

Network news

Issue 3

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

December 1999

www.aidslaw.ca – Now over 1/2 million hits!

In September, the Network celebrated the 500,000th hit on our website since we moved it to our new Internet provider, Interjonction, in August 1997, when we had 62 hits. We had over 10,000 hits for the first time in May 1998, and reached a new record (60,150 hits) in November 1999.

Worldwide, the Network's site is now considered THE reference for information on legal, ethical, and policy issues raised by HIV – in November, people from over 60 countries consulted the site. We update the site monthly and put the full text of all our reports and newsletters, plus many other materials, on the site for downloading. We are celebrating our 500,000th visit but are not resting on our laurels. Currently we are seeking funding that will allow us to completely redesign the site, to make it even more user friendly. Look out for the changes!

Minister Rock Responds to Network's Report on Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS

On 24 November, at a press conference in the House of Commons, the Network released its report on *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues*. On the 23rd, the report and its recommendations had already received a huge amount of attention in the media, opening CBC's radio news. Coverage of the report continued for over one week, in the press, on the radio, and on TV. Highlights included hours of in-depth coverage on CBC Radio One, many TV interviews on both CBC and CTV, and articles in many newspapers, including a full-page article on the report in the *Globe and Mail* on World AIDS Day.

Significantly, only one week after the release of the report, on World AIDS Day Minister of Health Alan Rock reacted publicly to the report and its recommendations. During question period in the House of Commons, Rock responded to a question by Bloc Québécois health critic Réal Ménard, saying that the Network report contains "interesting and important recommendations," that these recommendations are now "under consideration," and making a promise to "provide a detailed response to the recommendations in the months to come." Earlier on the same day, during his speech marking the release of his yearly report on HIV/AIDS, Rock had also mentioned the report and made a commitment to respond to its recommendations, saying that "if the Minister of Health of the country is not prepared to look at the options and consider them seriously and discuss them, then how can we marshal a decent response to the needs of this marginalized group [injection drug users]?" The Minister went on to say that "we have to look beyond the addiction. We have to see the person. And we have to be prepared to craft a response which reflects our decency as people."



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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 based in Montréal. We welcome new members. For membership information, contact Anne Renaud at [<arenaud@aidslaw.ca>](mailto:arenaud@aidslaw.ca).

1999 AGM Highlights

Our 1999 AGM was held in Montréal on 17 and 18 September 1999. For the first time, over 50 people, including 35 of our members from across Canada, attended. Many Ontario delegates were able to attend thanks to a generous grant from the Ontario AIDS Bureau, and a small number of members from other parts of the country received scholarships made possible with funding from Health Canada. The AGM events included

- a presentation by David Thompson from the Centre for Bioethics of the Clinical Research Institute of Montréal on legal and ethical issues raised by the development and eventual availability of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS;
- a presentation by Ronda Bessner, a Toronto lawyer and one of the co-authors of the Network's report on injection drug use and HIV/AIDS, on the legal issues raised in that report;
- presentation and discussion of the Network's annual report and of the workplan for 1999/2000;
- a presentation of the Network's longer-term visioning exercise, and an opportunity for members to provide input into it; and
- the election of a new, eleven-member Board.

Important Dates

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

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

16-18 June 2000: The Network 2000 AGM

In Toronto. For the first time, it will include a full day devoted to skills building and discussion of hot legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

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

Just prior to AIDS 2000, the Network and the AIDS Law Project, South Africa will host a one-day meeting on legal, ethical, and human rights issues. Issues to be addressed will include access to treatment; criminal law and HIV/AIDS; legal and ethical issues relating to vaccines; and vulnerability of women and the role of the law. For more information and registration, visit the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca or contact Glen Bugg at gbugg@aidslaw.ca (tel: 514 397-6828 ext 226; fax: 514 397-8570). Registration is limited to 100 participants on a first-come, first-served basis, and is Cdn\$75 or US\$50.



Work Has Started on Rapid Testing

As described in issue 2 of *Network News* (at 2-3), in each of the next three years, the Network will prepare a short paper or plan that promptly addresses new, emerging and/or pressing legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS in Canada. In June 1999, we consulted with our members, Health Canada, and selected community-based organizations, seeking input as to which emerging and/or pressing issues should be the subject of this year's work. On the basis of the input received, a decision was made in August 1999 to produce a short paper/plan on the legal, ethical, and policy issues raised by rapid testing at the point of care.

It is expected that at least one rapid test kit will be approved in the immediate future for sale in Canada for use by health-care professionals at the point of care. Participants at a Health Canada workshop in March 1999 specifically identified the need to analyze the legal and ethical questions raised by rapid testing, and Health Canada's Medical Devices Bureau and Laboratory Centre for Disease Control have indicated they will undertake further consultation.

In November, the Network and the Canadian AIDS Society distributed a short backgrounder providing an overview of rapid testing and some of the issues it raises (see *infra*, the section on New Resources) and organized a discussion of these issues at the 2nd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium in Winnipeg. The backgrounder was also made available to members of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, and to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee on AIDS meeting in Calgary on 15 and 16 November.

The Network is now preparing a discussion paper on the key legal issues raised by rapid testing, and has commissioned the writing of an ethical commentary, which will be prepared by Barry Hoffmaster, a Professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. Participants at a national workshop in Toronto on 21-22 January 2000 will provide input and comments on the discussion paper and ethical commentary, which will be finalized in the weeks after the workshop. A final paper with recommendations will be released in the spring of 2000.

Care, Treatment, and Support Project Underway

Over the last months, there have been some changes to the scope of this project, which was described in issue 2 of *Network News* (at 3). Instead of producing *one* discussion paper and *one* final report on the legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to care, treatment, and support issues, we will produce over the next years a *series* of shorter papers and reports on a number of care, treatment, and support issues that will be selected with the assistance of the project's national advisory committee. This will allow us to respond more quickly to emerging needs, and will result in greater flexibility in addressing the many issues on which work needs to be undertaken.

As a result of this change, the publication of the Network's paper on Complementary and Alternative

Medicine (CAM) and HIV Health Care: An Ethical Perspective has been delayed. It will now be released in March 2000, as the first of the series of Network papers on care, treatment, and support issues. The paper is currently undergoing substantial revisions, taking into account the many comments received from over 30 individuals and organizations to whom a draft of the paper had been sent in August.

At the time of writing, selection of the members of the project's national advisory committee was nearing completion, and most had been appointed. A list of members will be provided in the next issue of *Network News*. Members will have their first meeting in Toronto on 3 and 4 March 2000.



Project News

Work on vaccine paper has started

As announced in issue 2 of *Network News* (at 3), the Network, in partnership with the Centre for Bioethics of the Clinical Research Institute of Montréal, will publish a paper in 2000 on the legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by the development and eventual availability of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS. Work on the paper has started, and David Thompson presented some preliminary findings on 17 September at the seminar held in conjunction with the Network's Annual General Meeting, and at other events, including a meeting at the Canadian AIDS Society office on 24 November and an event organized by the Montréal-based AIDS-service organization Séro-Zéro.

A draft paper will be available in March 2000, and will then be widely distributed for comments and input. A workshop on the legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS vaccines, originally also scheduled for March 2000, will now be held in May 2000.

HIV/AIDS in prisons

Our efforts to ensure better HIV prevention in provincial and federal prisons, and better care, treatment, and support for HIV-positive prisoners, continue. Since the summer, we have distributed over 1,500 copies of our series of 13 info sheets on HIV/AIDS in prisons, and have had a number of meetings with representatives of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to obtain further updates on the Service's activities.

On 9 November, Ralf Jürgens was invited to give a presentation on the "Implications of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in Canadian Prisons: The Public Health and the Public Policy Perspectives" at the CSC's Commissioner's Forum. The Forum is composed of a group of 24 prominent Canadians, including, among others, the Honourable Edward Bayda, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan; Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada; Pamela Wallin, President, The

Current Affairs Group; Max Yalden, Member, United Nations Human Rights Committee; and David Zussman, President, Public Policy Forum.

Members of the Forum were generally supportive of the recommendations made, including the recommendation that needle exchange programs be piloted in Canadian prisons. Rather than discussing *whether* such a program should be implemented, the discussion centered around *how* it could be implemented, in light of the anticipated opposition of some politicians and the Union of Solicitor General Employees.

Criminal law and HIV/AIDS

Following the release of the Network's paper *After Cuerrier: Canadian Criminal Law and the Non-Disclosure of HIV-Positive Status*, Richard Elliott has continued giving presentations about the Network's analysis of the significance of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Cuerrier* case. Since July, this has included a workshop at the 2nd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium in Winnipeg on 15 November; presentations at the "Opening Doors" conference in Hamilton on 9 November and at events organized by smaller community groups; and a plenary presentation for over 500 people at the Mexican national conference on HIV/AIDS on 26 November. In addition, Ralf Jürgens was invited to speak on the subject of criminal law and HIV/AIDS at a United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS consultation on HIV reporting and partner notification in Geneva on 21 October.

Mentorship workshop held

After undertaking extensive consultations, Theodore de Bruyn submitted the first draft of a plan for a mentoring program on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS (for more details, see *Network News* 1999; 2: 3-4).



The draft was sent to all participants at a mentorship workshop that was held in Winnipeg on 12 November, and to many other individuals and organizations that could not be invited to the workshop. Theodore de Bruyn is now revising the plan, taking into account the comments made by the participants at the workshop and by those who have submitted written responses. A final plan will become available in January 2000. The goal is to enhance the capacity of individuals and organizations to undertake activities in the area of legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

Changes to our annotated bibliography and literature review

We have continued updating the Internet version of our annotated bibliography and literature review, available at <www.aidslaw.ca/biblio/c-20.htm>. At the same time, however, we have

started working on a plan to further improve this publication. The major changes will include:

- focusing our efforts on some areas (such as prisons, criminal law, testing and confidentiality, discrimination and human rights, etc), rather than trying to update all areas of the publication – an impossible task;
- adding new features, such as lists of essential resources that include the 20 to 30 most relevant publications in each area, identified with the help of peers from around the world; and
- rewriting the literature review sections, which have become outdated since they were first written in 1995.

In the next months, we will update the sections on prisons, drug laws and policies, prostitution, criminal law, care, treatment, and support, and discrimination and human rights.

Other Network News

Network participates in re-design of community-based research funding

In May 1999, the National Health Research and Development Program (NHRDP) held a national consultation in Victoria on re-designing the program on community-based research funded under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS. Following that consultation, Richard Elliott, Director of Policy & Research for the Network, became a member of the Advisory Reference Group advising the NHRDP in re-designing the process of obtaining funding for community-based research in Canada. The Advisory Reference Group has: provided input on a new request for proposals and applications for funding; recommended individuals to form a review committee to review proposed research projects; and established review criteria for methodological soundness, community

relevance, and reflection of the principles of community-based research.

Follow-up on the 1998 planning report

The Network met twice with Health Canada to discuss how the recommendations in *Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues Raised by HIV/AIDS: Where Do We Go from Here? Planning for 1998-2003. A Planning Report* can best be implemented. At the meetings, Health Canada suggested that another national planning meeting on legal, ethical, and human rights issues be held in early 2000. The Network, while not rejecting such a meeting out of hand, questioned whether it was really necessary and a good use of limited resources. It emphasized again the importance of:

- establishing open and transparent mechanisms to allow individuals and organizations to access funding under this component of the Strategy;



- setting priorities for funding in accordance with the existing 1998 plan; and
- undertaking activities that will build capacity to respond to the many legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS that have a direct impact on the lives of people with HIV/AIDS, on prevention efforts, and on efforts to provide care, treatment, and support.

Health Canada subsequently decided not to hold another planning meeting, at least not in the current fiscal year. The Network and Health Canada will continue to discuss how best to advance the goals and objectives of this area of the Strategy.

Partnership with CAS regarding legal interventions

In the summer of 1999, the Legal Network's Board of Directors approved a policy on legal interventions, setting out the criteria the Network will consider in determining whether to intervene in a given court proceeding (see: Policy statement on legal interventions adopted. *Network News* 1999; 2: 6-7). In the fall, after further discussions, the Network and CAS entered into a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint committee to consider possible joint Network/CAS interventions in legal cases. The role of the joint committee will not be limited to simply reacting to legal cases already in the system, but will include the development of a proactive litigation strategy that will identify possible situations in which legal action may be a useful tool in shaping HIV/AIDS law and policy in Canada. Obviously, both CAS and the Network have limited resources for such initiatives, and so cannot be involved in every relevant case. This makes it all the more important to engage in strategic thinking about where we can best pool our resources and expertise.

Developing a list of lawyers with expertise in HIV/AIDS

The Network receives numerous inquiries from people with legal problems. While we can provide general information on various issues about the state of the law in Canada, and sometimes direct people to other useful resources, we cannot provide legal advice or represent people in legal proceedings. Over

the coming months, the Legal Network will develop a roster of practising lawyers across Canada who are familiar with HIV/AIDS issues and to whom we can refer people who need legal advice or representation. We are also hoping that these lawyers will be able to support the work of the Network in other ways, including possibly acting as *pro bono* counsel for us in interventions or assisting the Network in keeping up to date on legal and policy developments in their jurisdiction.

If you are a lawyer and would like to be on our roster, or if you can suggest lawyers whom we should contact who might be interested, please contact Richard Elliott at tel (416) 595-1666 or <relliott@netover.com>.

Policy on corporate donations adopted

In November 1999, the Board approved a policy on accepting donations from private corporations. The Network will evaluate any potential donation using criteria such as:

- Does the donation support the Network's mission?
- Would accepting the donation compromise or restrict the Network's ability and right to express its opinion on matters relating to the Network's work?
- Would accepting the donation unduly restrict the Network's capacity to solicit or accept other funds?
- Is soliciting or accepting the donation in keeping with the Network's principle of respect for the basic human rights and the interests of people living with HIV/AIDS?
- Is soliciting or accepting the donation appropriate in light of the Network's strategic plan(s) and work plan(s)?

The policy also states unequivocally that the Board and staff of the Network shall not permit any donor to influence or determine the content of any project or activity undertaken by the Network, and that this means a donor shall have no control over things such as:



- the development of the Network's strategic plan(s) or work plan(s);
- which projects and activities the Network undertakes, and which issues the Network researches and analyzes;
- the content of any Network publication, either in paper or in electronic format;
- the content of materials placed on the Network's website or collected in the Network's Resource Centre;
- the attendance at, participation in, or agenda of any Network event (eg, consultation workshops, members' or Board meetings, etc);
- positions adopted by the Network in either public or private fora vis-à-vis partner organizations, funders, government, private industry, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, AIDS service organizations and/or other service providers;
- positions adopted, or arguments advanced, by the Network in any legal proceedings in which the Network may be involved; and/or
- the solicitation of funds by the Network from other sources.

The policy also requires a donor to obtain the Network's consent before using the Network's name, marks or logo in any advertisement or other promotional materials of any kind. The Network always reserves the right to refuse to permit a donor to use its name or logo. Finally, the policy requires the Network, before accepting any donation, to obtain confirmation in writing from a would-be donor that they will respect the terms of this policy.

A copy of the policy can be obtained by contacting Éric Nolet at tel (514) 397-6828 ext 227 or <enolet@aidslaw.ca>. Inquiries about the policy itself can be directed to Ralf Jürgens at tel (514) 397-6828 ext 223 or <ralfj@aidslaw.ca>.

Membership drive

Without ever having actively recruited members, the Network had 77 members as of September 1999. In November, we undertook our first-ever

membership drive, and hope to welcome our 100th member by early 2000.

Visit from South Africa

As part of our partnership with the AIDS Law Project (ALP), Anita Kleinsmidt, a staff lawyer with ALP, visited the Network from 2 to 16 November. Anita gave presentations on "Where are my human rights? Mother-to-child transmission of HIV in South Africa" at seminars and workshops in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and Winnipeg, and met with representatives of Health Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, and numerous community groups, particularly in Toronto. For the Network and for ALP, this was a successful visit, and an important milestone in our collaboration. Copies of a more detailed account of Anita's visit can be obtained at the Network's office by calling Eric Nolet at (514) 397-6826 ext 227 or by writing to <enolet@aidslaw.ca>.

Network's work recognized as "best practice"

In the first issue of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) *Booklet of Best Practices*, the Network's work was one of only two activities in the area of "human rights, ethics, and law" selected as international "best practice." In practice, this translates into many requests for participation at international meetings, many of which we have to decline. Among those that we were able to accept in the last months were: Ralf Jürgens gave a presentation on "Human Rights and Discrimination Issues" at the 1st US Conference on HIV/AIDS Prevention in Atlanta on 30 August; Ralf also participated in the UNAIDS Consultation on Reporting of HIV and Partner Notification in Geneva from 20-22 October; and Richard Elliott worked on contract from 28 November to 1 December for the Latin American and Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations to assist the Council with its UNAIDS-funded work on promoting the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS in the region.



1999/2000 Board

The Network's new, eleven-member Board consists of Caroline Ploem (Atlantic), David Thompson and Bruno Guillot-Hurtubise (Québec), Lori Stoltz, Ruth Carey, William Bromm, and Stefan Matiation (Ontario), Marie-Josée Paquin (Prairies), and Barney Hickey, Raymond Campeau, and Michael Linhart (Pacific).

William Bromm has been a legal policy advisor for the Government of Ontario for the past eight years. He has specialized in human rights and equity policy, most recently with the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, responsible for the administration of Ontario's Human Rights Code. William has been personally interested in HIV and AIDS issues for a number of years, particularly those related to health and human rights. His studies of, and experience with, Chinese/Asian medical practice and philosophy have given him a unique perspective on medical issues related to health and health choices, and the importance of ensuring that these issues are properly addressed in law and public policy.

Raymond Campeau was called to the Ontario Bar in 1993 and to the British Columbia Bar in 1995. In 1998 he held a term position as Advocacy Services Developer with the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society (BCPWA). He is currently a practitioner in Vancouver.

Ruth Carey is a lawyer and has been the Executive Director of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic – Ontario in Toronto since May 1996. While in law school in Ottawa, she worked with the AIDS Committee of Ottawa at the University of Ottawa's Student Legal AID Clinic, and wrote the AIDS Committee of Ottawa submission to the Law Reform Commission of Ontario on Confidentiality and Testing.

Barney Hickey is a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Victoria. He has been involved in the field of HIV/AIDS care since 1985 as a staff nurse, head nurse, and patient-care manager. His main focus in HIV has been in mental health and psychiatric nursing. Barney has been HIV-positive since 1985 and continues to enjoy good health. In October 1998, he returned to work as a staff nurse at the Dr Peter AIDS Center Day Program in Vancouver. From 1996 to 1998, Barney was Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and currently he serves on the project review committee for the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation.

Bruno Guillot-Hurtubise is Treasurer of the Network. He is a lawyer and coordinator of the research department at the Superior Court of Montréal. Before starting in his current position, he worked for the Network and for AIDS Community Care Montréal.

Michael Linhart was diagnosed HIV-positive while incarcerated in the federal prison system, and quickly found himself becoming a spokesperson for prisoners with HIV. Among many other things, Michael contributed to the work of the Expert Committee on AIDS in Prisons and gave presentations at the 6th, 7th and 8th British Columbia HIV/AIDS conferences and at the International AIDS Conference held in Vancouver in 1996. Currently Michael works as the Prison Outreach Program Coordinator for the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society.

Stefan Matiation is Vice-President of the Network. His involvement in HIV/AIDS work began while he was in law school, when he spent a summer as a human rights intern with 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations in Toronto. Subsequently, from July 1997 to March 1999,



Stefan worked as an independent contractor on the Legal Network/Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network Project on Aboriginal People and HIV/AIDS. Stefan is presently working as legal counsel with the federal Department of Justice, DIAND Legal Services, in Ottawa.

Marie-Josée Paquin is a registered nurse with a Master's degree in Science from the University of Montréal. She has been involved in HIV/AIDS issues since 1984, on a personal or professional level in two Canadian cities, Montréal and Calgary. Currently she is the HIV/STD Consultant with the Calgary Regional Health Authority. In 1998, she convinced the Authority of the necessity of an anonymous HIV testing program and then developed, implemented, and evaluated this new program. Additionally, she assumes the management responsibilities for Safeworks Calgary, the only needle exchange program for the Calgary Region that provides services to people living with substance use and to sex-trade workers. Marie-Josée is also a member of the International Editorial Board for the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*.

Caroline Ploem has been involved in HIV/AIDS work (mostly at the community level) since 1987. In her seven years at AIDS New Brunswick, she was education coordinator and project coordinator of several provincial, regional, and national research initiatives. Her greatest interests and passions in this field are related to prevention and the issues of HIV/AIDS in prisons and HIV testing and confidentiality. In 1996, she developed and coordinated the National Pilot Inmate Peer Education Program for the Correctional Service of Canada. Since 1997, she has been working as a private consultant. In addition to coordinating the implementation and evaluation of anonymous HIV testing across seven sites in New Brunswick, she was involved in research on HIV/AIDS and palliative care, and on the determinants of sexual risk behaviours of men

who have sex with men. Since 1999, Caroline has also been a member of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS.

Lori Stoltz is President of the Network. She is a partner of the law firm of Goodman and Carr in Toronto, and practises in the areas of civil litigation and administrative law, with a special emphasis on health-related matters. Lori has represented HIV-positive individuals in a variety of contexts to redress concerns relating to breaches of confidentiality, discrimination in the employment and occupational setting, and medical negligence. She represented the HIV-T Group (Blood Transfused) before the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada (Krever Inquiry) and, more recently, acted with Richard Elliott and Marlys Edwardh as co-counsel for the Network, CAS, and the BCPWA before the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v Cuerrier*. Lori is a member of the Ontario AIDS Advisory Committee on HIV.

David Thompson is a lawyer in Montréal and one of the co-founders of the Legal Network. Until July 1999, David was the Executive Director of AIDS Community Care Montréal, an AIDS service organization in Montréal serving primarily the English-speaking community. He now works at the Centre for Bioethics of the Clinical Research Institute of Montréal, where (as part of a joint project with the Legal Network) he is undertaking research concerning legal and ethical issues related to the development, testing, and eventual delivery of a vaccine against HIV and AIDS. David is also a member of the community advisory boards of both the Oméga Cohort and the VaxGen AIDSVAX B/B gp120 clinical trial in Montréal.



Network Staff and Interns

On 1 October 1999, Maria Nengeh Mensah and Glen Bugg, who until then had worked on longer-term part-time contracts, joined Ralf Jürgens (Executive Director), Richard Elliott (Director, Policy & Research), Éric Nolet (Project & Publications Coordinator), and Anne Renaud (Office & Project Coordinator) on the Network staff.

Maria Nengeh Mensah began working with the Network in November 1998 on a two-day-a-week basis to assist in setting up the Resource Centre. She now works four days a week. Apart from continuing to coordinate our Resource Centre, she is now also responsible for the coordination of our literature review and annotated bibliography and of follow-up activities to our various reports. Maria can be reached at ext 224. Her email address is <mmensah@aidslaw.ca>.

Glen Bugg has been dealing with all the financial matters for the Network since May 1998, when he started working on a contractual basis between his home in Ottawa and the Network office in Montréal. He now works full-time at the Network and, in addition to financial matters, is responsible for the implementation of the Network's evaluation strategy and for the coordination of the Network's international activities. Glen can be reached at ext 226. His email address is <gbugg@aidslaw.ca>.

In October and November, we were joined by an intern from Munich, Germany. *Olav Kratz*, a recent law school graduate, spent two months with us and, as he says, "enjoyed every minute of it!" Olav attended several meetings, including the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS Priority-Setting Process-Planning Meeting in Ottawa in late October, the 2nd Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium, and the

Network's press conference launching our report on injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. "All of these were excellent opportunities for me to understand the rather complicated and intricate structure and co-operation of Canada's many AIDS organizations, and to appreciate their work." At the office, Olav wrote an article on recent developments in German law related to HIV/AIDS, assisted Maria with the Network's resource centre, and helped ship hundreds of copies of the Network's report on injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. And here is what Olav says about our reports: "Even if I had not done any actual work at the office, just reading the Network's excellent publications would have enabled me to return home with a much broadened mind." Thanks, Olav! We enjoyed having you with us, too.

Also in October, two students from Concordia University in Montréal began an internship at the Network as part of their requirements for the course HIV/AIDS: Cultural, Social, and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic. *Jon Davies* and *Richard Aczon* are undergraduates in humanities and social science. They have been working with Maria in the Resource Centre. So far, their weekly assignments have included: data entry into the electronic library catalogue, general cataloguing, updating mailing lists, preparing materials for a workshop at the 2nd Canadian Skills Building Symposium, bibliographical work on prostitution and HIV/AIDS, and helping with the Network's mailings. Jon and Richard will continue to work 4 hours/week until April 2000.



Comments and Feedback



The training evaluations were very positive and the Legal Network's information on HIV in prisons was particularly appreciated.

– Viviane Namaste, member of PASAN's Advisory Committee, 9 November 1999

This is a highly recommended book for all libraries from academic to law.

– AIDS Book Review Journal, September 1999

(review of Legal and Ethical Issues Raised by HIV/AIDS: Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography)

If at all possible we would like to continue receiving hard copies of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network publications, which we find very useful. The publications are ... used for research purposes in respect of our current investigation on aspects of the law relating to AIDS.

– Anne-Marié Havenga, South African Law Commission, 8 September 1999

The human rights issues relating to HIV/AIDS are indeed complex and challenging. I applaud the efforts of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network in putting together this report and recommendations.

– Ujjal Dosanjh, Attorney General and Minister, British Columbia, in his response to *Legal, Ethical, and Human Rights Issues Raised by HIV/AIDS*, dated 18 August 1999

New Resources

Our series of info sheets is expanding quickly. The newest addition is a series of 11 info sheets on injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. In addition, the following new reports and papers have become available:

- *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues;*
- *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Legal and Ethical Issues. Background Materials;*
- *Rapid Testing for HIV: What Are the Issues? A backgrounder prepared by the Network and the Canadian AIDS Society;*
- the Network's 1998/99 Annual Report;
- *HIV Testing and Pregnancy: Medical and Legal Parameters of the Policy Debate*, a paper written by Lori Stoltz, President of the Network, for Health 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>. For a full list of publications, contact Éric Nolet at (514) 397-6828 ext 227.