



Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

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## INSIDE THE NETWORK

### Team-based structure for Network Staff

We are busy setting up a new team-based structure at the Network. This is the result of a management restructuring process begun in November 2002. The new organizational structure groups staff into dedicated teams focussed on our two core activities: research/advocacy and communications. In addition, we have formed a management team and a program support team. This team-based reorganization will facilitate the integration of our Canadian and international work, and will allow us to better serve our members, our communities, and our cause.

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### Transitions

We are pleased to welcome [Elana Wright](#), who joined the Network's communications team in June 2003 as Community Development Coordinator.

Researcher and advocate [Thomas Kerr](#) resigned from the Network's board in June, and will be joining the research and policy team in August 2003. Thomas brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in community-based research and harm-reduction.

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to **Anne Renaud** and **Éric Nolet** for their contributions as members of the Network staff. Anne's and Éric's contracts end at the end of July. We wish them the very best with their future endeavours.

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### Registration deadline for this year's AGM and Skills Building Workshop fast approaching

July 7th is the deadline for registration for the Network's 2003 AGM and Skills Building Workshops, entitled *Taking Action on Stigma and Discrimination*, taking place in Montréal from 12 to 14 September 2003.

The three-day event includes a presentation by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa on "AIDS and Human Rights", the Annual General Meeting, a one-day skills building workshop on HIV-related stigma and discrimination, a presentation by Dr. Wan Yanhai, recipient of the First International Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, as well as the announcement of the recipients of this year's "[Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights](#)" Awards.

## NETWORK NEWS FLASHES

### National Vaccine Strategy to be developed

On 26 and 27 June 2003, Legal Network Executive Director Ralf Jürgens attended a launch meeting organized by Health Canada to discuss the development of a Canadian HIV vaccine strategy. This meeting is in part the result of the Network's concerted efforts to advocate for national vaccine strategy, following last year's publication of [HIV Vaccines in Canada: Legal and Ethical Issues](#).

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### Capacity building in Kenya and Zambia

In June, Legal Network member Dionne Falconer went to Kenya, and Lisa Forman went to Zambia, as part of the Network's CIDA-funded project on "Building Capacity to Address Legal, Ethical and Human Rights Issues in Kenya and Zambia". This project, lasting 18 months, is providing capacity-building support to two partner organizations, the Kenyan Network on Ethics, Law and HIV, and the Zambian AIDS Law Research and Advocacy Network.

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### CARICOM national assessments on HIV/AIDS

David Patterson has just returned from St. Lucia, where he facilitated, with the help of Ken Morrison, a Caribbean regional meeting on training for national assessments on HIV/AIDS, human rights, ethics and law. Representatives from all over the Caribbean came together for this training session, held from 8 to 13 June 2003.

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### Ralf Jürgens joins treatment activists from around the world at World Health Assembly in Geneva

From May 18 to 25, 2003, Ralf Jürgens was in Geneva representing Canadian NGOs on the Government of Canada delegation to the fifty-sixth World Health Assembly. This year, many HIV/AIDS-related items were on the Assembly's agenda, and Ralf worked with the Canadian delegation and NGOs from all over the world on resolutions regarding follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, as well as global access to treatment. For more information on the WHA, please see the website of the [World Health Organization](#).

**Scholarships** are available for Network members to help cover travel and accommodation costs.

[Click here](#) for registration and scholarship information.

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### **Identifying Allies: Community Physicians & Nurses Who Treat Prisoners with HIV**

The Canadian AIDS Society and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network work alongside a number of national, regional and local AIDS service organizations to address issues faced by prisoners with HIV/AIDS. Community physicians and nurses who treat prisoners with HIV/AIDS are one potential ally in our advocacy efforts. We want to have the capacity to share information with them.

To do so, we need to make a contact list. We are looking for information about community physicians/nurses working with prisoners with HIV in both the provincial and federal (Correctional Service Canada) systems. Ideally, we are looking for the first and last name of the doctor/nurse, as well as their mailing address and email. If you only know the person's name, please indicate the province where the person works so that we can track down their registration information through their provincial college. Please forward any information you have to Glenn Betteridge, Senior Policy Analyst at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network at [gbetteridge@aidslaw.ca](mailto:gbetteridge@aidslaw.ca). Thank you for your time.

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### **Summer students at the Legal Network**

We are pleased to have hired two students to work with us over the summer. In addition, three other talented students have joined the Network team as summer interns. All of the students will be contributing to the next issue of the *Canadian HIV/AIDS Law and Policy Review*, as well as doing assigned research under the supervision of Glenn Betteridge.

**Collin Smith**, a second year McGill law student who brings his extensive experience in ASOs to the Network, will be doing research to support several projects including disability and income security, capacity-building for the legal profession, and the community mobilization on stigma and discrimination.

McGill law student **Derek McKee** will get to work on this year's Emerging Issue, which will be determined after a consultation process with the membership is completed.

McGill law student **Eva Gazurek**, originally from

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### **Legal Network co-sponsors national summit on health as a human right**

The Legal Network, in collaboration with the [Médecins sans frontières Canada](#), the [Interagency Coalition on AIDS & Development](#), labour unions and civic groups, co-sponsored **Global Health is a Human Right!: A National Civil Society Summit**, which was held in Ottawa on 21 and 22 May 2003. The summit brought key Canadian players together to address health policies as they relate to globalization, development, and poverty. [Click here](#) for details.

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### **HIV prevention for drug users in prisons at United Nations Drug Commission**

On 16 April 2003, upon invitation by UNAIDS and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, Ralf Jürgens gave a presentation on "HIV Prevention for Drug Dependent Persons Within the Criminal Justice System" at a meeting held in conjunction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria. [Click here](#) for the full text of Ralf's presentation.

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### **The Quebec Capacity-Building Workshops a success**

Following Pacific and Prairies Capacity-Building Workshops held in 2002, a similar workshop took place in March in Montreal, with close to 100 participants from across Quebec. The workshop was co-sponsored by the [Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida](#) (COCQ-sida), l' [Association des intervenants en toxicomanie du Québec](#) (AITQ), the [Centre québécois de coordination sur les MTS et le sida](#) (CQCS), and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. [Click here](#) for descriptions of the workshop and to read the follow-up documents (in French).

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### **Building Capacity Among Lawyers**

This important project began in September 2001 with a research and planning phase which included an assessment of the experiences in other countries to build the capacity of the legal profession to respond to the legal, ethical and human challenges of the epidemic. The work has continued with Richard Elliott and David Patterson giving presentations to lawyers and law students at Osgoode Hall Law School, the Université de Montréal, and at the Ontario Bar Association.

Switzerland, has been working on a review of anti-discrimination laws in Canada to support the Network's work on promoting a rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS in Canada.

**Emmanuelle Marceau**, a fourth year law student at McGill, will be focussing her energies this summer on researching criminal law issues related to disclosure of HIV positive status that have arisen as a result of the Cuerrier case.

**Dan Dan**, who will be beginning his Master's degree in Public Health at Columbia University, will be doing research for the Network's Vaccine Project.

[Click here](#) for more information about our summer students.

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## NEW RESOURCES

[Canadian HIV/AIDS Law & Policy Review, Vol. 8, no. 1](#)

[Patents, International Trade Law and Access to Essential Medicines](#) (an info-sheet which was updated for the Summit on Global Health & Human Rights)

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One of our major efforts contributing to capacity-building among lawyers is focussed on the law students who work with us each summer. This arrangement is mutually beneficial, with students getting hands-on experience working on HIV/AIDS legal issues, and the Network benefiting from their research. See our summer students section for more details.

## FEEDBACK

*Please allow me to thank you and your team for the training I received on March 17 and 18. We received an enormous amount of information and concrete ways to take action. We also want to tell you that we are proud to be members of your organization.*

Hélène Neault, Coordinator, SIDACTION (Trois-Rivières)

*I subscribed to your AIDSPOLICYLAW list about two years ago. I am a massage therapist and am always interested in recent updates in the community. The information here in Edmonton is not always extremely current... I think you are all amazing, brilliant individuals and I praise you and your work.*

AIDSPOLICYLAW subscriber

*A sincere thank you for the informal documents that you sent me. They were greatly appreciated. With these documents my lawyer will be in a better position to help me and to defend me well in court.*

R.L., email to Network

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