



Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network		Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida
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WORK PLAN 2009–2010

(April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010)

About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Founded in 1992, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (www.aidslaw.ca) is one of the world's leading advocacy organizations working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS. The Legal Network:

- **researches and analyzes** legal and human rights issues important to people and communities affected by HIV/AIDS;
- **informs, educates and mobilizes** individuals, organizations and communities to act on these issues; and
- **challenges** governments to fulfill their human rights obligations and implement laws and policies based on sound legal and scientific standards.

Mission

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research and analysis, advocacy and litigation, public education and community mobilization.

Vision

We envision a world in which the human rights and dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by the disease are fully realized and in which laws and policies facilitate HIV prevention, care, treatment and support. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network will remain a recognized leader in this movement for health and human rights.

Values

The work of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is rooted in the following values:

- **Centrality of human rights:** The full realization of the human rights of people living with HIV, and individuals and communities particularly vulnerable to HIV, is central to combating the HIV pandemic effectively. Laws and policies are important elements in defining, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling those rights.
- **Focus on marginalized populations:** The nature of the epidemic demands that we make issues relating to marginalized people the primary focus of our efforts and that we address the broad health, social, and economic needs of those most vulnerable to HIV. We endeavour to keep a focus on the problems of the most marginalized.
- **Participation:** Persons living with HIV and those who are vulnerable have a right to participate in a meaningful way in defining and implementing HIV/AIDS policies and programs. To the best of its ability, the Legal Network works and consults with persons most affected by the problems we analyze and by the solutions we advocate. We are committed to ensuring the meaningful engagement of francophones and anglophones in our work and that our work on Canadian issues is accessible in both French and English. We value both informal collaboration and formal partnership agreements with organizations

representing the concerns of marginalized people and communities, such as aboriginal communities, prisoners, sex workers and people who use drugs, among others. We are committed to continuing to seek meaningful participation of people living with HIV on our board and staff.

- **Action and activism:** Leadership is required to push an action-oriented agenda in dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada and internationally. We challenge governments to fulfill their human rights obligations to people and communities living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **Accountability:** We are accountable to the people and communities we serve, and to donors, through transparent reporting of finances and activities, effective use of resources and evaluation of the impact of our efforts.
- **Global responsibility and engagement:** Canada has an ethical and legal obligation to help respond to HIV beyond its borders. The Legal Network's experience and expertise confer a certain responsibility to be part of efforts elsewhere to advance the human rights of people living with or vulnerable to HIV; we also have much to gain from the experience of other countries and advocates.
- **Excellence:** Our work addresses critical issues, with serious implications for people living with HIV/AIDS and marginalized populations as well as governments. We have a responsibility to base our conclusions and recommendations consistently on sound legal and ethical standards along with evidence gained from comprehensive and rigorous research and analysis.

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Introduction

The work of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is organized into five main activity areas:

- research, policy development, and advocacy;
- capacity-building and technical support;
- communications;
- organizational planning and development; and
- external consultation and planning activities.

The Legal Network's national and international activities are integrated. Our domestic and international activities are closely related and often mutually reinforcing.

In all areas of our work, there are considerable past achievements on which to build. These are not described in detail here except as they are directly relevant to a new activity. For more information on the achievements and past activities of the Legal Network, please see our annual reports (www.aidslaw.ca/annualreport) and issues of *Legal Network News* (www.aidslaw.ca/LNN).

In 2004-2006, the Board of Directors and staff of the Legal Network undertook a process to outline a strategic plan for the Legal Network for 2006-2010. In 2008, the Board and staff reviewed the strategic plan at its mid-point to identify changes in the external environment in which the Legal Network works and factors internal to the organization, and to consider any necessary or advisable adjustments to the Legal Network's strategic priorities for the remainder of the existing strategic plan. Some modest revisions to the current strategic plan were agreed. The Board and staff also initiated discussions about the future directions and priorities of the Legal Network for beyond 2010.

As revised, the current strategic plan of the Legal Network for 2006-2010 notes seven main issue areas as priorities for the Legal Network:

1. drug policy, harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs
2. the human rights of prisoners related to HIV/AIDS
3. the human rights of sex workers
4. the rights of women related to HIV/AIDS
5. HIV testing and human rights
6. legal and human rights aspects of access to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support
7. criminalization of HIV transmission/exposure

These areas of priority work, which were selected in consultation with the Legal Network's members and partners, have guided the choice of activities included in this work plan. However, of necessity, the Legal Network also conducts work on a range of additional HIV-related legal and human rights issues; these too are captured in the workplan for 2009-2010 that follows.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2009–2010

AREA 1: RESEARCH, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY

1.1 Drug policy, harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs

- Ongoing advocacy regarding the implementation of the federal **National Anti-Drug Strategy** unveiled in late 2007 and without any inclusion of harm reduction as a key element.
- Collaboration with others in continuing advocacy in support of **supervised injection facilities** in Canada, specifically: media advocacy and [what else?]
- Collaboration with emerging Safer Crack Use Coalition of Canada (SCUC Canada), including with respect to legal issues related to the distribution of **safer crack use kits**; presentations at national or international conferences, media commentary and other advocacy activities as necessary and feasible.
- Continued advocacy regarding proposed legislation on **mandatory minimum sentences** for drug offences, including submission and testimony to Parliamentary committee and mobilizing broader opposition to said legislation.
- As opportunities arise, conduct follow-up advocacy based on our three reports produced in 2006-07 on various **barriers to harm reduction measures** in Canada for people who inject drugs:
 - *Do Not Cross: Policing and HIV Risk Faced by People who use Drugs*;
 - *Sticking Points: Barriers to Access to Needle and Syringe Programs in Canada*; and
 - *A Helping Hand: Legal Issues Related to Assisted Injection at Supervised Injection Facilities*.
- Distribute a legal brief regarding use of existing Canadian law to **prohibit discrimination against people who use drugs** under Canadian law, not only for those with drug dependence but also — in at least some circumstances — simple drug use, whether arising from addiction or not.
- Continued international dissemination of *Legislating for Health and Human Rights*, the Legal Network's 8-module **model law resource** on drug use and HIV/AIDS.
- Jointly with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), publish an extensive analytical report reviewing drug-related law in five **Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan**, using the Legal Network's model law as the standard for desired reforms and highlighting areas for legal/policy reform to address HIV more effectively among people who use drugs and in prisons.
- Using the model law modules and the results of the UNODC 6-country project as a key resource, contribute to **national-level law reform efforts** in selected countries, in collaboration with local advocates and policy-makers, aimed at realizing the human rights of people who use drugs and strengthening HIV prevention, care, treatment and support for people who use drugs. Countries to be determined in consultation with NGO partners and as opportunities arise or can be created (e.g., in Central Asia as may be determined following completion of UNODC regional project).

- Develop three **briefs on key issues related to harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs** (e.g. registration of people who use drugs and its consequences; involuntary drug testing; decriminalizing possession of small quantities; etc.), to be published in English and Russian, that outline the evidentiary and legal basis for specific legislative reforms in the legal systems of the countries of the former Soviet Union, to support advocacy work.
- Exploratory work to prepare to initiate or support **one legal proceeding** in one country of the former Soviet Union to advance access to harm reduction or other health services, or other human rights, of persons who use drugs (e.g., intervenor or supporting brief with international/comparative legal arguments and relevant materials).
- In collaboration with local partner NGOs, prepare country-specific **submissions to the Universal Periodic Review** process of the UN Human Rights Council.
- Follow up, as warranted and as feasible, with relevant UN bodies and processes (e.g., WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, etc.), regarding our recommendations in *Dependent on Rights*, **applying human rights standards to drug dependence treatment**. This will include input to the WHO/UNODC guidance on principles for drug dependence treatment.
- Disseminate, as appropriate, a case study of the **regional impact of prohibitionist UN and Russian drug policy** in Central Asia, highlighting the negative public health and human rights implications of such a legal/policy approach, particularly with a focus on HIV/AIDS. The report is contained in a collection of materials published by OSI to inform the UN's year-long process of reviewing global drug control policy.
- In collaboration with the Open Society Institute, research and publish a report applying human rights standards to states' treatment of people who use drugs, specifically conduct that amounts to **torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment** contrary to international human rights law, and engage relevant UN bodies, including human rights mechanisms, in addressing this issue with states.
- At the Harm Reduction 2009 conference in Bangkok, launch two new resources, in Thai and English, aimed at advancing harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs in Thailand: a series of **info sheets on harm reduction** tailored for Thai audiences (civil society, health researchers and advocates, media, and policy-makers) and a **research report on Thailand's legislated system of compulsory drug dependence treatment** that identifies necessary reforms.
- Finalize **training manual in Russian on law, human rights, HIV and drug policy** (with a focus on opioid substitution treatment), already used in draft form by some service-providers and advocates in Russia; these materials will also be shared with Russian-speaking activists in other countries.
- In collaboration with the Open Society Institute, provide **technical analysis and support** to the work of human rights advocates working on drug policy reform in countries of the former Soviet Union (e.g., Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia). This includes analyzing federal and regional drug policies, laws and regulations and their impact on health and human rights; preparing legal analyses of specific issues (e.g., running clinical trials of buprenorphine).
- Highlight human rights issues related to drug policy and harm reduction, through presentations and workshops, in various **national and international fora** in 2009/10.
- Contribute as a member of the **research team** to a study being led by researchers at the

University of New Brunswick, in collaboration with a number of community-based organizations in Atlantic Canada, examining ways of, and challenges to, implementing the greater involvement of people who use drugs in the work of said organizations responding to HIV/AIDS, particularly in smaller and/or less urban settings.

1.2 HIV/AIDS and prisoners' human rights

- In collaboration with the Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN), follow-up with policy-makers, prisoners' groups and front-line organizations regarding the recommended actions identified in *Hard Time*, an extensive cross-country research report examining the state of HIV and HCV prevention policy and programming in Canadian prison systems and published jointly by PASAN and the Legal Network.
- Continued engagement with **CSC's community consultation committee** regarding various HIV-related issues in prisons, which is likely to consist mostly of sharing of information, with occasional opportunities for incremental policy and programmatic change by CSC within the bounds of existing legislation and political constraints.
- Release paper analyzing legal obligations of prison systems, under Canadian and international law, to implement **prison-based needle and syringe programs**, and related and ongoing media advocacy and other commentary.
- Complete project, in collaboration with national and local organizations working on prisoners' rights, of gathering **affidavits from people currently or formerly in prison** regarding HIV risk activities and access to HIV prevention measures in Canadian prisons. These personal testimonies will be combined in a report with evidence and human rights arguments for implementing prison-based needle and syringe programs, to be distributed across Canada following a high-profile national release in collaboration with some key partner organizations. The launch will be accompanied by a media strategy that itself gives a prominent place to those people who have personally experienced the effects of Canada's refusal to implement this evidence-based HIV prevention measure in prisons.
- *If resources permit*, prepare an article for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal with a **critique of the judgment in *Shelley v. U.K.*** (European Court of Human Rights, January 2008) in which the Legal Network intervened jointly with the Irish Penal Reform Trust to argue for prisoners' rights to have access to sterile injection equipment.
- Continue technical assistance, supported by the Open Society Institute, to policy-makers and advocates in **scaling-up harm reduction and access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) in prisons in Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan**. Activities will include: meetings with decision-makers; training sessions; supporting the implementation of legal frameworks where needed; and assisting with developing scale-up plans and with monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Legal Network will release a short paper documenting the experience with the introduction of needle and syringe programs in prisons in Moldova, so that it can be published and widely disseminated as a best practice example, and will prepare a short paper on best practice guidelines on provision of ART for prisoners.

1.3 Sex workers' rights and HIV/AIDS

- As appropriate, based on assessment of utility, continue collaboration with sex worker organizations, especially Stella (Montréal) and Maggie's (Toronto) on advocacy with Parliamentarians regarding **amendments to Criminal Code provisions on prostitution**, as follow-up to our analysis of the final report of the House of Commons Subcommittee on Solicitation Laws (December 2006).
- Monitor **litigation** initiated to challenge some harmful elements of the criminal law with respect to sex work; issue press statements and background information, and respond to media inquiries; and intervene in cases at appellate level if appropriate and feasible.
- *If resources permit*, publish a **law journal article** making the public health and human rights case for reform to the Criminal Code to repeal the bulk of the existing provisions criminalizing sex work(ers), as indirect support to litigation efforts.
- Continued participation in **international working group** on sex workers' rights and UN policy.

1.4 Women's rights and HIV/AIDS

- Drawing upon two consultations with HIV and women's legal groups in Africa on **draft legislation** addressing women's rights concerns linked to HIV/AIDS, publish extensive, groundbreaking resource of legislative modules in the areas of domestic violence, sexual violence, marriage and divorce, and property rights (including inheritance rights).
- Ongoing engagement with **UN agencies** (e.g., UNAIDS, UNDP, UNIFEM, FAO, UNODC) regarding initiatives for legislative reform to advance women's rights.
- Collaborate with partner NGOs in one-two countries in sub-Saharan Africa on **national-level law and policy reform**, using the draft legislation modules as a resource. Work has already begun, and will continue in 2009/10, with the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) on pressing for implementation of legislative reforms regarding domestic violence to use the draft legislation modules in national-level advocacy for law reform reducing women's vulnerability to human rights abuses and HIV. Opportunities for collaboration with other partners on such activities as lobbying and litigating for law reform have been identified and funding is being pursued.
- Continued participation in the **Blueprint** for Action on Women and HIV/AIDS in Canada coalition, including a continuing effort to highlight relevant legal and human rights issues.
- **Integration of gender-based analysis**, and concerns specifically of women living with or vulnerable to HIV, into other, ongoing research, analysis and advocacy activities of the Legal Network (e.g. specific concerns of women in prison; gendered impact of HIV testing policy and approaches, particularly in pregnancy and under routine, opt-out testing; criminalization of HIV transmission/exposure; reform of laws on sex work; human rights issues facing women who use drugs).

1.5 HIV testing and human rights

- Continue our engagement with federal and provincial policy-makers as necessary and feasible (including via the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on HIV Testing) in anticipated process of **updating national policy guidance on HIV testing**, and mobilize members and other community stakeholders to press for a new national policy framework that respects, protects and fulfills human rights.
- *As the need arises and resources permit*, respond to provincial legislation and regulations that would authorize **forced testing for HIV** and other diseases in some cases of occupational and non-occupational exposure — this may include dissemination of existing Legal Network materials on the subject (e.g., *Undue Force* booklet, “Forced HIV Testing: Questions & Answers”), formal submissions to legislative committees, technical support to local organizations, and media advocacy.

1.6 Human rights and HIV/AIDS care, treatment and support

- With other Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG) members, continue advocacy to **reform Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR)** for exportation of generic medicines — including working with Parliamentarians on legislation (Bills S-232 and C-393) based on amendments recommended in *Getting the Regime Right*, the Legal Network’s 2007 brief to Parliament.
- Continued **media advocacy** and response to media requests on this subject.
- Prepare and disseminate **updates and e-alerts** as necessary in the process of seeking reforms to the Regime.
- Publish a **feature article** in the *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review* analysing developments related to CAMR and necessary reforms.
- Collaboration with other GTAG member organizations in updating and advocating for the four-point **Platform for Action** by Canada on responding to the global AIDS crisis — not just reforming CAMR, but also meeting existing promises of official development assistance, increasing support for vaccines and microbicides development, and increasing support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; strengthening public health care systems; and cancelling debt to free up resources for health.

1.7 Criminalization of HIV transmission or exposure

- **Monitor developments** in Canadian criminal law related to HIV transmission and exposure, including providing technical support to lawyers representing accused persons as appropriate and feasible.
- **Intervene** in a number (TBD) of criminal proceedings before provincial appellate courts to advance arguments aimed at precluding criminal prosecution for HIV non-disclosure in cases of condom use or circumstances of similarly reduced risk of transmission (e.g., undetectable viral load).
- Develop and publish, in English and French, a **resource kit for defence lawyers** representing PHAs criminally prosecuted for alleged non-disclosure, primarily aimed at Canadian lawyers; in collaboration with Paris-based NGO AIDES, publish an

international version of this resource kit, also in English and French, for a broader international audience.

- As necessary, **update existing short information resources** produced by the Legal Network (e.g., info sheets, brief on condom use and criminal liability) for AIDS service organizations and other service-providers.
- Publish a short article co-written by Legal Network staff on the specific matter of **criminalizing mother-to-child HIV transmission or exposure**.
- Deliver a limited number of **presentations and workshops** on the subject.
- Continue collaboration with other investigators on the first **research project** in Canada gathering qualitative and quantitative data about the impact of criminal prosecutions related to HIV transmission or exposure on people living with HIV.
- Contribute to a project, led by the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+), to undertake and maintain a **global scan** of criminal laws and prosecutions on HIV transmission or exposure (including serving on the project advisory committee).
- Continue to respond selectively to **media queries** about criminalization cases. Finalize internal materials for the use of Legal Network researchers and communications staff in responding to media inquiries.

1.8 *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review*

- If funding can be secured to sustain publication of the *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review*, the Legal Network's flagship publication and the only such bilingual publication in the world, produce **three print and web issues** in 2009/10 (including an issue with a special supplement with the proceedings of the 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights, and a special issue jointly with AIDES including feature articles focussing on key issues and developments in a select number of countries of la Francophonie, to receive an extended international distribution to francophone organizations and in francophone countries).
- Continue **collaboration** with UNAIDS, OSI and the AIDS Committee of the American Bar Association in producing various issues as appropriate, and in distributing the publication to a global audience and targeting dissemination to legal professionals (and potential funders) in the U.S.
- Introduce **peer review** of feature articles in the *Review*, drawing upon the existing editorial board.

1.9 **Immigration and HIV/AIDS**

- Update Legal Network's **Q&A document** on HIV/AIDS and Canadian immigration policy as necessary, and answer ongoing information requests from people living with HIV, AIDS service organizations and others on the subject.

1.10 HIV and disability rights

- Publish an article in the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* exploring the possibilities for using the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* to advance human rights protection for PHAs, drawing upon a discussion paper previously prepared jointly by the Legal Network, the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR) and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD).

1.11 LGBT rights and HIV/AIDS

- Continue collaboration with ARC International on Geneva-based advocacy with the **UN Human Rights Council** and related UN bodies for the recognition and strengthening under international law of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, including HIV-related dimensions of LGBT rights.

AREA 2: CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

2.1 Capacity-building on legal issues for HIV/AIDS organizations in Canada

The Legal Network will continue undertaking a variety of activities in Canada to build the capacity of community-based organizations and individuals to respond to pressing legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. These include:

- responding to a wide range of **requests from individual people living with HIV and from front-line service organizations** for legal and human rights analysis and other technical support on AIDS-related questions;
- maintaining a **listserv** to facilitate exchange of information among members of the Legal Network and all those working on or interested in legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- maintaining the Legal Network's **resource centre**, updating it, making its database available on the Legal Network's website and through the CONNECT portal (www.hivinfovih.ca), and responding to requests for access to resources;
- organizing **skills-building workshops** as a component of the 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights, held in advance of the Legal Network's Annual General Meeting (June 2009);
- delivering a number of **workshops for front-line organizations**, in different regions of Ontario, on key legal issues facing people living with HIV and front-line service providers;
- launch a **lawyer referral database** (starting in Ontario and expanding nationally in subsequent years) of lawyers available to provide legal advice and services to people living with HIV and AIDS service organizations when these are not available from

existing or known sources, and undertake ongoing recruitment of lawyers to be included in the database;

- deliver workshops for front-line organizations on a number of HIV-related legal issues at relevant conferences and meetings (

2.2 Capacity-building on HIV/AIDS for legal professionals in Canada

- Host four law students through **internships** in partnership, some of them in partnership with the faculties of law of McGill University and the University of Toronto.
- Deliver occasional **lectures** at law schools and other university programs as invited.
- Continue to **distribute resources to legal professionals and institutions** across the country — law libraries, law professors and other lecturers incorporating HIV into their teaching, law students, and practising lawyers.
- If commitment can be obtained from relevant **judicial education** institutes, contribute to training of Crown prosecutors and judges regarding HIV and human rights, including stigma and discrimination, criminalization of HIV transmission or exposure, etc.
- Host the 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights (June 2009), which event will include a public lecture on “The Criminalization of HIV Transmission” by Hon. Justice Edwin Cameron of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and a reception with leading members of the bench and bar to discuss the role of the law, lawyers and the judiciary in responding to HIV/AIDS.
- Organize and deliver two **seminars for lawyers** (in two different regions of Ontario) on HIV/AIDS and related legal issues.

2.3 Providing technical support to organizations internationally

Some of the activities described above include technical support to organizations in many countries. In addition to these, we will undertake a number of other activities:

- Should there be mutual interest and should funding be available, the Legal Network and the Open Society Institute (and likely other partners and contributors) will co-host the 2nd **Human Rights Networking Zone at AIDS 2010** (Vienna, 18-23 July 2010), a zone whose programming and related activities will raise the profile of human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS dramatically at the conference (including with media attending) and help place human rights at the centre of the response to the epidemic.
- Launch and promote globally the **AIDS and Law Exchange** (AIDSLEX, www.aidslex.org), a web-based resource for human rights advocates and policy-makers. The website will be multi-lingual (English, French, Spanish, Russian at the outset) and will be managed on an ongoing basis following launch (anticipated for mid-2009). Features will include a searchable **database of materials** from around the world on HIV-related legal and human rights issues; functions for **user-contributed content** to develop the site’s holdings collectively; and functions for **locating information and expertise** from others around the world working on legal and human rights issues, and for hosting **online discussions** on key topics. In 2009/10, in addition to ongoing addition of materials to the database and hosting of online discussions, promotional and evaluation

activities will be undertaken, and the website expanded or refined in light of user feedback. Funds permitting, this will include the addition of Arabic and Mandarin materials and navigability.

AREA 3: COMMUNICATIONS

The Legal Network will continue a range of activities to support the active exchange of information and resources to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Legal Network, and to ensure that the Legal Network has a strong public profile on legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in the media and in other public fora. In order to achieve these objectives, we will continue these regular activities:

- revisiting the concept and future of *Legal Network News* (distributed to members, funders and others to share developments of the organization's work), redirecting some such content into a new regular *HIV Policy Watch bulletin* that will be a key tool in the Legal Network's government relations work aiming to educate and influence Canadian legislators and government policy-makers to adopt human rights-friendly public policy;
- producing **e-mail updates and action alerts** for Legal Network members and others as necessary;
- undertaking targeted **mailings** of Legal Network resources to members and others;
- maintaining and improving the Legal Network's **website** (www.aidslaw.ca), including improved access to documents in Russian and other languages as necessary and feasible;
- undertaking proactive **media and public relations** (e.g. press releases and conferences, interviews with a range of media);
- publishing **commentary** in mass media, specialist media (e.g., legal periodicals) and peer-reviewed journals in relevant fields, so as to advance human rights of people living with or vulnerable to HIV; and
- producing an **annual report** on our activities.

AREA 4: ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Governance

The Legal Network Board and staff will continue to ensure sound governance of the organization's activities and finances, including the following activities in 2009/10:

- developing and implementing an **annual Board workplan**;
- organizing four full **Board meetings** (two in-person, two by teleconference);
- organizing **Board committee meetings**, including the Executive Committee and other committees, as needed;
- organizing the **Annual General Meeting and related activities**, including implementing a subsidy process to assist delegates to attend the AGM and accompanying events and producing delegate materials for the AGM;

- continuing the development of the Legal Network's **policies and procedures manual** as necessary;
- undertaking an annual **membership renewal and recruitment** process; and
- regularly updating the organization's **database of members and other contacts**, in Canada and internationally.

4.2 Strategic planning

In early 2008, the Board and staff initiated a review of the Legal Network's strategic plan for 2006–2010 and identified some adjustments in light of external and internal developments. They also began the process of discussing **strategic priorities and directions for the Legal Network beyond 2010**, a process that continued throughout 2008/09 and will be completed in 2009/10, and will include opportunities for input from members, including a **consultation at the 2009 AGM** (as at the 2008 AGM) (Toronto, June 2009).

4.3 Monitoring and evaluation

Most monitoring and evaluation activities are based on project documents that specify evaluation benchmarks against which the Legal Network's activities are measured. Heavier evaluation requirements by some donors will mean that the communities we serve may be asked more frequently than in the past to help evaluate the Legal Network's work.

4.4 Fundraising

- The Legal Network continues to place a high priority on **diversifying its funding base**. Between 2006 and 2009, the Legal Network made significant progress in securing new foundation funding. In 2009/10, the Legal Network will continue to explore new funding opportunities for both international and domestic work, while recognizing that the global recession that began in 2008 will likely pose additional challenges on this front for some time to come. We will focus significant efforts on finding sources of support for work in Canada, particularly since it is anticipated that it will become increasingly difficult to secure funding under the *Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada* for the work that is core to the mandate of the Legal Network in strengthening human rights-based HIV prevention, care, treatment and support in Canada.
- We will launch a new **Honorary Directors Circle**, a body of respected allies and supporters who will advise and assist the Legal Network in its efforts to increase and diversify its funding, particularly for its human rights advocacy work.

AREA 5: EXTERNAL CONSULTATION AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Legal Network staff will continue to serve on a large number of Canadian and international committees and reference groups. This includes, among others:

- the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG) coalition of Canadian civil society organizations undertaking joint advocacy to realize access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, and other aspects of the human right to the highest attainable standard of health, in developing countries;
- the Consultative Group on Global HIV/AIDS Issues, a forum bringing together civil society organizations and several federal government departments/agencies with responsibility in various ways for Canada's response globally to the epidemic;
- the Blueprint for Action on Women and HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- the Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure, bringing together ASOs and others on the issue of criminalization of HIV transmission or exposure;
- the Canadian Treatment Action Council;
- Correctional Service of Canada's community consultation committee on HIV in federal prisons;
- the editorial board of the *Botswana Review on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS*;
- the Study Reference Group for the Supervised Consumption Site study under the Toronto Drug Strategy;
- the advisory committee for a GNP+ project to conduct and maintain a global scan of criminal statutes and cases regarding HIV transmission/exposure.

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