

For immediate release

*Également disponible en français*

June 6, 2011

**NOTICE OF EVENTS AND  
POTENTIAL INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY  
*Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights  
and Awards Presentation*  
Toronto, June 9–10, 2011**

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights: “Litigating for Change” in Toronto on June 9–10. Over 150 policy-makers, legal professionals, health researchers, activists and people living with or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS will gather from across Canada to address a number of controversial topics on HIV and human rights. **For a full agenda and list of presenters, see [www.aidslaw.ca/symposium](http://www.aidslaw.ca/symposium).**

Over the two-day event, workshops and panel discussions with leading experts in law, human rights, and communications will explore a range of high-profile issues, with an emphasis on strategic litigation as a means of securing protections for members of vulnerable communities. Community leaders and activists will also share their perspectives and experiences of turning to the courts to advance human rights. **Presentations will be heard from key players in newsmaking court-cases relating to the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, Canada’s sex work laws, and the ongoing Supreme Court battle over Insite, Vancouver’s safe-injection facility.**

The timing of this year’s Symposium is particularly critical. **This event coincides with discussions of the global state of the pandemic at the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York City, as well as with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “discovery” of AIDS.** It also comes one week before the Ontario Court of Appeal hears arguments in *Bedford v. Canada*, a challenge to Ontario’s prostitution laws — offering a rare opportunity to hear a guest lecture by counsel in that case, Alan Young, Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, on the eve of this historic and potentially precedent-setting constitutional challenge to Canada’s prostitution laws that harm sex workers. **The Legal Network and Human Rights Watch will also jointly present the 2011 Awards for Action on HIV and Human Rights preceding Alan Young’s lecture.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**What:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights, featuring an array of high-profile leaders and activists, detailed at [www.aidslaw.ca/symposium](http://www.aidslaw.ca/symposium)

**When:** Thursday, June 9 – Friday, June 10

**Where:** Novotel Toronto Centre, 45 The Esplanade, Toronto

\* \* \* \* \*

**What:** Public lecture by **Alan Young**, counsel in *Bedford v. Canada* and **2011 Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights**, presented jointly by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Human Rights Watch to:

- The Caribbean Vulnerable Communities coalition and its late co-founder, Dr. Robert Carr (International Recipient)
- Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (Canadian Recipient)

**When:** Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) free public admission, reception to follow

**Where:** Novotel Toronto Centre, 45 The Esplanade, Toronto

### **About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

Since 1992, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network ([www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)) has been promoting 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 one of the world's leading advocacy organizations working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

– 30 –

### ***For more information, to register for events, and to arrange interviews:***

Janet Butler-McPhee  
Director of Communications  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
[jbutler@aidslaw.ca](mailto:jbutler@aidslaw.ca)  
+1 416 595-1666 ext. 228  
+1 416 268-2549 (cell)