

Breaking Barriers, Building Connections: Canadian Aboriginal Youth in Global Health

ICAD will work in close collaboration with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) to deliver the International Aboriginal Youth Internship program (IAYI). ICAD and CAAN have partnered with the following Canadian organizations to form a consortium: CAP/AIDS Network, University of Saskatchewan, Lethbridge HIV Connection Society, and Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN).

The IAYI program will allow Canadian Aboriginal youth to become involved with community development projects that support ongoing training and education and build leadership skills. ICAD and CAAN will have ten internship placements (see table below). Interns placed with host organizations will offer a variety of culturally-specific HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services that focus on the needs of local populations. This will include HIV/AIDS related public awareness-raising, outreach, resource mobilization, research on harm reduction approaches, and social media analysis. This type of work will allow interns to gain first-hand experience in the day-to-day activities of HIV/AIDS organizations in the field and draw linkages between international and domestic responses to HIV/AIDS.

The internships will also serve to increase the employment skills of Canadian Aboriginal youth and raise awareness and understanding of frontline international development issues by providing them with the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of international development. Furthermore, the internships will strengthen the partnerships between international Indigenous communities in the fight against HIV/AIDS and enhance the capacity of interns to better understand efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights which are critical to altering the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

ICAD and CAAN will work in close collaboration to ensure the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of proposed activities are grounded in meaningful and culturally relevant strategies that emphasize strength, resiliency, and Aboriginal youth leadership in fields of HIV/AIDS and international development.

Project activities include: recruiting and selecting interns; forming an Aboriginal Mentorship Network; developing and implementing pre-departure and re-integration training programs (in Ottawa); supporting interns in making travel and accommodation arrangements, supporting interns in their 5 month overseas placements, including developing workplans; supporting interns in their public engagement activities, both overseas and in Canada

	Canadian Partner	Local Partner	City, Country	Position title
1	CAP-AIDS	CAP-AIDS Uganda	Kampala, Uganda	Grassroots Capacity Building and Impact Monitoring Intern
2	University of Saskatchewan	Green Hope Organization	Arusha, Tanzania	Program Support Worker
3	University of Saskatchewan	Green Hope Organization	Arusha, Tanzania	Program Outreach Worker 1
4	University of Saskatchewan	Green Hope Organization	Arusha, Tanzania	Program Outreach Worker 2
5	University of Saskatchewan	Green Hope Organization	Arusha, Tanzania	Knowledge Exchange Agent
6	Lethbridge HIV Connection Society	Museums of Malawi	Blantyre Malawi	Youth HIV Outreach Worker
7	Lethbridge HIV Connection Society	Museums of Malawi	Blantyre Malawi	Program officer: Gender, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
8	Native Youth Sexual Health Network	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZuluNatal, South Africa	Documentation and Research Assistant
9	Native Youth Sexual Health Network	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZuluNatal, South Africa	New Media Assistant
10	Native Youth Sexual Health Network	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZuluNatal, South Africa	Youth Engagement Coordinator

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