membership, and generally there is an understanding that it is important for the Network to undertake international work not only because it is right to do so, but also because the Network's work in Canada greatly benefits from the international work we undertake. Whether it is the Network's work on access to care, treatment, and support, vaccines, criminal law, or prisons, our examination of issues internationally has informed and refined our Canadian work.

Although the Network has been very successful in increasing its international activities, it is now faced with many questions. Among them are: How can we better respond to the ever increasing demand, internationally and particularly from developing countries, for the Network's expertise? How can we obtain funding for some of the activities that we would like to undertake internationally? What opportunities exist for increased collaboration with CIDA, UNAIDS, and others? What vision do we have for where the

Network's international activities should be in one year, three years, five years? How does this tie in with the international activities of other Canadian (and international) organizations, and how can we further strengthen our links with them? How can we contribute best not only to the Network's increased involvement in international activities, but also that of our over 200 members? And how can we maximize the benefits for our work in Canada from the work that we undertake internationally?

With funding from the International Affairs Directorate, Health Canada, the Network is currently addressing these questions and developing a longer-term vision and action plan for its international activities.

At its February 2001 meeting, guiding principles for the Network's International Program were adopted by the Board. Consultations with potential partners in international work are ongoing. In April 2001, a paper with details on the Network's International Program will become available.

For more information on the Legal Network's international activities, consult the Network's website at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/about.htm#ic> or contact Glen Bugg at [gbugg@aidslaw.ca](mailto:gbugg@aidslaw.ca).



## Work on Immigration and HIV/AIDS Remains Priority

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In the last issue of *Network News* we reported that work on immigration and HIV/AIDS had become a priority for the Legal Network because of an announcement in late September 2000 that Health Canada had recommended to Citizenship and Immigration Canada that all prospective immigrants be tested for HIV and hepatitis B, and that those testing positive be excluded on *public health grounds*. Within hours of the announcement, the Network responded. Since then, we started a letter-writing campaign to the Ministers of Health and Citizenship and Immigration, which resulted in hundreds of letters, faxes, and emails being sent to the Ministers; sent seven urgent alerts to our members to update them on developments and opportunities for action; created a special section on HIV/AIDS and immigration on the Network's website, which we have updated regularly; published an ethical analysis of the issues related to mandatory testing and exclusion of prospective immigrants; gave numerous interviews to Canadian media and wrote several letters to the editor of Canadian newspapers; and published and widely distributed *HIV/AIDS and Immigration: A Draft Discussion Paper*, which contains a thorough

analysis of the legal and policy issues raised by HIV/AIDS in the context of immigration. The paper and its analysis and recommendations have been used very widely, including by the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, which met twice with the Minister of Health to discuss HIV/AIDS and immigration issues and recommended, among other things, that Health Canada should seek further input from agencies working in the area of HIV/AIDS and/or immigration. As a result, on 1 February the Network and five other organizations met with representatives from Health Canada and Citizenship and Immigration. At the time of writing, Health Canada was reconsidering its initial advice to Citizenship and Immigration Canada that prospective immigrants should be tested for HIV and that those testing positive should be excluded on *public health grounds*. In the meantime, the Legal Network has received input and comments on its draft discussion paper and will soon release its final report on HIV/AIDS and immigration. Even if Health Canada does reconsider its advice, work in this area will have to continue. The discussion paper and final report contain many other important recommendations we will have to follow up on.

Copies of all the Network documents on HIV/AIDS and immigration are at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/immigration.htm>. For more information about our work in this area, contact Ralf Jürgens at [ralfj@aidslaw.ca](mailto:ralfj@aidslaw.ca).

## Project News

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### Complementary and alternative health care in Canada: legal, ethical, & policy issues for people with HIV/AIDS

On 11 and 12 February 2001, the Legal Network held a workshop in Montréal to obtain input from a wide variety of participants concerning the Network's draft report entitled "The Regulation of Complementary/Alternative Health Care in Canada: Legal, Ethical & Policy Issues for People with HIV/AIDS."

Discussion at the workshop focused on the ethical and legal issues that are of most concern to complementary/alternative and conventional health-care practitioners, government policymakers and, especially, people with HIV/AIDS.

The Network's report on these issues is now being

finalized and will be released in the coming months as the first of the Network's new series of papers on care, treatment, and support issues.

Previously, in late 2000, the Legal Network joined the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS), the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE), the Canadian Treatment Advocates Council (CTAC), and the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society (BCPWA) in preparing a joint submission to Health Canada's new Office of Natural Health Products.

For more information about the Legal Network's activities in this area, contact Richard Elliott at [relliott@aidslaw.ca](mailto:relliott@aidslaw.ca).

### Work on vaccine issues

On 19 and 20 November 2000, the Network held a workshop on the legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by the development and eventual availability of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS. Participants from across Canada provided input into the Legal





Network's draft report on these issues. The report is now undergoing final revisions and will be released in the coming months, together with a series of info sheets.

In addition, the Legal Network is organizing a one-day skills-building workshop entitled "Everything you need to know about HIV vaccines," to be held in Montréal on Friday, 6 July 2001 in conjunction with the Canadian Skills Building Symposium.

It will start with a presentation on the current state of vaccine research and development in Canada and internationally. It will then introduce participants to some of the main legal and ethical questions arising during research, development, and eventual delivery of an HIV vaccine in Canada. Using case studies, participants will debate issues such as: (1) Should resources be invested in HIV vaccine research? (2) How can a balance be maintained between obtaining results speedily and protecting human subjects in clinical trials of HIV vaccines? (3) How can the community most effectively be involved in clinical trials? (4) Do researchers have obligations to recruit people from a diversity of HIV-affected communities, such as injection drug users, women, Aboriginal people, youth, gay men, etc? (5) What information must be provided to participants in clinical trials? (6) How can participants be protected from potential harms deriving from their participation in a trial? (7) Once a vaccine becomes available, how should it be made accessible?

Finally, participants will also discuss some of the issues specific to countries in the developing world.

Participation in this workshop will be limited to 30 people. For more information on the vaccine project and the workshop, contact Ralf Jürgens at [ralfj@aidslaw.ca](mailto:ralfj@aidslaw.ca).

## HIV/AIDS in prisons

Activities in this area include the following:

- With the assistance of key experts in Canada and internationally, we have updated our series of info sheets on HIV/AIDS in prisons.
- Ralf Jürgens participated in a meeting on HIV/AIDS in prisons in Russia, sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and Prison Reform International (PRI), in Copenhagen on 5 and 6 October. For a WHO, MSF, and PRI publication entitled "HIV in Prison. A Manual for the Newly Independent States," Ralf has co-authored two chapters (on risk behaviours and on HIV prevention in prisons). This publication is currently being finalized and will be translated into Russian and distributed to prison staff in Russia.
- On 31 January 2001, Ralf Jürgens testified as expert witness at a coroner's inquest into the death of Michael Leblanc, a prisoner with HIV and hepatitis C virus who died at Kingston

Penitentiary. We will publish an article about the inquest and the jury's findings in volume 6, number 1 of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review.

- On 13 February 2001, together with the Canadian AIDS Society, the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic of Ontario, the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society, and the Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network, we met with Sandra Black, Jeff Potts, and Nancy Sutton from the HIV/AIDS Program of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). We were provided with an update on activities undertaken by CSC to prevent the spread of HIV in prisons, and to provide care, treatment, and support. CSC agreed to meet with us more regularly to discuss issues of concern.
- On 14 February 2001, we participated in an Information-Sharing and Workplanning Meeting of the CSC's National Infectious Diseases Program.

For more details about our activities in this area, contact Ralf Jürgens at [ralfj@aidslaw.ca](mailto:ralfj@aidslaw.ca).

## More work on mandatory HIV testing

Proposals for mandatory HIV testing of certain groups of the population and of individuals in certain circumstances continue to be made in Canada, despite a general consensus that HIV testing should only be undertaken with the informed consent of the person being tested, with adequate pre- and post-test counseling, and when confidentiality of test results can be guaranteed. Such calls are likely to increase in the future due to the availability of rapid point-of-care screening.

Therefore, the Legal Network has applied for, and recently obtained, funding to do some additional work on HIV testing issues. Building on work previously undertaken by the Network, we will produce a variety of user-friendly materials (such as a question and answer sheet, a short, accessible background, an editorial for a major Canadian newspaper, letters to police organizations, Members of Parliament, etc) on the issues raised by mandatory HIV testing.

For more information about this project, which will be completed in April 2001, contact Ralf Jürgens at [ralfj@aidslaw.ca](mailto:ralfj@aidslaw.ca).



## Other Network News

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### Evaluation of the impact of the Network's work starts

In many ways, the Network's activities were informally evaluated in the 1998/99 planning exercise on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS (see the report at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/internaldocs/planning/tofc.htm>). However, since 1999/2000 the Network has significantly stepped up its evaluation efforts, developing and starting to implement an ongoing monitoring and cyclical evaluation and feedback strategy.

Most recently, in January 2001 we engaged a consultant team who will undertake an evaluation of selected components of the Network's work, to assess the impact of the work we do. The evaluation will focus on three areas of the Network's expertise and programs: rapid HIV testing, prisons and HIV/AIDS, and injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. It will include a survey and interviews with selected stakeholders.

The consultant team will submit its final report of the evaluation results to the Network by the end of April 2001. The report will then become available on our website.

For more information about the Network's evaluation activities, contact Glen Bugg at [gbugg@aidslaw.ca](mailto:gbugg@aidslaw.ca).

### Network submits three-year operational funding application

On 15 January 2001, the Network submitted a funding application to Health Canada for renewal of the Network's operational funding. For the last three years, the Network received \$270,000/year for the core programs of the Network, including follow-up activities in areas such as HIV/AIDS in prisons, HIV testing and confidentiality, criminal law, Aboriginal issues, and injection drug use and HIV/AIDS; evaluation; communications (including our website, *Network News*, media activities, the Annual Report, etc); and governance (including Board meetings, the Annual General Meeting, etc). Our funding application is based on the outcomes of the 1998/99 national consultation on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS; the Health Canada Direction-Setting Meeting held in Grey Rocks in late 2000; the long-term planning exercise that Board and staff of the

Legal Network undertook in 1999 and 2000; and the input we received from members. At the time of writing, we had not yet heard from Health Canada about whether our application has been successful.

### Update on the Network's CIDA-funded partnership project

As part of the Network's CIDA-funded partnership project with the AIDS Law Project, South Africa (see *Network News* 5, at 5), we are co-sponsoring a strategy meeting in Toronto on 14 May 2001 on "Global Access to Treatments: How Canadian Organizations and Activists Can Promote Greater Access."

For more information on this project, contact Richard Elliott at [relliott@aidslaw.ca](mailto:relliott@aidslaw.ca).

### [www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)

We have added many new features and sections to our website, including sections on HIV/AIDS and women (<http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/women.htm>), on HIV/AIDS and access to treatments in developing countries (<http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/care-treatment.htm>), and on UNGASS (<http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events.htm>). We have also added a member area where members can retrieve electronic versions of all Network mailings, and we are compiling a list of links to the websites of Network members, which will be added to the existing list of links on our site. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the website, contact Éric Nolet at [enolet@aidslaw.ca](mailto:enolet@aidslaw.ca).

### Network endorses TAC "Defiance Campaign"

In July 2000, at the International AIDS Conference in Durban, the Treatment Action Campaign, a South African activist group, announced that it would be launching a "Defiance Campaign Against Patent Abuse and AIDS Profiteering."

In October 2000, it announced that it had purchased a generic version of fluconazole from Thailand and had imported the drug into South Africa. It defied the pharmaceutical company Pfizer Inc to take action against it for importing the drug, over which Pfizer holds the patent in South Africa, and called for international support.

Fluconazole is an anti-fungal drug used to treat thrush and fatal cryptococcal meningitis, both common among people with HIV/AIDS. Pfizer had steadfastly refused to lower its price or to voluntarily grant the South African government a licence to produce or import generic fluconazole. The cost in South Africa of Pfizer's brand-name drug was 45 times the cost in Thailand of the generic drug.



The AIDS Law Project, South Africa is the Legal Network's partner organization and a key member of the Treatment Action Campaign. The Legal Network joined numerous other organizations and individuals from around the world in endorsing the campaign and will continue to support efforts to make medicines more affordable and accessible for people with HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

As a result of an application by the ALP, the South African Medicines Control Council eventually issued, on humanitarian grounds, an interim exemption from the usual regulatory procedure for registering drugs, in order to allow registered doctors and patients to receive the generic fluconazole, provided that the proper safety, quality, and efficacy testing of the drug would be undertaken.

## Network Staff

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On 15 January 2001, *Maria Nengeh Mensah* left her position at the Network to pursue new challenges. We will miss her! Here is her message for *Network News* readers: "Having completed my doctoral studies and having recently gotten married, I begin the New Year with a host of new challenges. Yet my new beginnings could not feel as exciting as they do if it were not for the tremendously valuable experience I have gained from working at the Legal Network since 1998. I began by organizing the bulk of documentation compiled in the course of producing Network publications and stacked in a room full of boxes. Once the Resource Centre was systematized and open to the public, I was involved in follow-up activities, supervising interns, researching laws and policies regulating sex work, and general communications activities. I learned about the Network's unique role in Canada and abroad, the staff's genuine dedication, and the vitality of the membership; I developed the skills needed to make complex legal information accessible in the context of the community-based HIV/AIDS movement; and I learned a lot about the critical empowerment issues that are dear to me. What started as a "part-time job" soon developed into a nearly full-time position in an inspiring workplace setting that has enabled me to renew my commitment to social change. In particular, thanks to a great boss and inquisitive users of the Resource Centre, I discovered the passion that shapes the ways in which the Network promotes education and advocacy in order to end discrimination and its impact on the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS. It is this passion that I take with me as I move on to pursue my career in other settings. I hope to continue working in HIV/AIDS research and teaching, and I am sure that our mutual interests means we will continue to cross paths." Best of luck to you, Maria.

In January, *Thomas Haig* took over from Maria in the position of Communications and Project Coordinator. Thomas holds an MA in Media Studies and is currently completing his PhD in Communication at Concordia University. His doctoral research deals with the role of face-to-face conversation in community-

More information about the Treatment Action Campaign can be found at [www.tac.org.za](http://www.tac.org.za).

### Network co-sponsors presentation on HIV/AIDS and human rights in India

On 12 October 2000 in Montréal, the Legal Network co-sponsored Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal's presentation in the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS, entitled "India: The Voices of an Epidemic." The presentation is now available on the Legal Network's website at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events/dhaliwalpresep1.htm>.

based HIV/AIDS prevention work. Thomas worked as a volunteer peer educator with Action Séro Zéro in Montréal, and in 1997 was the Community Liaison and Internship Coordinator for the Concordia University HIV/AIDS course. From 1992 to 1997, Thomas was a part-time lecturer in Communication Studies at Concordia University. More recently, he was director of marketing and public relations for an internet services company. At the Network, Thomas's responsibilities include coordinating follow-up work on Network publications, managing the Resource Centre, and assisting in the coordination of capacity-building initiatives. Thomas is very excited about his new position and looks forward to getting to know the Network's many members and partners.

Thomas can be reached at 514 397-6828 ext 224 or by email at [thaig@aidslaw.ca](mailto:thaig@aidslaw.ca).

Since January 2001, *Terry Gould* has been working for the Network on a full-time basis as Office and Resource Centre Assistant. Terry began working with us on a one-day-a-week contract basis in the summer of 1999, helping out in the Resource Centre. Starting in April 2000, he worked an additional three days a week as office clerk. Terry now works two days a week assisting Thomas in the Resource Centre, and three days a week assisting Anne Renaud and Éric Nolet with office work. Terry can be reached at 514 397-6828 ext 225. His email address is [tgould@aidslaw.ca](mailto:tgould@aidslaw.ca).

Bios of all staff are at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/AbouttheNetwork/aboutstaff.htm>.



## Important Dates

### Montréal, 6 July 2001: Vaccine skills-building satellite

A one-day workshop on everything people need to know about HIV/AIDS vaccines, with a focus on legal, ethical, and human rights issues. Organized by the Network in conjunction with the Canadian Skills Building Symposium. For more information, see pages 4 to 5, or contact Éric Nolet at enolet@aidslaw.ca.

### Montréal, 6-9 July 2001: The 3rd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium: Getting Together, Sharing Together, Learning Together

The 3rd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium – Getting Together, Sharing Together, Learning Together – takes place in Montréal from 6 to 9 July. Learning streams in the following areas will be featured: prevention; therapies: comple-

mentary, allopathic, and alternative; organizational and community development; policy, legal, and ethical issues; care/counseling/support; community-based research; and international perspectives. For further information, contact the Events Team at the Canadian AIDS Society at 877 998-9991 or by email at skills@cdnaids.ca.

### Montréal, 21-23 September 2001: The Network 2001 AGM and Skills-Building Event

Back in Montréal, and in September to avoid conflict with the Canadian Skills Building Symposium. Highlights include a keynote presentation on Friday evening, 21 September, by a representative from Médecins Sans Frontières. At the time of printing, we were awaiting confirmation from Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia, who may join us as the second keynote speaker. On Sunday, 23 September, workshops will be offered on (1) "hot" legal and policy issues; (2) safe injection sites: legal and ethical issues; (3) needle exchange in prisons: how and why; (4) drug pricing; (5) mandatory HIV testing: illegal, unethical, and unnecessary; and (6) HIV/AIDS vaccines: legal and ethical issues. For more information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca or tel: 514 397-6828 ext 222.

## Comments and Feedback

*Thank you for providing us with the discussion papers and information sheets. They will be a valuable resource for our Aboriginal and HIV/AIDS organizations, as well as our Ministry.*

– Mike Farnworth, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors, Victoria, 14 September 2000

*I have reviewed the discussion paper on Immigration and HIV/AIDS. Once again, you have done a great job, within demanding time constraints.*

– Joanne McAlpine, Executive Director, HIV/AIDS Regional Services, Kingston, 15 November 2000

## Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network Donation Form

☐ Yes! I want to make a donation toward the important work of the Legal Network.

Please accept my donation of: ☐ 25 \$ ☐ 50 \$ ☐ 75 \$ ☐ 100 \$ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (outside Canada, please pay in US dollars).

☐ Please charge my Visa: Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I enclose cheque/money order payable to the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. ☐ Please invoice me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: info@aidslaw.ca Website: www.aidslaw.ca All eligible donors of \$10 or more will be sent a tax receipt.