

Network news

ISSUE 8

CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK

JANUARY 2002

Network Planning Regional Workshops

Starting in March 2002, the Network will organize a series of two-day capacity-building workshops on key legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. The first such workshop will be held in Red Deer, Alberta, and will be co-sponsored by the Alberta Community Council on HIV, the Saskatchewan AIDS Network, and the Manitoba AIDS Cooperative. From April 2002 to March 2003 we will hold similar workshops in the Atlantic region, in Québec, in Ontario, and in the Pacific region. Our goal is to build capacity to address the legal and policy issues related to HIV/AIDS throughout Canada, as well as to strengthen our links with regional and local organizations.

For more information, see the capacity building section in the Network's 2001/2002 workplan at www.aidslaw.ca/AbouttheNetwork/workplans.htm, or contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.

New Report on Complementary/Alternative Health Care and HIV/AIDS

An increasing number of Canadians are using complementary/alternative medicine (CAM), and some evidence suggests that its use is even higher among people with HIV/AIDS, who use various kinds of CAM with such goals as boosting general immunity, preventing infection, or coping with the unpleasant side effects of conventional drugs. The federal government has created a new regulatory framework for natural health products. However, it is clear that many people with HIV/AIDS must make treatment decisions with limited access to reliable information about the safety and efficacy of the CAM they use, including information about possible interactions with conventional drugs and the possible effects specific to people with compromised immune systems.

In early January 2002, after an extensive research and consultation process, the Network released a 165-page report on *Complementary/Alternative Health Care and HIV/AIDS: Legal, Ethical & Policy Issues in Regulation*. The report is accompanied by five easy-to-use, accessible info sheets.

The report and info sheets discuss the need for additional research on HIV and CAM; for improved education and training of health-care practitioners, both conventional and complementary/alternative; and for a regulatory approach to products and practitioners that appropriately balances the range of legal and ethical considerations raised by the use of CAM.

The report and info sheets have been available since November 2001 on the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/care-treatment.htm. Hard copies can be obtained from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse (email: aidssida@cpha.ca). For more information about the new report or further activities the Legal Network plans in this area, contact Richard Elliott at relliott@aidslaw.ca.



Canadian
Strategy on
HIV/AIDS

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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.

Occupational Exposure – Network Opposes Compulsory HIV Testing

In recent years there have been renewed calls for compulsory testing of persons who are believed to be the source of an occupational exposure to HBV, HCV or HIV and who refuse to test voluntarily. Bill C-217 (formerly Bill C-244), a private member's bill currently before the Canadian federal Parliament, would authorize court-ordered testing of a source person where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a health-care worker, firefighter, peace officer, security officer, or "good Samaritan" may have been infected in coming to the aid of that person. In Ontario, a similar private member's bill (Bill 105: Health Protection and Promotion Amendment Act, 2001) was adopted on 20 December 2001.

In October 2001, the Legal Network released a series of info sheets and a 40-page backgrounder on "Testing of Persons Believed to be the Source of an Occupational Exposure to HBV, HCV, or HIV." These documents contain a comprehensive review of the issues regarding occupational exposure to infectious diseases and the benefits and harms of compulsory testing of source persons. They demonstrate that more could (and must) be done to prevent occupational exposure, support workers, and obtain voluntary consent for testing from source persons, without having recourse to compulsory testing.

In November and December 2001, we widely disseminated the documents, including to all federal Members of Parliament. We hope the documents will generate discussion and informed debate and the implementation of sound policies and procedures for the prevention and management of occupational exposure, rather than a repetition of the Ontario experience at the federal level and in other provinces and territories.

The backgrounder and series of info sheets are available at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/testing.htm. Hard copies can be obtained from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse (email: aidssida@cpha.ca). For more information, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.

2001 AGM Highlights

Our 2001 AGM and Skills-Building Event was held in Montréal from 21 to 23 September 2001. Over 80 people attended the panel discussion on Access to HIV/AIDS Treatments in Developing Countries on the evening of Friday, 21 September. And close to a hundred people attended the AGM itself and the



skills-building workshops and plenary presentations held on the 22nd and 23rd.

On Sunday, 23 September, four skills-building workshops on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS were held: (1) safe injection sites: legal and ethical issues; (2) needle exchange programs in prisons: how and why; (3) mandatory HIV testing: legal and ethical issues; and (4) HIV/AIDS vaccines: legal and ethical issues.

The AGM closed with two plenary presentations and discussion with the audience. Mark Heywood spoke on HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, and Global Responsibility. Pierre Lauzon, founder of the Cran (Centre for Research and Help for People Dependent on Drugs) and a physician in Montréal, spoke on “everything we need to know about heroin maintenance and substitution trials.”

This is what one of our members, Joanne Csete from Human Rights Watch, had to say about the weekend: “I just wanted to congratulate you again on an excellent meeting. It is an amazing

group of people that you managed to bring together at this event. I felt like everyone I met was on the frontlines of a truly heroic struggle. Thanks for all the thought and effort that went into the meeting.”

Many thanks to the funders who made the event possible: Health Canada, the Centre québécois de coordination sur le sida, and several lawyers and law firms: Matthew Wilton & Associate (Toronto); McCarthy Tétrault (Toronto); Goodman and Carr LLP (Toronto); Mary Thompson, McCarthy Tétrault (Toronto); Bruce Lerner, Grant Kovacs Norell (Vancouver); and Earl Cherniak, Lerner & Associates, Toronto.

A collection of the presentations given at the opening and closing panels is available at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events/proceedings-agm2001.htm.

Health Canada Responds to IDU Report

On 31 August 2001, over 20 months after the Network released its report on *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues*, Health Canada responded with a commitment to “strengthening and expanding efforts with respect to injection drug use.”

The Network is pleased with many aspects of Health Canada’s response. In particular, Health Canada clearly acknowledges that injection drug use is first and foremost a health issue, and that fundamental changes are needed to existing legal and policy frameworks in order to effectively address injection drug use as a health issue.

However, other aspects of Health Canada’s response are disappointing. Canada’s drug laws are contributing to the harm associated with injection drug use. There is a need for changes to drug policy in Canada. Health Canada’s response acknowledges this, but it tiptoes around this fundamental issue rather than deal with it in a meaningful way.

The Network prepared an in-depth review of Health Canada’s response. The review, along with the Network’s 1999 report and Health Canada’s response to the report, are available at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/druglaws.htm.

In addition, the Legal Network is continuing to follow up on the recommendations in the 1999 report in a variety of ways. In

November 2001, Ralf Jürgens gave presentations on the legal and ethical issues related to the establishment of supervised injection sites at the “Journées scientifiques” of the Unité maladies infectieuses, Direction de la santé publique de Montréal-Centre (a copy of the presentation in French is at www.aidslaw.ca/francais/Contenu/themes/loisdrogues.htm); and on the impact of drug laws and policies on prevention and care, treatment, and support at the “Congrès provincial: Vulnérabilité et VIH/MTS: Les enjeux et les défis de la prévention” in Québec City. On 1 December, Ralf spoke at the opening of a mock safe injection site in downtown east side Vancouver; and on 3 December he moderated and made a presentation at a panel on “Access to Care and Treatment for HIV-Positive Active Drug Users” at the North American Treatment Action Forum. At the time of writing, the Network was finalizing its paper on the legal and ethical issues related to the establishment of safe injection sites in Canada, due to be released by February 2002.

For more information, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.



Options for Work: Results from the Consultation with Members

In early September the Legal Network sent *Options for Work for 2001-2002: A Consultation Paper* to all members, to Health Canada, and to national stakeholders, asking them to provide input into three areas of the Network's workplan: new, emerging and/or pressing issues; follow-up activities; and regional capacity-building workshops. In addition, members attending the Annual General Meeting had an opportunity to provide additional input, as part of a moderated session to discuss the Network's workplan. By 5 October 2001, 43 completed forms had been faxed or sent to the Network.

New, Emerging and/or Pressing Issues: Each year the Legal Network prepares a "short paper or plan that promptly addresses one new, emerging and/or pressing legal, ethical or human rights issue related to HIV/AIDS in Canada." Members were asked which of the following issues we should address as the new, emerging, and/or pressing issue in the 2001/2002 workplan: privacy and confidentiality; disability, discrimination & income security; impact of international trade agreements on access to care, treatment & support; Canadian health-care reform & pharmacare; viatical settlements; drug safety and regulatory issues; or home HIV testing.

This was the most hotly contested area. Generally, members/stakeholders felt it was "difficult to prioritize amongst these important issues," and that work was urgently required on a number, not just one, of them. Some selected two issues without expressing a preference. In the end, 16 selected privacy and confidentiality, 13 the impact of international trade agreements on access to care, treatment & support, 9 disability, discrimination & income security, and 7 Canadian health-care reform and pharmacare.

Based on the input received, the Network has started working on a paper on "privacy and confidentiality" issues as the "new, emerging and/or pressing issue" in the Network's 2001/2002 workplan. The paper will be produced through a process of research and consultation. It will include conclusions and recommendations, possibly including recommendations for legal reform, aimed at pro-

tecting the privacy of people living with HIV/AIDS and the confidentiality of their personal information (and in particular their health information).

Priority Areas for Follow-Up Activities: One component of the Network's workplan is devoted to doing additional, follow-up activities on work that we have already done. The Network does, on an ad hoc basis, follow-up in most if not all areas in which we have done work, but we can only undertake *sustained* follow-up in two areas.

Based on suggestions and inquiries received previously from our members, we had decided that the first issue would be HIV/AIDS in prisons. We asked for input on what the second issue should be: 33 members indicated that we should undertake sustained follow-up activities in the area of HIV/AIDS and drug laws and policies, while eight members selected HIV/AIDS and immigration policy (two members selected both).

Issue(s) for Regional Capacity-Building Workshops: In 2001-2002, the Network is developing a new initiative: a two-day capacity-building workshop that will over the course of one year be held in each of the country's regions. Doing this in each region, rather than in one central location, will allow more people to participate, will help create local and regional partnerships to work on legal, ethical, and human rights issues. The focus and format of the workshop will be developed in partnership with relevant local and regional groups.

Members were asked to select one of the following issues for regional capacity-building workshops: prisons and HIV/AIDS; HIV/AIDS and drug laws/policies; HIV/AIDS and immigration policy; HIV/AIDS-related legal issues for Aboriginal people(s); compulsory HIV testing; and HIV vaccine issues. Twenty selected HIV/AIDS and drug laws/policies, 15 prisons and HIV/AIDS, 10 HIV/AIDS-related legal issues for Aboriginal people(s), 2 HIV/AIDS and immigration policy, 3 compulsory HIV testing, and 1 HIV vaccine issues.

Based on the input received, we are developing a two-day capacity building workshop on HIV/AIDS and drug laws and policies and on prisons and HIV/AIDS, which will be held in all regions within the next 12 months.

For more details about the Network's consultation with members, and to obtain a full copy of the Network's 2001/2002 workplan, see www.aidslaw.ca/AbouttheNetwork/workplans.htm or contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.



Meeting with the Prime Minister – Network Campaigns for Global Access to Treatment

In October and November 2001, the Network's Director of Policy & Research, Richard Elliott, coordinated the Network's campaigning efforts on the issue of global access to treatment in the lead-up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 14 November 2001. Our efforts were undertaken jointly with Médecins Sans Frontières, the Canadian Treatment Action Council, Oxfam Canada, the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation. Many thanks to those of you who participated!

Our campaign was launched in the weeks leading up to the WTO Ministerial Conference. One of the key issues on the agenda of that meeting was the need to ensure that the WTO's agreement on trade-related intellectual property rights (including patents on pharmaceutical products), the "TRIPS Agreement," does not constrain the ability of developing and least-developed countries to protect public health by making important medicines more affordable.

Canada had joined a handful of wealthy countries, led by the US and Switzerland, in opposing calls by roughly eighty developing countries for a clear Declaration by the WTO ministers aimed at ensuring that the TRIPS Agreement would not be allowed to block access to affordable medicines. In particular, one of the key elements sought by developing countries was a clear statement that "nothing in the TRIPS Agreement shall be used to prevent countries from taking measures to protect public health."

The goal of our campaign was to get the Canadian government to change its position and to support developing countries' proposals. We wrote to the Prime Minister and several key cabinet ministers with our joint submission as to why Canada should act to support developing countries' proposals; wrote a joint "open letter" to all Members of Parliament; and distributed an Urgent Action Alert, with sample letters for people to write to the Minister for International Trade and to their own Member of Parliament. On 5 November 2001, representatives from MSF Canada and the Legal Network met with the Prime Minister and with the Minister for International Trade to raise our concerns. We also did numerous interviews with print, radio, and TV media, and published opinion pieces in some major newspapers. Finally, we published an 80-page paper on "TRIPS and Rights: International Human Rights Law, Access to Medicines, and the Interpretation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights."

Comments and Feedback

What a fabulous weekend it was! I am still digesting the information and exchange which occurred between individuals and groups. The weekend was rich and rewarding.

Sheila Norquay, member, commenting on the Network AGM and Skills-Building event, 27 Sept 2001

I have just read HIV/AIDS and Immigration: Final Report and want to send an immediate and personal word of congratulations for a fine job done. I'm sure it will become a basic reference tool as we struggle forward. It's a masterful piece of work – again, congratulations!

Mary Haour-Knipe, Geneva, 18 June 2001

Congratulations on continuing the fight with excellence in research, documentation and ongoing advocacy. I applaud and thank you all for your passion and dedication!

Paul Kenney, Director, Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse, 22 June 2001

We, the staff at AIDS Calgary, would like to thank you for the work you have done around the WTO/TRIPS Campaign. Due to your efforts we were able to send letters in response to these important issues. Your guidance has made it possible for us to be involved on a global level.

Kevin Midbo, Executive Director, and Le-Ann Dolan, Community Developer, AIDS Calgary, 15 November 2001

Our campaign and the efforts undertaken by other organizations have not been in vain. At Doha, a compromise was reached that holds some promise for resource-poor countries, but many challenges remain.

For more detailed information about our campaign, copies of the materials produced, and an update on what has been achieved at Doha, visit the section on "Global Access to Treatment" on the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/care-treatment.htm, or contact Richard Elliott at relliott@aidslaw.ca.



Other Network News

Network prepares five-year report card on HIV/AIDS in prisons

In September 1996 the Legal Network released *HIV/AIDS in Prisons: Final Report*, containing recommendations in 14 areas aimed at improving HIV prevention and care in prisons in Canada. In August 2001 the Network sent a survey to all federal, provincial, and territorial ministries responsible for corrections and to ministries of Health, to assess progress made in implementing these recommendations. The results of the survey are currently being compiled and will be released in early 2002. For more information, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.

Network Asks for More Funds for the CSHA

Together with our national partner organizations, we held a press conference at the House of Commons on 30 November to ask for increased funding for the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS and for Canada's global contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The press release, Ralf Jürgens's speaking notes, and a background document are at www.aidslaw.ca/Media/menu-confnov3001.htm

Network endorses global campaign for prevention options for women

In November 2001, the Network signed on to the Global Campaign for Prevention Options for Women, a broad-based, international effort

designed to build support among policy-makers, opinion leaders, and the general public for increased private and public sector investment into microbicides. For more information about the goals of the campaign, visit the Campaign's website at www.global-campaign.org/inter/abouti.html.

Network joins the "call to care"

In November, the Network endorsed "Standing Together for Medicare: A Call to Care," a statement on key principles that should shape the future direction of the health-care system in Canada. The statement and information on how your organization can sign on can be found at www.healthcoalition.ca/oct12.html.

Projects for UNAIDS

In the last months, the Network completed three projects for the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): We submitted the final draft of a policy options paper on the role of criminal law as part of a response to HIV/AIDS. This paper will be published and widely disseminated by UNAIDS. We prepared a paper on human rights and law relevant to HIV testing in international peacekeeping (or similar) operations; and inclusion or exclusion of people living with HIV in or from peacekeeping (or similar) activities. The paper was one of the background papers used at the meeting of the UNAIDS Expert Panel on HIV Testing in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, held in Bangkok at the end of November. Lori Stoltz, President of the Network, attended the meeting and presented the paper. Finally, we prepared a discussion paper on the relevance and feasibility of developing model legislation on HIV/AIDS.

For more details about these projects, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.

2001/2002 Board

The Network's 2001/2002 Board includes two new members: Thomas Kerr (Pacific) and Kevin Midbo (Prairies).

Thomas Kerr is a health-care professional and researcher who began working in the HIV/AIDS field over a decade ago. His clinical and research interests include HIV/AIDS, injection drug use, harm reduction, and health psychology. Thomas is completing his doctoral studies at the University of Victoria, and is funded under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS through a National Health

Research and Development Program doctoral fellowship. Thomas has a longstanding interest in law and ethics. He is the past Ethics Chair for the Canadian Association for Music Therapy, and the past Coordinator of Professional Practice and Research at the Dr Peter Centre (Vancouver).

Kevin Midbo, the Network's new Treasurer, has worked in the field of HIV/AIDS since 1988. He is a registered social worker with a Master's degree in Social Work (Community Organization, Management, Policy) from the University of Calgary. He is currently Executive Director of the AIDS Calgary Awareness Association and the Chairperson of the Alberta Community



Council on HIV, a coalition of HIV/AIDS-related organizations in Alberta. Kevin has worked as a volunteer and staff person over the years in a wide variety of roles. He is very interested in international aspects of HIV/AIDS work, in building organizational, advocacy, and service capacity among affected communities, and in developing effective partnerships between NGOs, government, and for-profit businesses.

Three members of the 2000/2001 Board have been re-elected: Caroline Ploem (Atlantic), Marlene Daley (Québec), and Ruth Carey (Ontario). Six members of the 2000/2001 Board are serv-

ing the second year of their term: Lori Stoltz (President), Stefan Matiation (Vice-President), Barney Hickey (Secretary), Michael Linhart (Pacific), Renée Masching (Atlantic), and Darlene Steele (Pacific). Their bios can be found on the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca/about.htm#bod.

For their contributions to the Network, many thanks go to two Board members who left us: Marie-Josée Paquin and William Bromm.

Network Interns, Summer Students, and Staff

Steven Riffe, a third-year student at Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs, began an internship at the Network in June 2001 as part of his studies. Steven, who comes originally from Alaska, worked with Terry Gould to prepare the Network's 2001 AGM and assisted Thomas Haig with dissemination plans, follow-up work, and responding to information requests. In addition, he helped with the follow-up survey on HIV/AIDS in prisons the Network is undertaking. Steven worked two days a week until December 2001. This is what he says about his experience at the Network: "My experience at the Network has confirmed my desire to work within the policy arena. In researching information requests, I learned of the many different issues within HIV/AIDS policy, and became more comfortable in doing research of my own. By providing me with a much broader understanding of the implications of policy, I feel better prepared to go on to do graduate work. With its stimulating work environment, the Network was certainly the ideal place for me to complete my internship."

Ann Bruce was with the Network from September to December 2001. Ann was an intern from the Human Rights Internet Netcorps International Internship Program. The Netcorps internship program places graduates in NGOs, especially in developing countries, to help build the NGOs' capacity to meet information

technology needs. Ann said: "I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity as an IT intern at the Legal Network. I can see they are doing some really great work in ethical and legal matters relating to HIV/AIDS, and have published a great deal of material."

Thanks to a grant received under the Summer Career Placement Program 2001 from Human Resources Development Canada, *Jennifer Gold*, a first-year student at McGill University's Faculty of Law, started a 10-week summer position at the Network in June. While at the Network, Jennifer worked with Ian Malkin and Richard Elliott on a soon-to-be-released paper on the issues related to the establishment of supervised injection sites in Canada. In addition, she conducted extensive research and wrote a paper discussing ethical issues related to the provision of HIV-related services to people who inject drugs, which will also be released soon.

Bios of all *staff* are at www.aidslaw.ca/AbouttheNetwork/aboutstaff.htm.

Important Dates

Montréal, 24 January 2002: Le VIH se porte bien dans nos prisons: table ronde

A round-table discussion on HIV/AIDS in prisons in the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS, co-sponsored by the Legal Network. For additional information, contact Sophie Wertheimer at Concordia University at sofiw40@hotmail.com.

Red Deer, Alberta, 15-17 March 2002: 1st Prairies Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Legal, Ethical and Human Rights Issues

The first in a series of two-day regional capacity-building workshops on HIV/AIDS and drug laws and on HIV/AIDS and HCV in prisons offered by



the Network. The objective is to equip community-based organizations that provide services to people with HIV/AIDS, people who use drugs, and/or prisoners, to address legal and policy issues raised by Canada's drug laws and policies as well as issues related to HIV/AIDS and HCV in prisons. Such workshops will be held in all regions. For more information, contact Éric Nolet at enolet@aidslaw.ca.

Montréal, 7 May 2002: Seminar on HIV/AIDS, Law, and Sex Work

An evening of presentations and discussion on the impact of laws and policies on sex workers' ability to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. Organized in conjunction with Stella, a community-based resource for women, transvestites, and transsexuals who work in the sex industry in Montréal, and co-sponsored by the Centre québécois de coordination sur le sida, Québec Ministry of Health and Social Services. For more information, contact Thomas Haig at thaig@aidslaw.ca.

Barcelona, July 2002: Critical Legal Issues and HIV/AIDS

Because of the success of "Putting Third First – Critical Legal Issues and HIV/AIDS," the Legal Network and our partner organization, the AIDS Law Project, have started planning another satellite conference on legal issues and HIV/AIDS at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona in 2002. For more information, contact Glen Bugg at gbugg@aidslaw.ca.

Montréal, 13-15 September 2002: Action for Health and Human Rights: The Network's 10th Annual General Meeting and Skills-Building Event

The three-day event will include a one-day capacity-building workshop on global access to treatment on Friday, 13 September; a panel discussion on critical legal issues related to HIV/AIDS on Friday evening; the AGM on Saturday, 14 September; a series of skills-building workshops on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS and a closing plenary on Sunday, 15 September. For more information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca.

New Resources

The following new resources produced by the Network have become available on our website at www.aidslaw.ca or from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse (tel: 1-877-999-7740; email: aids/sida@cpha.ca).

- *Testing of Persons Believed to be the Source of an Occupational Exposure to HBV, HCV, or HIV: A Backgrounder*
- a series of seven info sheets on occupational exposure to HBV, HCV, or HIV;
- *Complementary/Alternative Health Care and HIV/AIDS: Legal, Ethical & Policy Issues in Regulation*
- a series of five info sheets on complementary/alternative health care and HIV/AIDS; and
- volume 6(1/2) of the *Canadian HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review*.

Other new resources produced by the Network, but available only on our website or by contacting Éric Nolet at enolet@aidslaw.ca, include

- *Human Rights, Global Responsibility and Access to Treatments in the Developing World – Presentations Made on the Occasion of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network Annual General Meeting and Skills Building Workshops*;
- an update on "Global Access to Treatment – Outcomes of the recent WTO meeting in Doha";
- *TRIPS and Rights: International Human Rights Law, Access to Medicines, and the Interpretation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*;
- "Options for Work for 2001-2002: Results of the Legal Network's Consultation";
- the evaluation report on the Legal Network's work prepared by a team of independent consultants;
- an information sheet on "Patents, International Trade Law and Access to Essential Medicines" prepared jointly with Médecins Sans Frontières;
- the Network's 2001/2002 workplan;
- the Network's 2000/2001 Annual Report; and
- *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network's reaction to Health Canada's response to the Network's 1999 report on injection drug use and HIV/AIDS*.

For a full list of publications, contact Éric via email or by phone at 514 397-6828 ext 227.