ICAD UPDATE

ICAD AGM and Workshop
ICAD, in conjunction with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR), will be hosting its Annual General Meetings and Workshops in Ottawa, Ontario on June 16 and 17, 2008. All events will take place at the Delta Ottawa Hotel and Suites. The theme for the event is, “HIV/AIDS, Disability and Human Rights: International and National Dimensions.”

Details of the two day event are as follows:

Monday, June 16, 2008:

- ICAD, Legal Network and CWGHR will hold their Annual General Meetings beginning at 9:00 am. Registration begins at 8:00 am.
- A reception and keynote address will begin at 6:00pm. The Legal Network’s Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights will be presented directly following the keynote address.

Tuesday, June 17, 2008:

- Full-day Workshop and Consultation: "HIV/AIDS, Disability and Human Rights: International and National Dimensions" from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Registration begins at 8:00am.

Members are invited to share their recent experiences around HIV and AIDS and development by presenting a poster, slide show or photo exhibit during the reception on June 16, 2008. Display tables will be available on site. If you wish to reserve a display table, please contact Shaughnessy Sturdy at ICAD – info@icad-cisd.com.

Please visit our website for more information on the event including registration: http://icad-cisd.com/content/whatsnew.cfm?ID=107&lang=e.

New and Evolving Health and Development Architecture
ICAD, in partnership with RESULTS Canada and CCIC, hosted a brown bag lunch with the GAVI Alliance on February 6, 2008. Guest speaker, Dr. Julian Lob-Levyt, GAVI Alliance Executive Secretary, provided an update on the recent work of GAVI to improve access to immunization for children in resource poor countries. ICAD members were invited to attend in person and via conference call. The presentation was attended by 23 participants.

Strategic Planning and Public Engagement Workshop
ICAD Staff and Board members joined representatives from four of our member agencies on February 20, 2008, in a day-long strategic planning and public engagement workshop. The workshop was delivered by Amanda Sussman, author of the recently published handbook on public engagement in Canada entitled: The Art of the Possible.

The workshop gave the Board a chance to review the effectiveness and relevancy of ICAD's public engagement plan and to hear from our members about their priorities and the kind of support they are looking for from ICAD. Participants highlighted ICAD's need to strengthen their public engagement profile, and to adapt the messaging around HIV issues in light of the changing environment. A revised public engagement plan will be developed based on the feedback from this session.

STAFFING UPDATE
ICAD’s Administrative Officer, Kate Alexander, has left ICAD on a one year maternity leave beginning March 31, 2008. On April 3, Kate gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby girl. During the maternity leave, Shaughnessy Sturdy, will be filling in for Kate. Shaughnessy was an ICAD sponsored intern working as the Resource Mobilization Manager for the Kabompo AIDS Programme in Kabompo, Zambia.

We wish Kate all the best with the birth of her first child and welcome Shaughnessy to our team in Ottawa.

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ICAD Networking

4th Canadian Microbicides Symposium
As a member of the Canadian Microbicide Action Plan (CMAP) steering committee, ICAD participated in the design and delivery of the 4th Canadian Microbicides Symposium which took place in Ottawa on January 28, 2008. The event was attended by 40 invitees from government departments, research organizations, private sector and non-governmental and community organizations. The purpose of the symposium was to develop a framework for short-term activities (2008-09) and their corresponding success indicators. Each sector identified the work they will need to undertake and the resources required to do so. The framework will be the basis on which Canada’s progress in supporting the research and development of microbicides can be monitored. An abstract report on the outcome of the symposium has been accepted for presentation at the Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR) conference on April 24-27, 2008.

Microbicides 2008 Conference
The biannual international Microbicides conference took place February 24 – 27, 2008 in New Delhi, India. The ICAD Executive Director attended the conference as an international delegate. The Conference provided updates on recent microbicides research and served as a forum for knowledge-sharing around new developments in microbicides research. The conference brought together researchers, program managers, public health workers, community and civil society organizations from both developed and developing countries. http://www.microbicides2008.com/

CIDA’s International Youth Internship Program
ICAD has received approval for twelve interns for the fiscal year 2008/2009. The interns will be placed as follows:

- Youth Coordinator, Zambia (Canadian host organization: ICAD)
- Community-based Researcher (Media), South Africa (Canadian host organization: ICAD)
- Community-based Researcher (Child Programming), South Africa (Canadian host organization: ICAD)
- Orphan Life Skills Project Coordinator, Mozambique (Canadian host organization: The Caia Connection)
- Dispensary and Outreach Project Coordinator, Gabon (Canadian host organization: Canada Africa Community Health Alliance – CACHA)
- Dispensary and Outreach Project Coordinator, Benin (Canadian host organization: Canada Africa Community Health Alliance – CACHA)
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program Coordinator, Tanzania (Canadian host organization: CACHA)
- Program Development Assistant, Uganda (Canadian host organization: Canada Africa Partnership on AIDS – CAPAIDS)
- Junior Project Officer, Ethiopia (Canadian host organization: African Medical and Research Foundation - AMREF Canada)
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Youth Support Officer, Lesotho (Canadian Host organization: Help Lesotho Canada)
- Capacity Building Project Officer, Tanzania (Canadian Host Organization: Canadian Support of Rural African Initiatives - CSRAI)
- Organization and Economic Development Officer, Uganda (Canadian Host Organization: Daughters of Africa - DOA)

The CIDA Youth Internship Program provides opportunities for Canadian youth to get involved in international HIV/AIDS work by linking organizations in Canada with AIDS service organizations overseas.

NEW ICAD PUBLICATIONS

Tools, Trends and New Technologies in HIV Prevention
Produced by ICAD, this fact sheet outlines progress in research and development in new HIV prevention technologies including: diaphragms and cervical barriers; treatment of HSV-2; male circumcision; vaginal and rectal microbicides; vaccines; and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The fact sheet discusses the steps involved in the research process and outlines Canada's activities in developing New Prevention Technologies (NPT). http://icad-cisd.com/content/pub_details.cfm?ID=234&CAT=9&lang=e

Summary Report - Civil Society Perspectives on Canada’s Global Engagement on HIV and AIDS
ICAD has posted to its website (http://icad-cisd.com/content/pub_details.cfm?ID=227&CAT=6&lang=e) a summary of key recommendations relating to the national civil society consultations on the Global Engagement Component of Canada’s Response to HIV and AIDS. The consultations, jointly hosted by ICAD, the Legal Network and CWGHR and funded by PHAC and the International Affairs Directorate, Health Canada, took place on June 11 and September 28, 2007. The goal of the consultations was to increase understanding of key voluntary sector and other stakeholder perspectives on how Canada should engage in global HIV and AIDS efforts. The full report can also be found at the above location.
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND INTERNET RESOURCES

Discussion: Criminalisation of HIV transmission, hosted by IPPF
Over the next 6 months, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) will facilitate a series of discussions on the criminalisation of HIV transmission, hosted on the AIDSPortal website (http://www.aidsportal.org). You may join the discussions and share your experiences and opinions. You must be a member and signed in to AIDSPortal to join the discussion. AIDSPortal membership is FREE. http://www.aidsportal.org

Gendered Vulnerability to AIDS and its Research Implications

The Journey Toward an AIDS Vaccine: Perspectives on Conducting Trials in Developing Countries.
This is the newest Policy Research Working Paper by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). Based on nearly 100 key interviews with stakeholders involved in vaccine trials in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the paper highlights the broad range of impacts these studies have had, at individual, community, national, and global levels, above and beyond their value in increasing scientific knowledge. http://www.iavi.org/viewfile.cfm?fid=47633

Barriers to condom access: setting an advocacy agenda
This advocacy briefing from International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO) examines some of the barriers to condom access and addresses what can be done to overcome them. Information was sourced from a community-led monitoring project in 14 countries undertaken in 2005 and 2006 which collected and analysed data and information on the broad response to HIV and AIDS. http://www.icaso.org/publications/condom_access2007_eng.pdf

New data on African health professionals abroad
This article in Human Resources for Health journal presents data on the extent of African health workers’ working in developed countries. The paper finds that approximately 35,000 African-born physicians and 70,000 African-born professional nurses were working overseas in a developed country in the year 2000. This represents about one fifth of African-born physicians, and about one tenth of African-born professional nurses. http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/pdf/1478-4491-6-1.pdf

Informal health workers: to be encouraged or condemned?
This editorial published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization argues for expanding the professional category of formal health care workers to include home-based informal caregivers, political community leaders, shop vendors of health products, and traditional health practitioners. In situations where formal health facilities are not available nearby or easy for people to access, informal health workers are the first and most important points of call by people in search of health services. http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/84/2/83.pdf

Stories of Significance: Redefining Change - An Assortment of Community Voices and Articulations
This report explores the use of the "most significant change" (MSC) technique as a participatory monitoring tool to evaluate a specific communication-based programme. It was presented at the conclusion of a 13-month Department for International Development (DFID)-supported programme on community-driven approaches for addressing the feminization of HIV/AIDS in India. This report focuses on how the MSC technique can be used to gather and analyse stories of important or significant changes from a cross-section of the group(s) a project is designed to reach. http://www.aidsallianceindia.net/Main/ViewPublication.aspx?id=435

End of Program Report - Taking Action: Recommendations and Resources
This evaluation explores YouthNet, a 5-year (2001-2006) programme designed to improve the reproductive health (RH) and HIV prevention behaviours of youth 10 to 24 years old, worldwide. YouthNet focused on a variety of technical areas, with specific expertise in sex education, peer education, RH services for youth, and media and behaviour change communication (BCC). The project had 4 cross-cutting themes: gender, community involvement, youth participation, and policy. The conclusion of the report lists all 37 recommendations for
taking action, and points to challenges ahead in building on YouthNet's work. 

Stigma and Discrimination Faced by Women Living with HIV/AIDS

In February 2007, the international human rights organization Breakthrough launched a multi-media educational campaign in India called "Is this Justice?" in an effort to draw the Indian public's attention to the growing incidence of stigma and discrimination faced by women living with HIV/AIDS (WLHA), most of whom have been infected by their husbands or male partners. This formative research report on gender discrimination and its effect on WLHA emerged from the process of developing materials for the campaign. The research sought to understand attitudes and behaviour of individuals, families, and community members toward the WLHA; investigate whether gender differences exist in discrimination and stigmatisation against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA); and map stigma indicators through the lens of women's rights.

http://www.breakthrough.tv/pdfs/stigmaanddiscrimination.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

The first call for papers focuses on practitioner experiences, best practice approaches or research findings that will enhance knowledge and understanding of the subject.
http://www.recabip.com/conferences.htm#CONF/001

31 July 2008 - 01 August 2008: 12th International Conference for People Living with HIV, LIVING 2008: The Positive Leadership Summit. Mexico City, Mexico. LIVING 2008: The Positive Leadership Summit will harness the diversity of knowledge and experience of people living with HIV (PLHIV). There will be a high degree of interaction between PLHIV delegates and the conference will be a mix of visionary plenary, topic driven sessions, skills-building sessions, themed discussion round tables, and networking sessions based on geographical groupings, populations and identities. http://www.living2008.org

1 – 2 August, 2008: Children and HIV/AIDS: Action Now, Action How, An International Symposium. Mexico City, Mexico. The symposium will provide a two-day forum for information sharing, collaboration and networking in order to strengthen the response to children's needs. It will bring together service providers, donors, researchers, advocates and policy leaders working within affected communities and on national, regional and global platforms. http://www.teresagroup.ca/mexico/

12 – 14 November, 2008: 2008 OHTN Research Conference. Toronto, Ontario. This event is an opportunity to meet with researchers, service providers, policy makers and community members living with HIV to exchange ideas and knowledge related to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support. Program and registration information is coming soon. http://www.ohtn.on.ca

ICAD’s aim is to lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS in resource-poor communities and countries. We are a coalition of Canadian international development organizations, AIDS service organizations and other interested organizations and individuals. Funding for this publication was provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The views expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Permission is granted for the reproduction of this publication for non-commercial and educational purposes and as long as ICAD is acknowledged as the copyright holder. Ce feuillet est également disponible en français.