

Network news

ISSUE 9

CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK

Network News to Change Format

This will be the last issue of *Network News* in its current format, created in 1999 to keep readers up to date on activities undertaken by the Legal Network and to facilitate information sharing among Network members.

During the Network's most recent Annual General Meeting, held in September 2002, we had the opportunity to ask members for their feedback and suggestions on various aspects of our communications efforts, including *Network News*. Most of those consulted felt that we should continue publishing *Network News*. However, we received a range of useful suggestions for making this a shorter, action-oriented publication that is more timely and relevant for readers and Network members.

To this end, we are redesigning the content and format of *Network News*. The new format will be shorter, be published more frequently, and will focus primarily on the Network's current and upcoming activities. We are also examining whether we should continue *Network News* as a print publication or convert it to an online newsletter distributed through our website and via email.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the new format of *Network News*, please contact Thomas Haig at thaig@aidslaw.ca.

A Rights-Based Approach to HIV/AIDS: Where Does Canada Stand?

The Network has begun a three-year project to raise awareness in Canada of the link between health and human rights, and of the importance of adopting a rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS. Funding has been provided by the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

A rights-based approach recognizes that vulnerability to HIV/AIDS among stigmatized populations – such as gay men, people who inject drugs, and sex workers – is linked to a long-standing failure to respect, protect, and promote the human rights and dignity of these populations.

The International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights provide comprehensive guidance for countries on developing a rights-based approach to the epidemic. The project will involve raising awareness of the Guidelines, as well as of related resource materials developed by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (available at www.icaso.org) within Canada. We will also undertake an assessment of Canada's compliance with the Guidelines to date, drawing on similar work undertaken in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The project will lead to the publication and wide dissemination of a report on Canada's compliance with the International Guidelines, and recommendations about actions to be taken over a period of five years to increase compliance. For further information about these initiatives, contact Ralf Jürgens at ralfj@aidslaw.ca.

Network Releases Report Card on HIV/AIDS in Prisons

In November 2002, the Network released *Action on HIV/AIDS in Prisons: Too Little, Too Late – A Report Card*. This is a detailed picture of the current state of HIV/AIDS programs and services in federal and provincial/territorial prisons. The

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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.

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 Thomas Haig at:

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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 to 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.

initiative was undertaken to follow up on the Network's 1996 final report on *HIV/AIDS in Prisons*, containing recommendations in 14 areas aimed at improving HIV prevention and care in prisons in Canada. Based on a survey sent in August 2001 to all federal, provincial, and territorial ministries responsible for corrections and to ministries of Health, the report card assesses progress made in implementing these recommendations in the five years since the release of the 1996 report.

The report card concludes that despite some significant, positive developments over the past five years, Canadian prison systems are still not meeting their moral and legal responsibility to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among prisoners and to care for prisoners living with HIV and other infections.

In a "harm reduction rating," compiled to measure the availability and accessibility of these prevention measures, only three prison systems receive a passing grade in the report. The British Columbia provincial prison system scored highest, with 22 of 30 possible points, receiving a B. Next were the federal system (21 points: B-), and Newfoundland and Labrador (D). All other jurisdictions received a failing grade: Québec (14 points); Saskatchewan (10 points), Yukon and Ontario (8), NWT (7), Manitoba and New Brunswick (6), Nova Scotia (5), Alberta (3), PEI and Nunavut (0).

Released in collaboration with HIV/AIDS Regional Services (HARS), the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario), Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN), and the Alberta Community Council on HIV/AIDS (ACCH), the report card generated significant media attention, and has led to decisions within some systems to increase harm-reduction measures. The Network will continue to collaborate with partner organizations in the call for increased leadership, action, and commitment by federal and provincial/territorial governments to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) in prisons and to ensure adequate care to prisoners who are already infected.

Action on HIV/AIDS in Prisons: Too Little, Too Late – A Report Card is available on the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/prisons.htm. For more information, contact Thomas Haig at thaig@aidslaw.ca.

10 Years of Action for Health and Human Rights: 2002 AGM Highlights

The Network's 10th Annual General Meeting and Skills-Building Event, entitled *10 Years of Action for Health and Human Rights*, took place in Montréal on 13-15 September 2002. The three-day event began with a one-day skills-building workshop on global access to treatment, held on Friday, 13 September.

That evening, over a hundred people attended the AGM reception and opening plenary. In a keynote address as compelling as it was personal, David Hoe explored the legal and human rights challenges faced by people living with HIV/AIDS and their basis in systemic stigma and discrimination. Our challenges take shape, he said, as a result of prejudice and fear of such depth and power that our collective ability to act freely and spontaneously, with genuine care and action for those in need, has



become “frozen.” Nonetheless, efforts over the past twenty years to challenge the law and uphold human rights has inspired a vision of possibility where people living with HIV/AIDS “will be less defined by the fear that has defined us in the past.”

Mr Hoe’s address was followed by a ceremony recognizing the Canadian and international recipients of the first annual Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (see article below).

Close to a hundred people attended the AGM itself on Saturday, 14 September, where Network members were given an opportunity to provide feedback on short- and longer-term workplans, and on how communication with Network members can be improved.

On Sunday, 15 September, three skills-building workshops were held on (1) compulsory testing and occupational exposure; (2) drug-user organizing and involvement: why do it? and how?; and (3) best-practice advocacy and services for prisoners with (or at risk for) HIV/AIDS and/or HCV.

The AGM closed with two plenary presentations and discussion with the audience. In his presentation “Act Up for Life – A Call for a Return to AIDS Activism,” Ralf Jürgens, Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, called for a new era of public policy on AIDS in Canada based on leadership and risk-taking by politicians, bureaucrats,

and community organizations, an era that he said requires a return to anger and activism. “Facing Down an Ugly Politics: A Global View of HIV/AIDS and Human Rights,” a presentation by Joanne Csete, HIV/AIDS Program Director at Human Rights Watch, examined the ways in which AIDS is both fuelled by human rights abuses and leaves such abuses in its wake. Ms Csete called for more cross-fertilization between AIDS activism and human rights activism both to address the immediate need to increase global access to treatment, and to further the realization of other human rights.

Many thanks to the funders who made this event possible: Health Canada under the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS; the Centre québécois de coordination sur les MTS et le sida, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux; Bristol-Myers Squibb for contributing toward the scholarship fund, and GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Shire BioChem for hosting the welcoming reception.

A transcript of the presentations given at the opening and closing plenaries is available at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events/agm2002.htm.

Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

In countries worldwide, more and more people are taking action to defend the rights of those most vulnerable to and affected by HIV/AIDS. Often at great personal risk and far from the spotlight, they dare to organize communities and to undertake advocacy and develop life-saving services when others might prefer to look the other way.

The Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights were established in 2002 by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Human Rights Watch to recognize individuals or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to addressing HIV/AIDS and human rights issues. An award will be presented annually in each of two categories: (1) a person residing in Canada or a non-profit organization based in Canada; and (2) a person or non-profit organization from another country. The 2002 Awards were presented during the opening plenary of the Network’s AGM on 13 September.

This year’s Canadian recipient, the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), is one of the strongest and most innovative drug users’ organizations in the world. Formed in 1997, VANDU provides peer-based outreach and care to drug users in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The organization has insistently placed the voice of drug users in the political arena and greatly extended the reach and effectiveness of public health efforts aimed at reducing drug-related harm. Accepting the award on behalf of VANDU was Dean Wilson, a member of the Board of Directors, and Ann Livingston, Project Coordinator. Helping to present the award were Thomas Kerr, a health researcher with the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and Libby Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East.

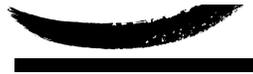
The 2002 international recipient was Dr Wan Yanhai, one of China’s most well known and outspoken AIDS activists. For reasons not directly related

to his selection for this award, Dr Wan was detained by Chinese authorities in August 2002 on charges of leaking “state secrets” concerning attempts by local authorities to cover up the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Henan province, where hundreds of thousands of rural villagers have contracted HIV/AIDS through unsanitary blood-collection practices. In his absence, Dr Wan’s wife, Ms Su Zhaosheng, accepted the award on his behalf. (*Note: Dr. Wan was released from detention one week later.*) Helping to present the award were Joanne Csete, Director of the HIV/AIDS Program at Human Rights Watch, and Dr Peter Leuprecht, Dean of the Faculty of Law at McGill University.

We gratefully acknowledge financial assistance provided by the sponsors of the Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Human Rights Watch, the International Harm Reduction Development Program, the Hilda Mullen Foundation, and Mr Mark Gallop.

Call for Nominations for the 2003 Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2003 Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. The deadline to submit a nomination is 23 May. To obtain a nomination form or further information, contact Anne Renaud (arenaud@aidslaw.ca) or visit the Network’s website at www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/awards.htm#spo.



CIDA funds Network project in Kenya, Zambia

In May 2002, the Legal Network began a CIDA-funded project on “Building Capacity to Address Legal, Ethical and Human Rights Issues in Kenya and Zambia.” The project will run for 18 months. This project is important for a number of reasons:

- it will provide funds for capacity-building activities for the Kenyan Network on Ethics, Law and HIV (a project of the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium) and for the Zambian AIDS Law Research and Advocacy Network (through the International HIV/AIDS Alliance), in particular the undertaking of research, the publication of materials, and the holding of workshops and seminars on HIV/AIDS-related legal issues;
- it will support links between the Legal Network and the legal professional organizations in Kenya and Zambia, particularly through the provision of technical assistance

by Legal Network members on issues identified by the partners in Kenya and Zambia;

- it will facilitate the understanding of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa (particularly the legal, ethical, and human rights dimensions) among Legal Network members (in Canada and internationally);
- it will provide a model for similar activities in other countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions; and
- it will provide the Legal Network with a stepping stone to more secure financial support for its International Program, which will allow us to plan more proactively and over the longer term, with direct benefits for our members and our partners in developing countries and countries in transition.

Network members interested in providing technical support to lawyers in Kenya and Zambia through this project should contact David Patterson (dpatterson@aidslaw.ca) for more information.

New Project to Address Disability, Income Security Issues

Based on the consultation we undertook with Network members in 2001 regarding issues they felt were most pressing and needed our attention, we are now preparing a discussion paper and action plan on “disability and income security.” The issue of defining “disability” as it relates to income security programs was also one of the priority issues identified by the advisory committee for the Network’s ongoing work on care, treatment, and support issues.

Twenty years into the HIV/AIDS epidemic, significant advances in treatments have led to decreased mortality along with serious, sometimes disabling side effects. People living with HIV/AIDS are now facing an “uncertain life,” a “roller coaster ride” in which the disabling effects of HIV and its treatment can make it difficult for people living with HIV/AIDS to hold down steady, full-time employment. Managing HIV disease is also costly and results in many out-of-pocket expenses. People living with HIV/AIDS thus face a double barrier – more expenses and greater difficulty finding a job.

At the same time, income support programs do not necessarily provide adequate support for people with HIV/AIDS. Restrictive definitions of “disability” can make it difficult for people with HIV/AIDS to qualify for public programs such as the Canada/Québec Pension Plans and provincial social assistance (welfare). For those who are eligible, program criteria can often create major disincentives to return to work.

The Network’s discussion paper on “HIV/AIDS, Disability, and Income Security” will examine the practical barriers that people living with HIV/AIDS face when attempting to access public income security programs. Analysis will include barriers to navigating the disability social assistance “system,” eligibility, maintaining benefits/flexibility, adequacy of benefits, administrative discretion in the implementation of programs, and return-to-work issues. Special attention will be given to the definition of disability and to return-to-work issues, in the context of disability social policy in Canada. The paper will examine relevant legal and policy issues arising from this discussion, propose legal strategies to address these, and identify recommendations for reform.

In January 2003, a draft of the paper, and of an accompanying action plan for follow-up activities based on the paper’s recommendations, were presented during a two-day consultative workshop. The workshop brought together HIV/AIDS and disability advocates from across Canada, who reviewed the draft recommendations and provided feedback that will assist with final revisions to the paper. The final discussion paper will be released to the public and the media in the spring of 2003.

It is hoped that this project will help guide legislators, policymakers, judges, individuals, and organizations in working to eliminate the many needless barriers to disability benefits that people with HIV/AIDS face, while assisting front-line workers and other stakeholders in understanding the “system” as a whole. For more information, contact Thomas Haig at thaig@aidslaw.ca.



Other Network News

Follow-up work on HIV/AIDS, stigma, and discrimination

The Network has begun a three-year project to develop and implement an action plan on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, with funding from the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS. The project is part of the Network's commitment to follow up on issues that need further work because they continue to have serious consequences for people with HIV/AIDS and populations affected by the epidemic. Research in Canada and internationally has demonstrated that stigma and discrimination are a major problem in the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS has made eliminating HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination the theme of a two-year World AIDS Campaign (2002-2003). The Network's project will involve preparing an update on HIV-related stigma within Canada, revising our existing info sheets on discrimination, and developing an action plan. The Network will convene a meeting of partners in June 2003 to review the action plan and agree on how they can collaborate to implement it. Because the mobilization of communities and populations affected by HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination is an essential catalyst to action on the part of others, the Network has also applied for funding from the National HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Fund for a project to build capacity at the local level for mobilization against stigma and discrimination. We expect to learn shortly whether this proposal has been successful.

Network begins regional capacity-building workshop series

The Network has begun a series of two-day regional capacity-building workshops on legal, ethical, and human rights issues. The first workshop in the series was held in Red Deer, Alberta, in March 2002 and brought together close to sixty participants from the three Prairie provinces and the Northwest Territories. In October 2002, a second workshop was held in Vancouver with nearly seventy participants from BC and Yukon in attendance. The third workshop, scheduled for 17-18 March 2003 in Montréal, will bring together participants from across Québec. Workshops will also be held in the Atlantic region as well as in Ontario (with inclusion of participants from Nunavut) in the near future.

This is a new initiative being undertaken by the Legal Network to support regional collaboration on legal and policy issues, and to increase local and regional access to the resources and expertise needed to address these issues. Based on input received from Network members in 2001, the workshops focus on two key topics: (1) HIV/AIDS and Drug Laws; and (2) HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in Prisons.

The workshops are intensive two-day events geared toward people currently engaged in advocacy work or direct service provision, in order to better equip participants and their local organizations to address legal and policy issues specific to the region. Each workshop is organized with the assistance of an advisory committee drawn from the region.

To learn more about the workshop series, contact Thomas Haig at thaig@aidslaw.ca. For further information about the Prairies and Pacific workshops, visit www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events.htm#cb. Further information about the upcoming Québec workshop (in French only), can be found at www.aidslaw.ca/francais/Contenu/evenements/accroissement_capacite/quebec.htm.

Comments and Feedback

I look forward to receiving [the Report Card on HIV/AIDS in Prisons] and have hope that it will bear fruit in a pretty barren landscape.... Thanks for all your hard work.

Carol Southall, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Kingston Penitentiary / Member, Church Council on Justice and Corrections, 20 November 2002

Everybody, thank you for the Q&A on HIV/AIDS and Immigration. I needed it and it was there. Searchable, reachable, excellent.

Dan Allman, Research Coordinator, HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto, 13 November 2002

Thank you for inviting me for the [presentation of the Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights]. I was so happy that VANDU's work is being recognized.... I think you do terrific work!

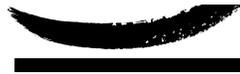
Libby Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, 17 September 2002

...your publication "Establishing Safe Injection Facilities in Canada: Legal and Ethical Issues" was very useful for my work on harm reduction programs in Central and Eastern Europe.

Barbara Bedont, Legal Director, Public Interest Law Initiative, Columbia University/Budapest Law Center, 11 September 2002

Congratulations for all your hard work.... You are great advocates and we certainly appreciate the efforts you make to ensure fair and accessible treatment, care & support services without discrimination. Thank you.

Joanne McAlpine, Executive Director, HIV/AIDS Regional Services, Kingston, Ontario, 6 March 2002



Addressing issues arising from the *Cuerrier* decision: new project

The Canadian AIDS Society has received funding to undertake an 18-month project to assist community-based HIV/AIDS organizations in addressing human resources, confidentiality, and counselling issues arising from the *Cuerrier* decision. The project will be undertaken in partnership with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the AIDS Coalition of Nova

Scotia. The project seeks to adapt existing resources and develop new ones, including a background document, guidelines for policies on confidentiality, counselling guidelines, and an info sheet for people living with HIV/AIDS. The materials will be widely disseminated and promoted at regional workshops across Canada. A community advisory committee will provide direction for the project. For more information, contact Gerard Yetman, Canadian AIDS Society, 1-800-499-1986 ext 121 or gerardy@cdnaids.ca.

2002/2003 Board

The Network's 2002/2003 Board includes four new members: Wayne Campbell (Secretary), Ken Clement (Pacific), Michèle Lalonde (Québec), and Alan Wood (Pacific).

Wayne Campbell is the Secretary of the Network. He has been working in the AIDS field since 1983 and has been living with HIV since 1990. Since 1994, Wayne has been volunteering with the British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA). Wayne is serving on BCPWA's Board of Directors, and was the chairperson of BCPWA in 1998. He has been involved in the following BCPWA programs: Prison Outreach, Board Development, Education and Communications, and HIV prevention.

Ken Clement is of Ktunaxa Nation ancestry. Job and volunteer experiences have given him numerous proactive direct and indirect opportunities with Aboriginal community organizations at committee and board levels. Throughout his tenure as Co-Chair of the Red Road HIV/AIDS Network Society, the Society addressed issues of members from across the province, in particular the lack of support services for Aboriginal individuals and their families. The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, during his term as Chair, has been confronted with multiple HIV/AIDS issues from community-based agencies and governments. As Executive Director of Healing Our Spirit, a Vancouver-based organization that provides direct services in care, treatment, support, and education throughout BC, Ken ensures that these services meet clients' needs now and for the future.

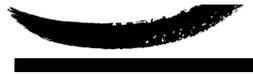
Michèle Lalonde has been a researcher in the area of HIV/AIDS for the past three years with the Direction de la santé publique de Montréal-Centre (the Montréal public health department). In addition to evaluating a partner notification program for people living with HIV/AIDS, she is currently a member of a research team evaluating a public health initiative

aimed at supporting care providers who are confronted with people living with HIV who do not take adequate precautions to prevent the transmission of HIV. She is a criminologist, and previously taught qualitative methodology as a lecturer at the Université de Montréal. She also took part in various social research projects, particularly in criminology, law, and sociology. These projects involved such matters as the concept of danger and how this concept is used in criminological practice and in the operation of the correctional system, issues related to new reproductive technologies, and the situation of people with mental health problems and who live on social assistance.

Alan Wood has been a member of the British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA) since 1995 and has been living with HIV since 1984. He has worked on collaborative projects with several government agencies and NGOs over the years, including the Canadian Clinical Trials Network, the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and Health Canada. A University of British Columbia graduate, Alan has been in nursing practice for 16 years and has worked in several areas of HIV/AIDS care. During the last six years, Alan has been involved in establishing the first HIV/AIDS day centre in Canada, the Dr Peter Centre, where for the past two years he has been Director of Nursing.

Stefan Matiation (Vice-President) has been re-elected, and Joanne Csete (International) has been elected following her initial appointment to the Board earlier in 2002. Five members of the 2002/2003 Board are serving the second year of their term: Kevin Midbo (President), Ruth Carey (Treasurer), Marlene Daley (Québec), Caroline Ploem (Atlantic), and Thomas Kerr (Pacific). Profiles of all Board members can be found on the Network's website at www.aidslaw.ca/AbouttheNetwork/bodbios.htm#ml.

For their contributions to the Network, we gratefully acknowledge three Board members who have left us: Barney Hickey (Secretary), Michael Linhart (Pacific), and Renée Masching (Atlantic).



Network Staff, Interns, and Summer Students

Richard Elliott is taking a one-year leave of absence from his position as Director, Policy & Research, returning in September 2003, in order to complete a Master's thesis at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. Richard's thesis will deal with the relationship between international trade law and human rights. During his leave, Richard will continue to head up the Network's activities on global access to treatment. We wish Richard every success with his studies!

Glenn Betteridge will join the staff of the Legal Network for one year starting in February 2003, replacing Richard Elliott as Director, Policy & Research, until September 2003, and then working with Richard and other Network staff for the six months that follow. Glenn comes to the Network on a leave of absence from the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario), where he is a staff lawyer and acting legal director with a focus on housing, income maintenance, disability insurance, and human rights matters. Glenn holds LLB and BCL degrees from the McGill University Faculty of Law and is a member of the Ontario Bar. Starting February 2003, he can be reached at the Network's Toronto office: 890 Yonge Street, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 3P4; tel: (416) 595-1666; fax: (416) 595-0094.

William Hamilton joined the Network in January 2002 as Financial Coordinator. His responsibilities have recently expanded to include office coordination as well as assisting the Network's efforts to build capacity among lawyers to address HIV/AIDS issues. William has a finance background in private as well as in non-profit operations. For five years, he was the bookkeeper at AIDS Community Care Montréal, where he was also an active volunteer as a Buddy, a Buddy Team Leader, and a fundraiser. William holds a BA in Art History and has also studied Accounting and Architecture. He can be reached at (514) 397-6828 ext 229 or whamilton@aidslaw.ca.

Luke Nicholson joined the Network in October 2002 as part-time office clerk. His responsibilities include assisting with the preparation of mailouts and a variety of general office tasks. Outside of his work at the Network, Luke is an artist with a passion for painting. He can be reached Thursdays and Fridays c/o Terry Gould at (514) 397-6828, ext 225.

Natalie Morin joined the Network as International Program Assistant in January 2003. Her focus is on the coordination and support of all International Program activities. Natalie has a Certificate in Office Administration with a specialization in Legal from O'Sullivan College. She can be reached at (514) 397-6828 ext 262 or at nmorin@aidslaw.ca.

Thanks to a grant received under the Summer Career Placement Program 2002 from Human Resources Canada, *Abigail Dubiniecki* and *Tasha Yovetich* completed 10-week summer placements at the Network this past June and July. Abigail, a second-year student at McGill University's Faculty of Law, undertook research on income security and disability issues related to HIV/AIDS, in addition to assisting us in the development of an outreach program to law students and law faculties across Canada, and in the devel-

opment of a volunteer program for the Network. Following completion of her summer placement, Abigail has continued to work with the Network on a contract basis as she prepares a final version of a discussion paper on HIV/AIDS, disability, and income security that the Network will be publishing this spring. Tasha, who is now completing her second year in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, undertook research on legal issues faced by women living with HIV/AIDS, in addition to assisting us with project coordination in a variety of areas. Tasha's research paper will be published by the Network in the near future.

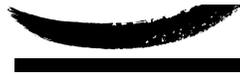
Amber Reeve and *Megan Gage*, two students completing their BA in Human Relations in the Applied Human Sciences program at Concordia University, began a six-month internship with the Network in October 2002. Amber and Megan are assisting the Network in the development and implementation of a volunteer program, in addition to providing Network staff members with human relations training through weekly hour-long workshops.

Jess Marchand, a second-year law student at McGill, and *Kathy Ramsey*, a first-year student in the same program, also began six-month placements at the Network in October 2002. Both Jess and Kathy were recruited by the organization Pro Bono Students Canada, and are assisting us with our "capacity-building for lawyers" project with the aim of increasing the capacity of legal professionals across Canada to address HIV/AIDS-related issues.

Alana Batchoun and *Robb Jamieson* began six-month internships at the Network in September 2002. Alana and Robb are Concordia University students currently enrolled in an interdisciplinary course on "HIV/AIDS: Cultural, Social and Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic." While at the Network, they will be assisting Terry Gould with maintenance and development of the Network's resource centre.

Lee Kirby has been volunteering at the Network since November 2002, assisting us in a variety of areas including implementation of a new contact management database, and the development of a new organizational structure. Lee has recently moved to Canada from New York City and possesses a wealth of expertise in both database programming and management consulting.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts and dedication of so many interns and volunteers, whose generous contribution of time and expertise helps us to undertake many activities that would otherwise be difficult to accomplish.



Important Dates

Montréal, Québec, 17-18 March 2003: 1st Québec Capacity-Building Workshop on Legal, Ethical and Human Rights Issues

The third in a series of two-day regional capacity-building workshops on HIV/AIDS and drug laws and on HIV/AIDS and HCV in prisons offered by the Network. For more information, contact Éric Nolet at enolet@aidslaw.ca.

23 May 2003: Nomination deadline, Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

An award will be presented in each of two categories: (1) a person residing in Canada or a non-profit organization based in Canada; (2) a person or non-profit organization from another country. To obtain a nomination form or further information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca or visit www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/awards.htm#spo.

27 June 2003: Deadline for submissions to the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network Law Essay Contest

Open to all law students (undergraduate and graduate) enrolled in a Canadian law school program for the 2002/2003 academic year. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each of two categories. For details and guidelines, see www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/lawessaycontest.htm.

Montréal, Québec, 12-14 September 2003: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Net- work and Skills-Building Workshops

This three-day event will include plenary presentations, capacity-building workshops, opportunities for Network members to provide input on our activities, and the presentation of the 2003 Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. For more information, contact Anne Renaud at arenaud@aidslaw.ca.

New Resources

The following new resources produced by the Network have become available on our website at www.aidslaw.ca or from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse (tel: 1-877-999-7740; email: [aids/sida@cpha.ca](mailto: aids/sida@cpha.ca)).

- *Action on HIV/AIDS in Prisons: Too Little, Too Late – A Report Card*;
- *The Provision of HIV-Related Services to People Who Inject Drugs: A Discussion of Ethical Issues*;
- *Canadian HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review*, Vol 6, No 3, and Vol 7, No 1;
- *Occupational Exposure to HIV and Forced HIV Testing: Questions and Answers*;
- *HIV Vaccines in Canada: Legal and Ethical Issues – An Overview*;
- *HIV Vaccines in Canada*: eight info sheets;
- *Establishing Safe Injection Facilities in Canada: Legal and Ethical Issues*;
- Revised and updated info sheets on *Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS*.

Other new resources produced by the Network, but available only on our website or by contacting Éric Nolet at enolet@aidslaw.ca, include:

- Background documents from the Network's May 2002 seminar on *Criminal Law, Sex Work and HIV/AIDS* (available in French only);
- *Ten Years of Action for Health and Human Rights – Presentations Made on the Occasion of the Legal Network's 2002 AGM and Skills Building Workshops*;
- *Putting Third First: Vaccines, Access to Treatment & the Law – Proceedings from the Network's satellite at AIDS 2002 (Barcelona, July 2002)*;
- Update to Guideline 6 ("Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support") of the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS, released by UNAIDS and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (based on work contributed by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network);
- the Network's 2001/2002 *Annual Report*;
- the Network's 2002/2003 *Workplan*;
- *Criminal Law, Public Health and HIV Transmission* (UNAIDS document prepared by Richard Elliott of the Legal Network);
- *Patents, International Trade Law and Access to Essential Medicines* (2nd, revised edition);
- *Realising the right to health: access to HIV/AIDS-related medication* (Panel presentation at the UN Commission on Human Rights, 3 April 2002, Geneva);
- *Brief to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights: Bill C-217 ("Blood Samples Act")*;
- *Brief to the Special Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs: Injection Drug Use, HIV/AIDS, and HCV*;
- *Brief to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration on the Regulations made under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*; and
- *HIV/AIDS and Immigration: Frequently Asked Questions* (revised, 2002).

For a full list of publications, contact Éric via email or by phone at 514 397-6828 ext 227.