

LNN



Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network | Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

L E G A L N E T W O R K N E W S

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What's New?

Those of you who follow closely the Legal Network's activities will notice a new format for our long-standing LNN (www.aidslaw.ca/news). Indeed, by publishing exclusively in electronic format, this will allow us to distribute news more frequently and in shorter capsules, with relevant links where applicable. As always, we encourage you to visit www.aidslaw.ca to stay connected and informed.

During the past weeks, the Legal Network produced a number of resources, reports (www.aidslaw.ca/publications) and media releases (www.aidslaw.ca/media), as well as the latest *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review* (www.aidslaw.ca/review), all available on-line. We'd like especially to draw your attention to our Annual Report 2008–2009 (www.aidslaw.ca/annualreport) and encourage you to review it for a full picture of our work. Just as importantly, however, **we seek your feedback**. Please complete the easy-to-use on-line survey [*survey closed*].

Some 200 activists, policy-makers, researchers and lawyers come together

By all accounts, the 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights was a phenomenal success, surpassing our expectations by the number of people in attendance, the media coverage and the high calibre of panel members. Highlights included the public lecture on "The Criminalization of HIV Transmission" by Justice Edwin Cameron from the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Read or listen to it on-line at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/EN/AGM2009/index.htm>. Namibian advocate Michaela Clayton and Concordia University researcher Viviane Namaste were honoured with this year's Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (www.aidslaw.ca/awards). A number of experts and community activists shared their insights on various panels on topics such as criminalization of exposure to HIV, access to affordable treatment in developing countries, Canada's drug policy, and the access to needle and syringe programs by people who are incarcerated. Of course, the Symposium's success rests on participants themselves. Plans are under way for next year's event and your suggestions are always welcome.

Success to celebrate!

The Legal Network has played a leadership role in pushing for legislation to streamline

“Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime” (CAMR), the law intended to help developing countries procure lower-cost, generic medicines through the effective use of compulsory licensing. We can be pleased that legislation is now pending in both the Senate and the House of Commons but our work is far from done! Get involved in order to help make this change happen. There are 4 ways you can support this campaign at www.aidslaw.ca/camr.

The Future

The above are but some highlights from recent months. Though the summer will be slightly slower-paced, the Legal Network will be busy preparing to move forward on several fronts, notably: drug policy and the rights of people who use drugs (www.aidslaw.ca/drugpolicy), prisons and the rights of people in prisons (www.aidslaw.ca/prisons), women’s rights and HIV (www.aidslaw.ca/women), as well as criminalization of HIV exposure (www.aidslaw.ca/criminallaw).

We invite you to consult our work plan for the short-term future (between now and next April) and our draft strategic plan that will guide the Legal Network’s efforts in the longer-term (2010–2015). Both documents can be found at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/EN/AGM2009/index.htm#agm> and we ask that you please take a few minutes to give us your input on the draft strategic plan by [survey closed]. As always, your feedback is appreciated and in fact, it’s vital to our work in the global struggle for human rights in the response to HIV.

Your membership in the Legal Network is important. Please renew or join today at www.aidslaw.ca/joinus.

Donations of any amount are welcome and so crucial to our continued work. Consider making a contribution today, eligible for a tax receipt, by visiting www.aidslaw.ca/donate.

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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.

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