



News Release Communiqué

For immediate release

CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK ANNOUNCES RICHARD ELLIOTT AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TORONTO, August 1, 2007 — The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Elliott as Executive Director, effective August 30, 2007.

“For over 14 years, Richard has played a vital role in turning the Legal Network from a national AIDS organization into one of the world’s most respected human rights NGOs, and one of the few focussing specifically on HIV/AIDS and the law,” said Thomas Kerr, President of the Board of Directors. “Nobody is better qualified or experienced than Richard to take the helm of the Legal Network. This is great news for AIDS activists and organizations across Canada and around the world.”

Elliott is currently Deputy Director of the Legal Network. He joined the Legal Network staff in January 1999 as Director of Policy and Research, after serving one and a half years as a member of the Board.

“There’s a lot of challenging work ahead,” said Elliott. “There are still too many people who face an unnecessarily high risk of HIV infection. We know which programs and policies work to lower that risk. But instead of moving ahead to implement proven best practices, too many countries are actually taking steps backwards. Sadly, Canada is no exception.

“That’s why I, together with our staff and board members, and our members, partners and supporters worldwide, remain committed to fighting for the legal and human rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS.”

Previously, Elliott worked as a lawyer in private practice with the Toronto firm of Iler Campbell and appeared before all levels of Ontario courts, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada. He has coordinated student legal aid clinic services for low-income people with HIV/AIDS, served on the boards of directors of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario) and the Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN), and collaborated with other human rights organizations, in addition to authoring numerous publications on the legal and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Elliott is a member of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS (which advises the federal Minister of Health on national AIDS policy) and a founding member of the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG), an affiliation of Canadian civil society organizations advocating for access to HIV/AIDS care, treatment and support in developing countries. He has also been a key player in pushing for changes to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime, the law meant to facilitate the exportation of much-needed lower-cost versions of brand-name drugs to developing countries.

An economics and philosophy graduate of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Elliott obtained his LL.B. and LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University in Toronto. He was called to the Ontario bar in 1997.

Elliott succeeds Joanne Csete, who is leaving Canada for the United States after almost three years as head of the Legal Network and, previous to that, three years as a member of the Board.

About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (www.aidslaw.ca) promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research, legal and policy analysis, education, and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada's leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

– 30 –

For more information, please contact:

Disponible en français

Leon Mar
Director of Communications
Telephone: +1 416 595-1666 ext. 228
E-mail: lmr@aidslaw.ca
Website: www.aidslaw.ca