

Network news

Issue 4

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

April 2000

Justice Krever and VANDU at Network AGM

Justice Horace Krever and a representative of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) will be the keynote speakers at the opening of the Legal Network Annual General Meeting in Toronto on 16 June 2000. Justice Krever needs no introduction – he is well known for having, among many other things, led the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada. VANDU is probably the biggest and most established group of drug users in Canada, run by users and former users of drugs. After the presentations, there will be ample time for discussion with the audience. This promises to be an exciting evening. Also not to be missed is the series of skills-building workshops on Sunday, 18 June, with sessions on HIV/AIDS vaccines, rapid testing, access to treatment in developing countries, injection drug use, and more. For more information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 222.

Network Report on Rapid HIV Screening Released

On 22 March 2000, the Network released its report on *Rapid HIV Screening at the Point of Care: Legal and Ethical Questions*, just one week after Health Canada issued a licence to BioChem Immunosystems Inc to sell the first rapid HIV screening test kit that provides a result in 15 minutes. The report contains 23 recommendations directed to federal and provincial/territorial policymakers, health-care professionals, professional associations and regulatory bodies of health-care professionals, and those providing HIV testing and counseling and working in the field of public health. Written by Richard Elliott and Ralf Jürgens, it is the result of extensive consultations, and benefited from the input of close to 50 participants at a two-day national workshop organized by the Network and held on 21-22 January 2000 in Toronto.

In the report, the Network urges provincial and territorial governments to exercise their regulatory authority to ensure that the rapid HIV test kit is only available in “those settings and under those conditions in which their benefits will be most likely realized and the potential misuses prevented,” and emphasizes that Canada’s policies regarding HIV testing “should be driven not by the technology, but by careful consideration of risks and benefits, informed by solid research.”

The report and its recommendations received a lot of attention in the media – in the press, on radio, and on TV. Highlights included many TV interviews on CBC, CTV, and Global, national and regional coverage on CBC radio and Radio Canada, and articles in many newspapers, including front-page articles in *Le Devoir* and *The Globe and Mail*.

With the release of the report, the work is only beginning. It will now be essential to ensure that the test, which does have potential benefits, will be used only where appropriate counseling is available, and where people are guaranteed accelerated access to confirmed positive test results. The Network will work to ensure that the recommendations in the report will be implemented and, generally, to ensure that Canada re-commits to **quality** HIV testing.



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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 of 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).

Putting Third First – Critical Legal Issues and HIV/AIDS

As previously reported, the Network and the AIDS Law Project, South Africa (ALP) are organizing a one-day satellite conference on legal, ethical, and human rights issues, to take place just prior to the XIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2000). In January, the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) joined the Network and ALP as a co-host of the satellite, which will give participants from both developing and developed countries the chance to discuss a limited number of concrete issues in depth: access to treatment, legal and ethical issues relating to vaccines, criminal law and HIV/AIDS, and vulnerability of women and the role of the law. This opportunity does not usually occur at international AIDS conferences with abstract-driven sessions based on short presentations on many different topics. The focus will be on legal strategies to advance the human rights of those most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and to discrimination: people in the developing world and people who, although they live in the developed world, suffer from poverty and marginalization and are at high risk of contracting HIV.

Four discussion papers will be presented in plenary, with time for questions and discussion after each of the papers. The remainder of the day will be taken up with workshops at which the four key issues will be explored further, and strategies developed to advance understanding and resolve the complex issues involved. The four discussion papers will be sent to participants in advance of the meeting, and edited versions will be placed on the Legal Network website and published in a special joint issue of the *AIDS Law Project Newsletter* and the *Canadian HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Newsletter*.

As of March 2000, over 70 people from all regions of the world had already registered for the conference, and many key resource people and speakers had confirmed participation. They include Yvonne Mokgora, Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, who will deliver the opening address, and Justice Edwin Cameron, also of the Constitutional Court, who will be the discussant at the closing. Both the Canadian Minister of Health, Allan Rock, and Dr Peter Piot of UNAIDS have been invited to speak during the opening ceremonies.

Sponsors include UNAIDS, Health Canada (HIV/AIDS Division and the International Affairs Directorate), the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Office of HIV/AIDS Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Futures Group International.

Places for this conference are limited and are filling up quickly. For more information and registration, visit the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca or contact Glen Bugg at gbugg@aidslaw.ca or 514 397 6828 ext 226. Registration is Cdn\$75 or US\$50.



Building Capacity to Address Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues

In January, Theodore de Bruyn submitted the final version of a plan for capacity-building initiatives on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. As was outlined in more detail in Issue 2 of *Network News* (at 3-4), participants in the 1998 consultation on legal, ethical, and human rights issues identified the “need to affirm and strengthen the central role that the Legal Network has played in the area of legal, ethical, and human rights issues,” but also spoke of the need to strengthen the capacity of other organizations to undertake activities in this area of the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS. At the request of Health Canada, the Legal Network therefore conducted a further investigation of the need for and the feasibility of building the capacity of community-based organizations and lawyers to address legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS. The investigation involved interviews with selected individuals; the preparation of a draft plan discussed at a national workshop and circulated to selected commentators for feedback; and the preparation of a final plan and framework for future activities. The plan consists of:

- current activities and constraints of potential participants in work on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS;
- guiding principles for building capacity;
- a framework for building capacity within community-based organizations and networks;
- a framework for building capacity among lawyers; and
- suggestions for increasing awareness of legal, ethical, and human rights issues among other service providers.

It proposes a variety of concrete activities that could be undertaken to design capacity-building initiatives for community-based organizations, including:

- holding two-day regional workshops with staff from local organizations in order to: increase awareness of the link between human rights and HIV/AIDS; identify capacity to address legal, ethical, and human rights issues; consider ways to build capacity; identify mechanisms for continuing exchange and planning; and
- assessing resource manuals on social services, health services, and wills/estate planning in each province in order to determine: the status of existing resources; the need for additional resources; the possibility of developing a manual that combines national and provincial information; training requirements to facilitate the use of the manual by advocacy or support workers; and alternatives to this approach.

The plan also suggests a number of activities that could be undertaken to begin developing the capacity of lawyers and paralegal workers, as well as to begin strengthening the links

between community-based organizations, the legal profession, and the Legal Network. In particular, it suggests that

- the Legal Network establish a working group of practising lawyers and paralegal workers to advise on the development and implementation of a plan of action on ways to exchange information, collaborate on cases, and develop educational materials;
- the Legal Network continue with plans to establish a listserv to facilitate exchange of information between lawyers, paralegal workers, and others on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- the Legal Network and the Canadian AIDS Society continue with plans to establish a litigation committee, set aside funds for test-case litigation, and provide support to lawyers engaged in test-case litigation;
- the Legal Network could develop and maintain a referral list of lawyers and expert witnesses;
- the Legal Network, in collaboration with the Canadian Bar Association, could coordinate a project to develop modules on HIV/AIDS issues for law school courses and bar admissions courses;
- the Legal Network, in collaboration with the working group and national AIDS organizations, could identify opportunities for satellite workshops at annual legal meetings, human rights meetings, or HIV/AIDS meetings on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS;
- lawyers who are recognized by the legal profession in Canada for their work in HIV/AIDS could sponsor events at annual legal meetings (eg, the annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association) to raise awareness of specific HIV/AIDS legal issues; and
- lawyers should participate in the two-day regional workshops suggested as one of the next steps to building capacity within community-based organizations.

The Legal Network has started implementing some of the activities proposed in the plan. In particular, it is going ahead with plans to establish a listserv to facilitate exchange of information between lawyers,



paralegal workers, and others on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in Canada. This listserv will be launched in the fall. In addition, the Network and CAS have established a joint litigation committee, which met for the first time on 17 February 2000. Finally, as mentioned in Issue 3 of *Network News*, the Network is developing a list of lawyers with expertise in HIV/AIDS, which will become available in the fall; and has added a skills-building component to its 2000 AGM in Toronto.

The plan will also help the Network in planning our many activities for the coming years. But making progress will require the initiative and participation of many organizations and individuals. The Network looks forward to partnerships that will build the capacity of community-based organizations to address legal, ethical, and human rights issues, as well as educate those in the legal profession about HIV/AIDS. Finally, in the coming months, the Network will also work with Health Canada to ensure that funding for other activities proposed by the plan will become available.

For further information, contact Richard Elliott at relliott@netrover.com or 416 595-1666.

Care, Treatment, and Support – National Advisory Committee Established

The National Advisory Committee for the Network's care, treatment, and support project is now in place. The organizational representatives on the Committee are: James Kreppner (Canadian HIV Trials Network), Christian Laforce (Canadian Treatment Advocates Council), Renee Masching (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network), Tim Rogers (Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange), and Gerard Yetman (Canadian AIDS Society). Members-at-large are: Patricia Balogh (Ontario HIV Treatment Network), Pierre Desmarais (Canadian Hemophilia Society), Janet Dunbrack (Canadian Palliative Care Association), Diane Fillion (Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care), Bob Mills (Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation), and Perry Schatz (Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network).

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to ensure consultation with, and input from, people with HIV/AIDS, a number of key partner organizations, and individuals from a variety of backgrounds with expertise in different aspects of HIV/AIDS care and treatment. Members from a number of national HIV/AIDS organizations (CAS, CTAC, CAAN, CATIE, CTN) sit on the committee as representatives of those organizations, providing a formal link between the Network and their respective organizations for the purpose of this project. The members-at-large sit on the committee in their personal capacity as experts on various aspects of HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and support, and not as

representatives of any organization, despite any institutional or organizational affiliations they may have.

Members of the Committee had their first meeting in Toronto on 3-4 March 2000. They were joined by a number of other experts in the area of care, treatment, and support, and provided their advice regarding priority issues affecting HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and support regarding which the Legal Network could undertake a detailed legal and ethical analysis.

A paper prepared by Richard Elliott, entitled "An Assessment of Options for Future Work on Legal and Ethical Issues Related to HIV/AIDS Care, Treatment and Support," served as the basis for the discussion. The paper

- gave an overview of the work done to date by the Legal Network on legal and ethical issues related to HIV/AIDS, several of which have "care, treatment and support" dimensions;
- identified areas in which the Legal Network is already doing, or planning to do, work on analyzing legal and ethical questions related to care, treatment and support; and
- identified some areas with legal and ethical dimensions in which national organizations or national projects (or other major organizations with specific initiatives, projects or programs) are working under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS;

so that participants in the discussion had a common understanding of issues that have already been, or are being, addressed. The other primary function of the paper was to identify possible "care, treatment and support" issues where an analysis of legal and ethical questions would be of benefit in shaping law, policy, and practice to protect the rights of people with HIV/AIDS, and facilitate access to care, treatment and support. The following issues were discussed:



- clinical research: legal and ethical issues (developing countries; informed consent);
- drug safety issues (faster drug-approval process; public involvement in drug-review process; direct-to-consumer advertising; “off-label use” of approved drugs; post-approval surveillance);
- drug pricing and intellectual property issues (domestic drug pricing; compulsory licensing and parallel importing);
- disability and income maintenance: social assistance and private insurance benefits;
- insurance issues and HIV/AIDS (human rights law and discrimination; “living benefits” and viatical settlements; systemic biases against people with HIV/AIDS in insurance law and practice);

- pharmacare;
- medical marijuana;
- organ transplantation and HIV infection;
- prisons and HIV/AIDS treatment issues (transgendered prisoners; access to needle exchanges and methadone maintenance); and
- privacy and confidentiality of personal health (and other) information.

On the basis of the input obtained at the workshop, the Network will now proceed to select one issue that will be analyzed in detail in 2000/2001.

For more information, contact Richard Elliott at relliott@netrover.com or 416 595-1666.

Project News

Injection drug use and HIV/AIDS: legal and ethical issues

After the release of our report, volume of background materials, and info sheets on legal and ethical issues related to HIV/AIDS and injection drug use, work in this area has obviously not finished. We are continuing to disseminate the documents, which are in such high demand that we had to print an additional 2000 copies; are still receiving letters in response to our request for input; have given presentations to the Board of Directors of two Toronto-based organizations, the Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN) and the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), which have formally endorsed the recommendations in the report; and presented, in Vancouver on 31 January 2000, the report and its recommendations to a meeting of representatives of all federal/provincial/territorial advisory committees with mandates relevant to injection drug use.

More activities to follow up on the recommendations in the report are planned for the coming months, while we wait for Minister Rock's official response to the report's recommendations, expected before the end of June.

For more information, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 223.

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) and HIV health care: an ethical perspective

The scope and content of this project, started in February 1999 (see Issue 1 of *Network News*), is being revised. Originally conceived as a fairly small project limited to the writing of a short paper, the project will now continue into the 2000/2001 fiscal year. The paper will undergo further, substantial revisions, and the Network may

organize a workshop to obtain more input into it in the early fall. The publication of the paper is now expected for early 2001, as part of the series of Network papers on care, treatment, and support issues. For more information, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 223.

Richard Elliott is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Complementary Therapies and Integrative Care, which met on 25-26 March 2000 to provide advice to the Canadian AIDS Society in organizing a national forum (scheduled for fall 2000) on a variety of issues relating to complementary therapies in the areas of research, regulation, delivery, and access.

Work on vaccine issues

The discussion paper on the legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by the development and eventual availability of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS is nearing completion and will be released soon and widely distributed for comments and input. In the meantime, David Thompson continues to present preliminary findings at a variety of seminars on HIV/AIDS vaccines, most recently in Montréal on 21 March 2000. He will also hold a skills-building workshop at the Network's Annual General Meeting, on 18 June. Finally, the legal and ethical issues raised by the development and eventual availability of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS will be one of the four issues discussed at the satellite that the Network is organizing with our partner, the AIDS Law Project, South Africa, in Durban on 7 July 2000. For more



information on the satellite, contact Glen Bugg at gbugg@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 226. For more information on the vaccine project, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 223.

HIV/AIDS in prisons

We are continuing our activities in this area. Ralf Jürgens gave a presentation on HIV/AIDS in prisons on 4 February 2000, at the seminar series organized by the Montréal-based organization GAP-vies, which provides HIV/AIDS services to the Haitian community. Ralf also published two articles:

- Harm reduction inside and out: controlling HIV in and out of correctional institutions (with co-authors Juarlyn Gaiter, Ken Mayer, and Amber Hollibaugh). *The AIDS Reader* 2000; 10(1): 45-53; and
- HIV/AIDS and drug use in prisons: moral and legal responsibilities of prisons. In: David Shewan & John B Davies (eds). *Drug Use and Prisons: An International Perspective*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, 2000, at 1-26.

For more information, or to obtain copies of the articles, contact Ralf at ralfj@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 223.

Criminal law and HIV/AIDS

Recognizing the Network's expertise in this area, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) contracted the Network in January 2000 to develop a UNAIDS policy or policy options paper on the role of criminal law as part of a response to HIV/AIDS, and to

produce an extensive bibliography on the issue. This work is ongoing and will be concluded by the fall of 2000.

In addition, the Network is writing a paper on criminal law and HIV/AIDS that will serve as the basis of discussion at the satellite conference on legal, ethical, and human rights issues in Durban on 7 July 2000. This paper will become available on the Network's website, together with the other papers presented at the conference, in June.

Finally, Richard Elliott has continued giving presentations about the Network's analysis of the significance of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Cuerrier* case, including one at the Opening Doors Conference in Toronto in February 2000, and monitoring developments in Canadian criminal law.

Prostitution and HIV/AIDS

We will soon release a list of 20 to 30 essential resources, as well as an updated annotated bibliography and literature review on prostitution and HIV/AIDS. For this project, undertaken as part of our work on the annotated bibliography and literature review we first released in 1995 (available at www.aidslaw.ca/biblio/c-21.htm), we put together a peer review committee of four experts: Claire Thiboutot and Dan Allman from Canada, Sue Metzenrath from Australia, and Priscilla Alexander from the US.

For more information, contact Maria Nengeh Mensah at mmensah@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 224.

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).

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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.



Other Network News

Network participates in Call to Action on Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

In December 1999, the Network joined the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, the Canadian AIDS Society, the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian Society for International Health, the National HIV/AIDS Network for Children, Youth and Families, and the Unit for Research and Education on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, University of Victoria, as one of the founding members of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Global Response to Children Affected by HIV/AIDS. As a member of the Committee, we participated in the drafting of the *Call to Action on Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*, an initiative to create a greater awareness of, and commitment to, children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in developing countries and in Canada, and participated in the launch of the *Call to Action* at a press conference in Ottawa on 2 February 2000. In the coming months we will remain involved in the Committee, which is currently defining its agenda for the future.

For more information about the Committee and the *Call to Action*, visit ICAD's website at <www.icad-cisd.com>.

Network writes to Minister McLellan re Bill C-244

On 13 January 2000, the Network sent a letter to Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice, raising concerns about Bill C-244 (the *Blood Samples Act*), introduced for first reading on 18 October 1999 as a private member's bill. The bill proposes to permit forced blood testing of persons for HIV or hepatitis B or C where peace officers, firefighters, and other emergency services personnel or other health-care workers may have been exposed to the risk of infection. The bill also proposes imprisonment for up to six months of any person who refuses court-ordered testing.

In our letter, we expressed our view that such legislation is unnecessary, unethical, and unconstitutional. We asked Minister McLellan that her government not support the bill or any other legislation imposing compulsory testing for HIV.

To obtain a copy of the Network's letter, contact Éric Nolet at <enolet@aidslaw.ca>. For further information about the issues raised in Bill C-244, contact Richard Elliott at <relliott@netrover.com>.

Resource Centre

On 1 June 1999, the Network opened its Resource Centre to the public (see Issue 2 of *Network News*). Since then, there has been a steady flow of requests for information, mainly in the areas of HIV/AIDS and discrimination; care, treatment, and support; employment issues; criminal law; privacy and confidentiality; children and youth; drug use; and HIV testing.

Over 1800 items have been entered into the Resource Centre's electronic database, and many more remain to be entered. All are accessible to Network members and members of the public.

For more information, contact Maria Nengeh Mensah at mnmensah@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 224.

Website

The number of hits and page views on our website (www.aidslaw.ca) is continuing to grow. We counted over 4500 hits on the day we released our new report on rapid testing, and will have over 70,000 hits/month for the first time in March 2000. Currently, we are completely redesigning the site to make it even more user-friendly. Check out our new site, to be launched at our AGM in June.

Membership drive successful

In November 1999, we undertook our first-ever membership drive. Membership has since increased from 77 to 126 – 58 organizations and 68 individuals. A big welcome to all new members!

Important Dates

Toronto, 25-28 May 2000: National Conference on Women and HIV/AIDS

The Network is one of the national program partners of this conference. The stream on legal, ethical, and public policy issues includes presentations on:

- HIV/AIDS and Injection Drug Use: Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues;
- HIV Testing and Confidentiality;
- HIV Testing and Pregnancy: Medical and Legal Parameters of the Policy Debate;
- Human Rights and HIV/AIDS;
- Sex Works: Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues and Resources in Prostitution;

- After *Cuerrier*: Criminal Law and Non-Disclosure of HIV-Positive Status;
- Rapid Testing at the Point of Care: Legal and Ethical Questions;
- Shouting into the Wind: Advocating for Women's Health in Canadian Prisons;
- Getting Involved: A Coordinated Action Plan for Women's Advocacy in HIV;
- The Reality of Harm Reduction in Women's Lives; and
- HIV-Positive Women in the Media.

For more information, contact the Events Team, Canadian AIDS Society, at 1-877-998-9991.



Toronto, 16-18 June 2000: The Network 2000 AGM

With keynote presentations by Justice Krever and a representative of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, and a full day devoted to skills building and discussion of hot legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca or 514 397-6828 ext 222.

Durban, 7 July 2000: Putting Third First – Critical Legal Issues and HIV/AIDS

The Network and the AIDS Law Project, South Africa, are organizing a one-day satellite conference on legal, ethical, and human rights issues, to take place just prior to the XIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2000). For more information, see the detailed description in this issue.

Montréal, 29 July 2000: Canadian Association of Social Workers Symposium on HIV/AIDS

A one-day symposium just before the joint world conference of the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. Participants will share lessons learned and proven strategies, as well as the challenges that remain, in advancing the rights of people with HIV or AIDS. The work will contribute to the development of an international social worker's manifesto on HIV, which will provide a concrete guide for social work action in the implementation of the Declaration of the Paris AIDS Summit. The Network is represented on the symposium planning committee by Anne Renaud and Ralf Jürgens. For more information, contact the Canadian Association of Social Workers at casw@casw-acts.ca.

New Resources

The following new resources produced by the Network have become available:

- *Rapid HIV Screening at the Point of Care: Legal and Ethical Questions*;
- a series of info sheets on HIV testing;
- *Building Capacity to Address Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues Related to HIV/AIDS in Canada*.

These and many other Network publications are available on the Network website at www.aidslaw.ca or from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse. Tel: 613 725-3434; fax: 613 725-9826; email: [aids/sida@cpha.ca](mailto: aids/sida@cpha.ca). For a full list of publications, contact Éric Nolet at 514 397-6828 ext 227.

Comments and Feedback



I would also like to express my thanks for the comprehensive reports and background papers relating to HIV/AIDS that your organization has published over the past few years. In particular, HIV/AIDS in Prisons: Final Report, has been very useful to us in raising awareness, as well as assisting us to develop policy in this area.

– Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba, 10 January 2000

The Québec College of Family Physicians fully endorses all the recommendations in your Final Report.

– Johanne Blais, President of the Collège québécois des médecins de famille, in her response to *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues*, 3 February 2000

Thank you for doing another amazing job of compiling, researching and distributing this much needed report.

– Anne-Marie DiCenso, Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network, in her response to *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues*, 18 January 2000

Saskatchewan Justice will use this information as a guide in the development of policies involving the criminal justice system and individuals involved in injection drug use.

– Chris Axworthy, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan, in his response to *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues*, 11 January 2000