

**The Benefits of
International Twinning Projects for
HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada
and for Canadian Organizations**

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development

June 2003

Health Canada and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)

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SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June 2000, CIDA announced \$700,000 in funding to 12 recipients of small grants (\$50,000 for 12 months) to assist organizations across Canada and in developing countries to establish partnerships to fight HIV/AIDS. This initiative encouraged the development of innovative approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention and programming, and the subsequent monitoring and reporting has demonstrated that the partnerships were very effective in providing the developing countries with much needed training, information and capacity to undertake new interventions. The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) administered the first Phase of the Small Grants Fund.

In December 2001 this initiative was renewed for a second phase with additional funding of \$1.4 million. Taking into account lessons learned in Phase 1, the maximum amount made available for each grant in Phase 2 was increased to \$75,000 and the duration of the grants was extended to 18 months. The decision to award 17 grants under Phase 2 was announced by CIDA at a World AIDS Day event on November 28, 2001. The grants consisted of support to 14 new partnerships (to a maximum of \$75,000 each) and 3 extensions from Phase 1 (to a maximum of \$25,000 each). A list of all 26 recipients of the Phase I and Phase 2 grants can be found in Appendix I.

Phase 2 also included an exciting cross-cutting institutional capacity building component to support both the Canadian and overseas partners in developing sustainable projects and to provide training workshops in governance, project management and the use of information and communications technology. While CSIH maintained financial responsibility and authority for the fund, ICAD was made responsible for this innovative capacity-building component.

ICAD receives the bulk of its funding from Health Canada. Much of ICAD's core programming focuses on providing opportunities for domestic AIDS organizations to work internationally, while simultaneously improving the capacity of development organizations to mainstream or integrate HIV/AIDS into their immediate programming activities and long-term strategies. A critical component of this work is to ensure that the lessons learned from the international experiences inform Canadian HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support policies and practice. Consequently, and in part because ICAD implements the capacity-building component of the HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund, ICAD felt that it was important to identify and analyze the benefits that have accrued to Canada as a result of the program. Consequently, ICAD commissioned a study on the benefits of twinning for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, support, research and for other programs **in Canada**.

At the beginning of 2003, a survey of the 26 lead Canadian partners involved in the twinning projects was undertaken, and a questionnaire was prepared and sent out to each. (See Appendix II for a copy of the questionnaire.) Replies were received from eight of the 12 partners involved in Phase I projects, and from 13 of the 14 partners involved in Phase II projects (including 2 of the 3 extensions). The responses were analyzed and follow-up questions were sent; in some cases, telephone interviews were conducted to clarify some issues. This document presents the findings of this survey.

For the purposes of this report, the lead Canadian partners can be divided into two categories:

1. *Organizations that do not provide any HIV/AIDS services in Canada.* These are academic institutions and development NGOs, most of which have worked on HIV/AIDS in other countries.
2. *NGOs that provide HIV/AIDS services in Canada.* These include HIV/AIDS-specific NGOs as well as NGOs that provide HIV/AIDS programming among their other services. There is also one academic institution that falls into this category.

Of the 21 lead Canadian partners that responded to the survey, 9 were in the first category and 12 were in the second.

SECTION 2.0 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

All of the organizations that responded to the survey identified benefits associated with the twinning projects. Respondents reported two types of benefits:

1. Benefits that had an immediate impact on HIV/AIDS programming in Canada;
2. Ancillary (or spin-off) benefits for Canadian organizations.

Respondents also provided some information on the lessons they had learned from the twinning experience.

2.1 Benefits Having an Immediate Impact on HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada

Eight of the 12 organizations that provide HIV/AIDS services in Canada reported benefits that had an immediate, as opposed to ancillary, impact on HIV/AIDS programming here.¹ The benefits, which came about in different ways, are summarized in this sub-section.

Four organizations reported that the benefits to Canada stemmed from the fact that the partners embarked on a **joint collaboration**; i.e., they worked collaboratively to develop something that was implemented both in Canada and in the developing country concerned. Two organizations said that the benefits flowed from a **two-way exchange of information and skills** that was built into their partnership project. Another said that its project had a **dual focus**, one component targeting the developing country and the other component targeting Canada. And one organization reported that the activities in its twinning project were primarily one-way (i.e., focussing on providing assistance to the developing country partner), but that the Canadian partner had **applied methodologies** developed during the project to HIV/AIDS programming in Canada. Each of the projects is described in more detail below, as are the benefits for HIV/AIDS programming in Canada.

Joint Collaborations

There were four lead Canadian partners whose projects could be described as joint collaborations: (1) Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, Nanaimo; (2) the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Montréal; (3) AIDS Vancouver; and (4) the Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS, Vancouver.

¹ The other four projects were geared primarily towards the provision of assistance or the transfer of skills from the Canadian partner to the developing country partner.

Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre

The Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, which provides services to aboriginal and non-aboriginal clients in Nanaimo, worked with the Christian Campaign Against AIDS (CAIDS), of Manzini, Swaziland, to create a community performance using giant puppets and popular theatre in order to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among aboriginal youth in Canada and in communities in Swaziland. The partners also prepared an educational video on HIV that will be distributed in the Nanaimo area and shown on television in Swaziland.

The project enabled Tillicum to make aboriginal youth in Nanaimo more aware of HIV/AIDS and to teach new skills to the youth volunteers involved with the project.

Tillicum reported that the project enabled it to better reach aboriginal youth in Nanaimo and to make them more aware of HIV/AIDS. As well, the aboriginal youth volunteers working on the project learned new skills: how to create plays, how to work with puppets and how to present health-promoting messages. Finally, the project provided Tillicum with an opportunity to work together with four First Nations communities in Nanaimo. Tillicum plans to exploit this new relationship in future HIV/AIDS programming.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, which works on HIV/AIDS policy and legal issues, partnered with the AIDS Law Project (ALP) of South Africa on a project that involved: (a) developing legal, ethical and human rights arguments for providing better access to treatments; (b) analyzing challenges and possible mechanisms for overcoming obstacles to access; (c) strengthening the capacity of the ALP and its African partners to work on treatment-access issues; (d) strengthening the partnership between the ALP and the Legal Network; and (e) exploring how voluntary sector organizations in Canada and other developed countries can best work with organizations in developing countries on treatment issues.

The project enabled the Legal Network (a) to educate and motivate Canadian NGOs to work on treatment access issues, and (b) to obtain meetings with officials in four government agencies to discuss Canada's role in improving treatment access.

The Legal Network reported that the visit to Canada of two ALP members helped the network educate and motivate Canadian NGOs interested in working on treatment-access issues. ALP staff attended a meeting of the Canadian NGOs in Toronto and were able to give participants a good sense of treatment-access issues as seen from a developing country perspective. As well,

ALP staff worked with Legal Network staff to develop strategies for involving the Canadian NGOs in the access campaign. Finally, the visit by ALP staff also helped the network obtain meetings with officials in four Canadian government departments and agencies to discuss Canada's role in improving treatment access.

AIDS Vancouver

AIDS Vancouver is a full-service AIDS service organization. Storefront Orientation Services (SOS) is an organization that assists refugee claimants and new immigrants, mainly Chinese and Spanish-speaking. SOS also educates and supports the Spanish-speaking gay community with respect to HIV/AIDS through its Latin American AIDS Project.

AIDS Vancouver and SOS partnered with Red Mexicana de Personas que Viven con el VIH/sida, in Mexico City, on a project that involved developing and implementing semi-structured discussion groups for Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the discussion groups was to share experiences and to discuss how to overcome social, health and economic problems. The project included separate discussion groups for men and women in Mexico City, a discussion group in Vancouver, and a virtual discussion group for harder-to-reach persons living with HIV/AIDS outside these two metropolitan areas. The project also involved the publication and distribution of monthly information bulletins (both print and on-line versions) and the strengthening of the resource centre and website of Red Mexicana.

AIDS Vancouver and Storefront Orientation Services have been able to improve their services to Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The discussion groups in Vancouver were sponsored by AIDS Vancouver and were conducted by SOS as part of their Latin American AIDS Project. The discussion groups were designed to identify the needs and concerns of Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS in the region. The priorities identified will help AIDS Vancouver assess the strengths and weaknesses in its outreach, care and support services targeted to the Latin American community in Vancouver. One of the goals of the agency in terms of these discussions groups was to improve its services to Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS in its service-delivery areas.

As a result of learning about the methods that Red Mexicana uses to approach HIV education and support within the context of Latin American culture, as well as learning about what has not proven successful in working with this population, SOS was able to improve the quality of its programs and services. As well, the collaboration of AIDS Vancouver and SOS resulted in a better integration and co-ordination of services for the Spanish-speaking communities in Vancouver. Finally, the project allowed AIDS Vancouver to improve its recruitment techniques in the Spanish-speaking community, resulting in a larger number of volunteers from that community.

Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS

The Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA) is an AIDS service organization providing services to the East Asian and South Asian populations in Vancouver. ASIA partnered with the Women's Education Development Productivity Research Organization, in Manila,

The Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS now has the tools it needs to develop and implement educational and prevention programs targeting women engaged in the sex trade in Vancouver.

Philippines, on a participatory action research project designed to develop the capacity of both organizations to provide services to migrant and prostituted women in the Philippines and in Canada. The project involved:

(a) Conducting a needs assessment among the targeted population; (b) preparing a discussion paper and resource booklet; and (c) training peer educators.

ASIA reported that the needs assessment and the peer educator training provided the organization with the tools it needed to develop and implement educational and prevention programs targeting women engaged in the sex trade in Vancouver.

Information and Skills Exchanges

Two lead Canadian partners, the AIDS Committee of Toronto and The Alberta Community Council on HIV, participated in projects that involved a two-way exchange of information and skills.

AIDS Committee of Toronto

The AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) is the largest AIDS service organization in Toronto. VIVER is a coalition of organizations and individuals serving the Portuguese-speaking community in Toronto. VIVER's mission is to develop education, prevention, support and advocacy strategies for people living with, affected by, and at risk for, HIV/AIDS. The Portuguese-speaking programs at ACT are carried out in partnership with VIVER.

ACT and VIVER partnered with the Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS (ABIA), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a project that involved an exchange of information, skills and staff in order to improve the ability of all three organizations to reach out to their Portuguese-speaking clients and reduce the risk of infection in at-risk populations. Special emphasis was placed on HIV/AIDS prevention among men who have sex with men and on impoverished or isolated groups at risk for infection.

The project has helped to strengthen the Portuguese-speaking programs of the AIDS Committee of Toronto, and has allowed the organization to better network with the Brazilian community in Toronto.

The project has helped to strengthen the Portuguese-speaking programs of ACT and VIVER, primarily in prevention and support. Portuguese is the third most spoken non-English language in the Greater Toronto Area. Partnering with ABIA gave ACT and VIVER: (a) the opportunity to observe how HIV-prevention programs are carried out in a Portuguese-speaking country; (b) a better idea of the language and terminology used in prevention and support materials; and (c) a better idea of the socio-economic challenges and barriers faced by Brazilian community-based organizations in carrying out HIV-prevention work.

The project also provided ACT and VIVER with increased abilities to network with Toronto's Brazilian community. In March of 2003, ACT and ABIA organized a joint forum on volunteerism in AIDS service organizations in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The goal of the forum was to provide opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences about volunteerism and its role in AIDS NGOs. It also gave participants a chance to discuss challenges and opportunities related to the inclusion and development of volunteer programs within existing NGO structures. This exchange will help ACT and VIVER to further develop its Portuguese-speaking volunteer programs. In the summer of 2003, ACT and ABIA will collaborate on the development and adaptation of HIV/AIDS educational materials targeting the Portuguese-speaking men-who-have-sex-with-men community in Toronto.

Alberta Community Council on HIV

The Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) is a coalition of 14 organizations. The ACCH partnered with the Instituto Mexicano de Investigación de Familia y Población (IMIFAP) on a project that involved an exchange of information between the partners, as well as the implementation of a pilot prevention program in Mexico. The exchange of information also involved the member organizations of the ACCH.

As a result of this project, a prevention tool developed by the IMIFAP, called a cascading model, was shared with the ACCH and its member organizations at an ACCH quarterly skills-building session. One ACCH member is planning to implement this model in its public school prevention program once funding is secured. Other members have expressed interest in doing something similar.

AIDS service organizations in Alberta now have knowledge about what approaches would be culturally appropriate to reach their Mexican communities, and the confidence and skills to adapt existing programs to meet the needs of these communities.

The project enabled staff at the ACCH and its member organizations to acquire knowledge and skills about what approaches would be culturally appropriate to reach the Mexican communities in Alberta. The organizations had previously attempted to work with these communities but had been unsuccessful. The ACCH sought out cultural guidance from the Mexican communities during each phase of the project and continues to do so. Through this consultation, the ACCH began to develop relationships with these communities. As a result, ACCH member organizations gained not only the knowledge and skills, but also the confidence that will enable them to adapt existing programs to meet the needs of these communities. The experience with this project will also help the Alberta groups develop programs for other endemic populations.

As well, this project provided the ACCH and its member organizations with access to Spanish-language materials such as posters, clocks and condom packages that were developed in Mexico by the IMIFAP and other organizations. These and other Spanish-language materials developed as part of this project – posters, flyers and postcards – will be used to target Mexican communities in Alberta.

Finally, at a meeting with ACCH member organizations, representatives of the IMIFAP shared how they incorporate a family perspective into all of their programming. Several member organizations are planning to integrate this approach into their workplans.

Dual Focus

One lead Canadian partner, The Marquis Project in Brandon, was involved in a project that had a dual focus (one component targeting the developing country and the other component targeting Canada).

The Marquis Project

The mandate of Brandon's The Marquis Project is: 1) to educate Manitobans, especially young Manitobans, on economic, political and social issues at both the local and global levels; and 2) to participate actively in sustainable projects and partnerships aimed at improving the quality of life in small rural communities in developing countries. The mission of the Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC), also in Brandon, is to promote universal access to comprehensive, reliable information and services on sexuality and related health issues by fostering awareness, understanding and support through education. SERC has been doing HIV/AIDS programming for 15 years.

The Sexuality Education Resource Centre has been able to increase its HIV/AIDS programming and situate it in a global context.

The Marquis Project and SERC partnered with the Tanzanian Society of Agricultural Education & Extension (TSAEE), in Ukiriguru, Tanzania. The purpose of the project was to develop the capacity of the TSAEE, SERC and Marquis to deal effectively with HIV/AIDS education in rural

communities in Tanzania and Manitoba. One component of the project involves increasing awareness among Tanzanian youth about HIV/AIDS, and includes prevention, care and counselling of those affected. A second component involves putting Manitoba's HIV/AIDS education in a global perspective, sensitizing youth to the many factors that contribute to the epidemic. This is done in sexuality workshops that focus on HIV/AIDS.

As a result of this project, SERC has increased its HIV/AIDS programming. It has also been able to add a global context to that programming, thus providing students with a greater awareness of the international dimensions of the epidemic.

Applied Methodology

One lead Canadian partner – the Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project of the Faculty of Education at McGill University – used the methodologies developed as part of its project in South Africa to reach audiences in Canada.

McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project)

The Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project is run by a team of researchers (faculty and graduate students) at McGill University and the University of Toronto who are interested in participatory approaches to working with young people in relation to sexuality, HIV prevention and AIDS awareness. McGill partnered with the Centre for the Book, in Cape Town, South Africa, which has a mandate to develop youth outreach literacy programs. McGill helped the Centre for the Book develop a literacy and health-based component of its youth program that would assist in developing an arts and activism participatory approach to looking at HIV/AIDS prevention.

McGill took the methodologies on graffiti, hip hop and arts activism that were developed during the project and organized a one-day symposium at the University of Toronto in which 40 youth spent the day in workshops on hip hop and AIDS, photography and sexuality/AIDS awareness, and drama and AIDS awareness. A team of 10 youths organized the symposium and gave some of the sessions. The team is planning to refine selected workshops and take them into schools. McGill is tentatively planning a much bigger conference along the same lines in September 2003.

McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project) took the methodologies developed during its project and used them to organize a symposium at the University of Toronto where 40 youth participated in workshops on topics such as hip hop and AIDS.

2.2 Ancillary Benefits for Canadian Organizations

All of the 21 lead Canadian partners that responded to the questionnaire reported other ways in which the twinning projects benefited their organizations. Most of these benefits were related to strengthening the capacity of the organizations.

Capacity Development

Almost all of the Canadian partners reported that their twinning project increased the capacity of their organizations and of the other Canadian organizations that participated in the project.

Most of the Canadian partners said that their project had helped them improve their skills in working with organizations in other countries. McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project), the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), PATH Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF) indicated that their project enabled them to strengthen existing relationships with their international partners. Path Canada and the CHRF said that they were also able to develop relationships with new international partners. The School of Child Youth Care at the University of Victoria reported that its project enabled it to expand the work it is doing with existing partners, to expand its contacts and to develop new relationships that will benefit future exchanges and collaborative projects. Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) said that its projects helped establish ongoing relations that remained productive beyond the end of the project period. The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) indicated that its project increased its capacity to do international work. The AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) stated that its project helped ACT learn how to share funding. The Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre reported that its project has taught Tillicum how to deal with communications and cultural barriers. The World University Services of Canada (WUSC) said that its project has given WUSC better knowledge of local organizations in Botswana, and that this will help WUSC in future programming in Botswana.

The Marquis Project said that its twinning project has resulted in greater cross-fertilization between it and its Canadian partner, the Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC). Not only have the two organizations done joint programming locally and overseas, but they have also had joint learning and planning meetings and are currently working on several new joint project funding proposals.

Both McGill University and Path Canada reported that the opportunity within their respective projects to share knowledge and experience enabled both the Canadian and the developing-country partners to improve their capacity. The Alberta Community Council on HIV/AIDS (ACCH) said that its project allowed it to hire an external project co-ordinator who was experienced in international development work. She was able to teach ACCH staff valuable skills, including how to develop a partnership agreement and an international workplan, how to collect data, and how to prepare reports in an international context.

Several Canadian partners indicated that working with partners in developing countries has allowed them to pick up ideas that they might be able to apply to their Canadian programming in future.² AIDS Vancouver said that a visit to Vancouver by the Mexican co-ordinator of its project provided an opportunity for the staff of Storefront Orientation Services, one of the Canadian partners in the project, to hear ideas on how to improve its activities targeting Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS. During that same visit, the staff of the Red Road AIDS Network Society, an organization serving the aboriginal community in Vancouver, was able to draw on the co-ordinator's experiences with indigenous peoples in Mexico for the purpose of planning future programming at Red Road. Le Service de Coopération et de Développement International (SCDI), Cégep de Jonquière, reported that its project provided its Canadian partner, Le Miens, with an opportunity to compare its approach to fighting HIV/AIDS with that of another organization working in a different country. ACT said that its project has enabled the organization to see how prevention work is done in different contexts outside Canada. Tillicum said that as a result of its project, it was able to see how organizations in Africa do more with less.

Save the Children Canada (SCC) stated that its project provided an opportunity to explore innovative ways to prevent HIV. For example, this was the first time that the SCC tried to combine sexual and reproductive health with HIV prevention. Le SCDI said that its project was an opportunity to validate a particular approach to STD and HIV/AIDS prevention programming.

Several of the Canadian partners that do not provide HIV/AIDS services in Canada reported that their projects enabled them to increase their knowledge of HIV/AIDS resources in Canada and to improve their relationships with Canadian HIV/AIDS organizations.

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network reported that its project had enabled it to become one of the leading organizations in Canada in mobilizing people to work on treatment issues. It had also developed greater credibility in the eyes of the Canadian government and other influential organizations.

Global Dimensions of AIDS

About a third of the Canadian partners that responded to the questionnaire indicated that their projects had helped them increase their understanding of the global dimensions of HIV/AIDS. This is how some of the respondents put it:

- We have a better understanding of the international context of the epidemic.
- We added global links to our website.
- This will help us work with marginalized communities in our city.
- We learned how prevention works in other countries.
- Canadian students will see the results of our work on a popular website.
- The project helped our member groups integrate international perspectives into their work.

² See Section 2.1 for a description of the benefits that have had an immediate impact on HIV/AIDS programming in Canada.

About one-third of the respondents said that their project had allowed them to increase their knowledge or skills in the subject areas of the project (e.g., action research, other forms of research, links between AIDS and gender, adolescent health and development, blood transfusions, the sex trade milieu). Tillicum indicated that its project enabled it to acquire skills in other media such as video and theatre. The School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria said that its project has enhanced its capacity for working with information and communication technologies, including both the technical aspects of web page construction and techniques for effective development of information modules.

Other Benefits

Save the Children Canada (SCC) said that when its project ends in June 2003, it will be able to share the materials developed as a result of its project with members of its Canadian networks (including the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and the Canadian Coalition on Child Rights). The SCC will encourage network members to replicate the success of this project.

World University Services of Canada (WUSC) reported that its twinning project provided opportunities to showcase Canada's contribution to the global response to HIV/AIDS. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network reported that its project resulted in increased awareness of HIV treatment issues among Canadian organizations.

The following additional benefits were cited by multiple respondents:

- The project provided an opportunity to get involved (or re-involved) in HIV/AIDS work.
- The project has spurred the Canadian partners and other Canadian organizations that were involved to explore additional funding opportunities for international work.
- The project enabled the Canadian partners to increase their profile.

One Canadian partner said that the project had helped it attract new donors. Another said that its project has heightened AIDS awareness among its staff. A third partner said that the fact that multiple organizations were involved in the project meant that they got to do things they would not have been able to do on their own.

2.3 Lessons Learned About Twinning

Although the questionnaire used for this survey did not focus extensively on lessons learned about the twinning experience *per se*, several respondents generated interesting insights.

Two organizations – PATH Canada and McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project) – indicated that the short-term nature of the funding, with no prospects for follow-up or expansion, made it very difficult to sustain the work of the projects. The Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre (of Toronto) reported that it was very difficult to implement and manage a project in another country when the frequency and extent of on-site direct contact is limited.

Several organizations commented on the fact that for the projects to be successful, the partners had to adapt to the culture and context of the countries in which they were working.

Several organizations underscored the importance of a clearly articulated partnership agreement. Lawrence Heights said that the partners must have the opportunity to articulate and agree upon mutual expectations in advance of committing to a twinning project; that each partner must feel comfortable in contacting the other; and that expectations need to shift and adjust to the realities of the partners and to changes in the environment. The School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria, said that in terms of working cross-culturally with partners at a long distance, the project highlighted the importance of clarifying roles, building mutual understanding and consensus on objectives, and frequently checking on the accuracy of one's perceptions.

The MSVU indicated that it is important not to take for granted that the other partner will have the necessary technical and organizational capacities to undertake a joint project. Lawrence Heights said that it is important to have, or to develop, a relationship with the twinning partner before embarking on a project together.

Highlights

The following is a summary of the major lessons learned:

- **It is important to develop a relationship with the twinning partner before embarking on a joint project.**
- **Limited funding and the short duration of the twinning projects created challenges for sustainability.**
- **It is important to adapt to the culture and context of the home countries of the organizations participating in the projects.**
- **Goals and expectations must be mutually and clearly established at the outset.**
- **It is important to ensure that both partners have the technical and organizational capacities to undertake a joint project.**
- **The projects must remain flexible and able to adapt to the realities of the partners and to changes in the environment.**

SECTION 3.0 FINDINGS BY PROJECT

The following pages contain one-page summaries of the findings for each of the 21 projects whose lead Canadian partners responded to the questionnaire.

Phase I

Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS Vancouver (lead organization) • Storefront Orientation Services (SOS), Vancouver 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <p>Red Mexicana de Personas que Viven con VIH/SIDA</p>
<p>Project Description</p> <p>The project involves developing and implementing semi-structured discussion groups for Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS to share experiences and to discuss how to overcome social, health and economic problems. The project includes separate discussion groups for men and women in Mexico City, a discussion group in Vancouver, and a virtual discussion group for harder-to-reach persons living with HIV/AIDS outside these two metropolitan areas. The project also involves the publication and distribution of monthly information bulletins (both print and on-line versions) and the strengthening of the Resource Centre and website of Red Mexicana.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion groups in Vancouver were sponsored by AIDS Vancouver and were conducted by SOS as part of their Latin American AIDS Project. The discussion groups were designed to identify the needs and concerns of Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS in the region. The priorities identified will help AIDS Vancouver assess the strengths and weaknesses in its outreach, care and support services targeted to the Latin American community in Vancouver. One of the goals of the agency in terms of these discussions groups is to improve its services to Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS in its service-delivery areas. • As a result of learning about the methods Red Mexicana uses to approach HIV education and support within the context of Latin American culture, as well as learning about what has not proven successful in working with this population, SOS was able to improve the quality of its programs and services. • The project resulted in a better integration and co-ordination of services for the Spanish-speaking communities in Vancouver (because of the collaboration of AIDS Vancouver and SOS). • As a result of this project, AIDS Vancouver improved its recruitment techniques in the Spanish-speaking community, resulting in a larger number of volunteers from that community. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's co-ordinator in Mexico met with representatives of SOS' Latin American AIDS Project and provided suggestions for how to improve SOS activities targeting Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS. • The project's co-ordinator in Mexico met with staff of the Red Road AIDS Network Society, an organization serving the aboriginal community in Vancouver. Red Road's staff was able to draw on the co-ordinator's experiences with indigenous peoples in Mexico for the purpose of planning future programming at Red Road. • The project helped to improve the understanding of the international context of HIV/AIDS among AIDS Vancouver staff. 	
<p>Other</p> <p>The project also provided opportunities for Spanish-speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS to meet, form relationships and develop supportive social networks.</p>	

Phase I / 2003-04-14

Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Minsk, Belarus</p>
<p>Project Description The project involved the development of the Belarussian AIDS Network, a national coalition of NGOs doing HIV/AIDS work in Belarus.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project involved a transfer of knowledge and skills from the Canadian partner to the Eastern European partner.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations The project has enhanced the capacity of CAS to do international work and to help member groups of CAS integrate international perspectives in their work. Some of the CAS member groups were involved in the delivery of workshops in Belarus.</p>	
<p>Other</p>	

Phase I / 2003-04-14

Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network</p>	<p>International Partner(s) AIDS Law Project (ALP), South Africa</p>
<p>Project Description The objectives of the project were: (a) to develop legal, ethical and human rights arguments for providing better access to treatments; (b) to analyze challenges and possible mechanisms for overcoming obstacles to access; (c) to strengthen the capacity of the ALP and its African partners to work on treatment access issues; (d) to strengthen the partnership between the ALP and the Legal Network; and (e) to further explore how voluntary sector organizations in Canada and other developed countries can best work with organizations in developing countries on treatment issues.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visit to Canada of two members of ALP helped the Legal Network educate and motivate Canadian NGOs interested in working on treatment access issues. The ALP staff attended a meeting of the Canadian NGOs in Toronto and were able to give meeting participants a good sense of treatment access issues as seen from a developing-country perspective. • As part of the project, ALP staff worked with Legal Network staff to develop strategies for involving Canadian NGOs in the access campaign. • The visit by ALP staff also helped the Legal Network to obtain meetings with officials in four Canadian government departments and agencies to discuss Canada’s role in improving treatment access. The presence of the ALP staff gave a human face to the issues. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has directly assisted the Legal Network to become one of the leading organizations in Canada in mobilizing the community-based AIDS movement and the NGO development community to become engaged in treatment issues. • The involvement of ALP gave the Legal Network credibility in the eyes of the Canadian government and other influential organizations with respect to the ability of the network to contribute to the development of Canadian policy on issues affecting treatment access. • The visit by ALP staff succeeded in increasing awareness among Canadian organizations about treatment issues. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF)</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) – Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p>
<p>Project Description The project involved the organization of a Regional Summit on Pre-Departure, Post-Arrival and Reintegration Programs, in September 2000, in Malaysia. The goal of the summit was to develop a regional strategy to increase protection and reduce the HIV vulnerability of migrant workers. During the summit participants from receiving and sending countries worked together to develop a generic manual for pre-departure, post-arrival and reintegration programs for migrant workers.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project did not have a direct impact on HIV/AIDS programming in Canada.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has strengthened CHRF’s partnership with CARAM-Asia. • The project has strengthened CHRF’s relationships with other Asian organizations and has allowed CHRF to identify potential new partners interested in the issues of migrant workers, health rights and HIV/AIDS. 	
<p>Other Other stakeholders in developing countries (policy makers, universities, unions and migrant support organizations) have shown a much interest in the generic manual.</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire du Québec (CHA) Hôpital du Saint-Sacrement</p>	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Services International (PSI), Bénin • Programme national de lutte contre le SIDA et les IST (PNLS), Bénin • Centre de santé de circonscription urbaine (SCCU) Cotonou 1, Bénin
<p>Project Description The project involves (a) the establishment in Bénin of an STD care unit for men, particularly men at high risk, including facilities for HIV antibody testing and treatment of STDs; and (b) awareness activities in the sex trade milieu of Cotonou, including film showings, discussion sessions, condom demonstrations and information on centres providing HIV-antibody testing and STD treatment.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. Le Centre does not do HIV/AIDS programming in Canada.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations Project staff from Canada was able to improve its knowledge of the sex trade milieu.</p>	
<p>Other The project provided an excellent opportunity to test new prevention and care strategies.</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (Central Secretariat), Toronto</p>	<p>International Partner(s) South African Network of AIDS Service Organizations (SANASO)</p>
<p>Project Description [The description is not available.]</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project consisted mainly of a transfer of knowledge and skills from the Canadian partner to the African partner.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of this project, a person with experience in SANASO served as an intern in the Central Secretariat office, thereby bringing the community-based experience directly to ICASO. This helped the Central Secretariat understand some of the obstacles that its affiliates face. • The project strengthened the relationship and communication between the Central Secretariat and SANASO. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Saint-Vincent University (MSVU), Halifax (lead organization) • AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS), Halifax 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <p>Jamaica AIDS Support, Kingston, Jamaica</p>
<p>Project Description</p> <p>[The description was not available.]</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <p>N/A. The project was geared to providing assistance to the Jamaican partner.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of this project, faculty members at MSVU have become more interested in HIV/AIDS and have prepared a funding proposal to support additional work in this area. • ACNS has learned research skills as a result of its involvement in this project, and has learned how research can be used to develop thoughtful and effective strategies. 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project taught MSVU not to take for granted that partners in other countries will have the necessary technical and organizational capacities. • The project taught MSVU that one of the most important benefits of twinning projects is that they help establish ongoing relationships; i.e., relationships that are productive far beyond the end of a specific project. 	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) PATH Canada</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Mae Tao Clinic (Thailand)</p>
<p>Project Description PATH Canada assisted the Mae Tao Clinic to develop a safe and adequate blood transfusion service (using HIV and hepatitis screening) to meet the needs of Burmese refugees and migrant workers treated at the clinic. In addition, personnel at the transfusion service provided education on HIV/AIDS prevention to blood donors, and also provided post-test counselling or referral when possible.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. PATH Canada does not have HIV/AIDS-specific programs in Canada.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has strengthened the relationship between the two partners. • The project has provided an opportunity for the sharing of knowledge and experience between the staff of the two partners, resulting in capacity development on both sides. • The project provided an opportunity for PATH Canada to develop relationships with new partners: the Mae Sot Hospital and the Burmese Health Association. • Being involved in a project involving a blood transfusion service provided the lead PATH Canada staff person with immense new knowledge in this field. (The staff person has since left PATH Canada and is no longer working in international development.) 	
<p>Other While the HIV small grants program allowed PATH Canada to develop a new relationship and work in a new country, the organization concluded that the short-term nature of the funding program, with no prospects for follow-up or expansion, meant that the investment was essentially lost. However, PATH Canada indicated that it would apply again if more funding were available.</p>	

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Phase II

Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) (lead organization) • VIVER – Portuguese-Speaking HIV/AIDS Coalition, Toronto 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <p>Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS (ABIA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</p>
<p>Project Description</p> <p>The project involves an exchange of information, skills and staff to improve the ability of both organizations to reach out to their Portuguese-speaking clients and reduce the risk of infection in at-risk populations. Special emphasis is being placed on HIV/AIDS prevention among men who have sex with men and impoverished or isolated groups at risk for infection.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has helped to strengthen ACT’s Portuguese-speaking programs, primarily in prevention and support. Portuguese is the third most-spoken non-English language in the Greater Toronto Area. Partnering with ABIA has given ACT: (a) the opportunity to observe how HIV prevention programs are carried out in a Portuguese-speaking country; (b) a better idea of the language and terminology used in prevention/support materials; (c) greater understanding of the socio-economic challenges and barriers faced by Brazilian community-based organizations in carrying out HIV prevention work; and (d) an opportunity to exchange information regarding the development of volunteer programs for HIV prevention, education, and support. The project has allowed ACT and VIVER to increase their networking capacity with the Brazilian community in Toronto. ACT and ABIA organized a forum in Rio de Janeiro on volunteerism in ASOs and NGOs. In the summer of 2003, both organizations will collaborate in the development of materials for the Portuguese-speaking men-who-have-sex-with-men community in Toronto. This collaboration will increase the capacity of both organizations to develop educational materials for their respective target populations. • VIVER has benefited similarly because ACT’s Portuguese-speaking programs are carried out in partnership with VIVER. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has helped ACT increase its capacity to engage in international development work. It also helped ACT build and sustain a valuable relationship with an international partner. (This was ACT’s first international twinning experience.) • The project was an excellent opportunity for ACT staff to see how prevention work is done in different contexts outside Canada. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

Canadian Partner(s) Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH)	International Partner(s) Instituto Mexicano de Investigación de Familia y Población (IMIFAP)
Project Description The project involved (a) implementing a pilot prevention program in the state of Oaxaca in Mexico; and (b) an exchange of information between the two partners. In Mexico, shopkeepers in small rural villages were trained to act as disseminators of information on HIV/AIDS. The exchange of information between IMIFAP and ACCH also involved the 14 member organizations of ACCH.	
Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of this project, a prevention tool developed by IMIFAP (called a cascading model) was shared with ACCH and its member organizations at a quarterly ACCH skills-building session. One ACCH member is planning to implement this model in its public school prevention program once funding is secured. Other members have expressed interest in doing something similar. • This project enabled staff at ACCH and its member organizations to acquire knowledge and skills about what approaches would be culturally appropriate to reach the Mexican communities in Alberta. The groups had previously attempted to work with these communities but had been unsuccessful. ACCH sought out cultural guidance from the Mexican communities during each phase of the project and continues to do so. Through this consultation, ACCH began to develop relationships with these communities. As a result, ACCH member organization gained not only the knowledge and skills but also the confidence that will enable them to adapt existing programs to meet the needs of these communities. • This project provided ACCH and its member organizations with access to materials in Spanish (posters, clocks, condom packages) developed in Mexico by IMIFAP and other organizations. These materials will be used to target Mexican communities in Alberta. Spanish materials developed as part of this project (posters, flyers, postcards) will also be used to target Mexican communities in Alberta. • The experience with this project will help the Alberta groups develop programs for other endemic populations. • Representatives of IMIFAP met with ACCH member organizations and shared information on how they work from a family perspective in all of their programming. Several groups are planning to integrate this approach into their workplans. 	
Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project helped ACCH to develop skills in writing international proposals and to improve its knowledge of international funders and funding opportunities. • The project enabled ACCH to hone its skills in project evaluation. • The project gave ACCH valuable experience in collaborating with a partner on an international level. • As a result of this project, several ACCH member organizations that had not previously considered getting involved in international work have since begun to explore the options of twinning projects, internships and north-south information exchanges. • The project allowed ACCH to hire an external project co-ordinator who was experienced in international development work. She was able to teach ACCH staff valuable skills, including how to develop a partnership agreement and an international workplan, how to do data collection, and how to prepare reports in an international context. 	
Other The work provided lessons in what is an appropriate negotiating style. It also spotlighted the importance of a clearly articulated partnership agreement.	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA)</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Women’s Education Development Productivity Research Organization, Manila, Philippines</p>
<p>Project Description This is a participatory action research project designed to develop the capacity of both organizations to provide services to migrant and prostituted women in the Philippines and in Canada. The project involves conducting a needs assessment among the targeted population, preparation of a discussion paper and a resource booklet, and training for peer educators.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs assessment and the peer educator training has provided ASIA with the tools it needs to develop and implement educational and prevention programs targeting women engaged in the sex trade in Vancouver. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project enabled ASIA to build its capacity to provide support and prevention information for the sex trade community. • The project enabled ASIA to gain experience in conducting a participatory action research project. • The project allowed ASIA to better understand how its work fits into a global context. This understanding helps ASIA to reach out to marginalized communities in Vancouver. • The project has allowed ASIA to better understand the link between gender issues and HIV/AIDS. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Africa Community Health Alliance, University of Ottawa (lead organization) • Development Office, University of Ottawa • School of Medicine, University of Ottawa • Ottawa Hospital • Montfort Hospital, Ottawa • Cégep St-Jean-sur-Richelieu • Voices of Positive Women, Toronto 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caravane médicale du Gabon • Alliance Santé Benin/Canada • MKUKI, Moshi, Tanzania
<p>Project Description The project aims to provide travelling medical services in disease prevention, care and treatment to five remote communities in Gabon.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project consisted mainly of a transfer of knowledge, skills and technology from the Canadian partners to the African partners.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations The partnership with Voices of Positive Women allowed HIV-positive to participate in HIV work in Africa; this is empowering to the women involved.</p>	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is still in the early stages of development. But it has already demonstrated that strategic alliances allow each partner to participate in a project that they might not otherwise be able to do on their own. Working together provides leverage. • As a result of this project and others like it, Canadian HIV/AIDS organizations recognize that stopping the fight against AIDS in Africa might help them raise more funds for their own organization. 	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre, Toronto</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Facilitating Access to Confidential Testing, Treatment and Support (FACTTS), Basseterre, St. Kitts/Nevis</p>
<p>Project Description The objectives of this project are (a) to enhance the capacity of FACTTS, a group of persons living with HIV/AIDS; and (b) to contribute to the efforts in St. Kitts/Nevis to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide care, treatment and support to persons living with HIV/AIDS.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project consisted mainly of a transfer of knowledge and skills from the Canadian partner to the Caribbean partner.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations N/A.</p>	
<p>Other Lessons learned as a result of this project include: (a) it is very difficult to implement and manage a project in another country when the frequency and extent of on-site direct contact is limited; (b) it is important to have or nurture a relationship/connection before engaging in a twinning project; (c) it is important that partners have the opportunity to articulate and agree upon mutual expectations in advance of committing to a twinning project; (d) it is important that contact between the partners be regular and such that each partner feels comfortable in contacting the other; (e) expectations need to shift and adjust to the realities of the partners – changes in the environment in which the partners operate can negatively affect the project.</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project [GAAP], Faculty of Education)</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Centre for the Book, Cape Town, South Africa</p>
<p>Project Description McGill University helped the Centre for the Book to develop a literacy/health-based youth program whose purpose was to assist in developing an arts/activism participatory approach to looking at HIV/AIDS prevention. The Centre for the Book has a mandate to develop youth outreach literacy programs. This project made it possible for them to look at ways of establishing strategic partnerships with health-related organizations in the broader community (e.g., Treatment Action Centre, Public Health at the University of the Western Cape) as well as in the school community.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McGill took the work on graffiti, hip hop and arts activism methodologies that were developed during the project and organized a one-day symposium at the University of Toronto in which 40 youth spent the day in workshops on the following topics: hip hop and AIDS, photography and sexuality/AIDS awareness, and drama and AIDS awareness. A team of 10 youths organized the symposium, gave some of the sessions and are planning to refine some of the workshops and take them into schools. • McGill is tentatively planning a much bigger conference along the same lines in September 2003. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has strengthened the relationship between the two partners. • The project has provided an opportunity for the sharing of knowledge and experience between the staff of the two partners, resulting in capacity development on both sides. • The project has provided capacity-building for a group of Canadian graduate students working in the area of youth culture and AIDS prevention (four at McGill and three at the University of Toronto), and has also served as the impetus for the Canadian organization to explore further funding possibilities for developing arts-based youth focused methodologies in Canada and South Africa. • The project has enabled McGill to add a number of global links to its GAAP website. 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project provided an entry point for developing global awareness of gender and AIDS issues among Canadian youth. • While the HIV small grants program allowed McGill University to develop a new relationship and work in a new country, the short-term nature of the funding program, with no prospects for follow-up or expansion, represents a challenge in terms of sustainability. 	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Save the Children Canada (SCC)</p>	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación de Programas de Salud del Area Rural (APSAR), Bolivia • Centro de Estudios y Trabajo para la Mujer (CETM), Bolivia
<p>Project Description The project involves developing a pilot project using peer counselling methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Bolivia. It involves training adult and youth leaders in Bolivian NGOs to work as HIV/AIDS prevention trainers, and conducting workshops for teens and youth in the area of Cochabamba.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. SCC does not provide HIV/AIDS programs or services in Canada. (In terms of its international activities, Children and HIV/AIDS is one of the five priority themes in SCC's strategic plan for 2002-2008.)</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the project, in June 2003, SCC will be able to share the material developed as a result of this project with members of its Canadian networks (including the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and the Canadian Coalition on Child Rights). SCC will encourage network members to replicate the success of this project. • The project has enabled SCC to explore innovative ways for preventing HIV/AIDS. This is the first time that SCC combined sexual and reproductive health with HIV/AIDS prevention. • The project enabled SCC to develop new partnerships. Because of its expertise in developing materials on sexual education, Street Kids International was brought in to participate in some of the workshops in Bolivia. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (UVic)</p>	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West China Medical Centre, Sichuan University, China • Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
<p>Project Description The project involves the establishment of an Internet-based information centre for China on adolescent development and HIV/AIDS.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. The project consisted mainly of a transfer of knowledge and skills from the Canadian partner to the Chinese partners.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has helped UVic expand its understanding of and involvement in the international adolescent health and development area. UVic has expanded its contacts and developed relationships that will be beneficial in future exchanges and collaborative projects. • The project has helped UVic to expand the work it is doing with existing partners. • Awareness of UVic among Chinese students has been increased, which may result in more Chinese students coming to UVic. • The project has enhanced UVic's capacity for working with information and communication technologies, including both the technical aspects of web page construction and techniques for effective development of information modules. • The project has enhanced UVic's knowledge of local resources and has increased communication with agencies such as AIDS Vancouver and the James Bay Community Health Project in Victoria. • Project employees in Canada have benefited by expanding their knowledge and skills in a variety of areas including: adolescent development and health issues, cross-cultural differences in adolescent development and health-related behaviour, information technology and communication, and international project management. 	
<p>Other In terms of working cross-culturally with partners at a long distance, the project has taught UVic about the importance of clarifying roles, building mutual understanding and consensus on objectives, and frequent checking on the accuracy of one's perceptions.</p>	

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<p>Canadian Partner(s) School of Health Services Administration, Dalhousie University</p>	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia A. Foundation, Suriname • Pan American Health Organization, Suriname
<p>Project Description</p> <p>The project involves strengthening the capacity of the Claudia A. Foundation at every level through administrative upgrading and training; management restructuring; creating support groups; building sustainable fund-raising strategies; and establishing a viable volunteer program to offer counselling, basic nursing care, and practical advice about nutrition, hygiene and preventive health care. The purpose of the project is to reduce the negative impact of HIV/AIDS in Suriname by strengthening the foundation's capacity to counsel, care for and train persons living with HIV/AIDS and children orphaned by AIDS-related illness.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <p>N/A. The School of Health Services Administration does not provide HIV/AIDS programs or services.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has heightened HIV/AIDS awareness among the staff of the School of Health Services Administration. • The project has enabled the staff of the school to work in HIV/AIDS and in a developing country, both of which were new experiences. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service de Coopération et de Développement International, Cégep de Jonquière (lead organization) • Mouvement d'Information, d'Éducation et d'Entraide dans la lutte contre le SIDA, Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean–Chibougamau–Chapais (Le Miens) 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <p>Association mauritanienne pour la Santé des Femmes, Enfants et Développement, Nouakchott, Mauritanie (AMSFED)</p>
<p>Project Description</p> <p>The project consisted of a campaign to address STDs among women in the Moughataa d'Arafat area of Nouakchott, capital of la Mauritanie. There were four stages: (a) research on the women's perceptions about STDs; (b) the preparation of written and audio materials; (c) a train-the trainer program; and (d) training classes for the women.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A. The project consisted mainly of a transfer of skills from the Canadian partners to the African partner. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project provided Le Miens with its first opportunity to work in the international arena and thus opened its eyes to the international dimensions of AIDS. • The project provided Le Miens with an opportunity to compare its approach to fighting HIV/AIDS with that of another organization working in a different country. New ideas emerged which could, in future, impact Le Miens' local programming. • The project provided le Cégep de Jonquière with an opportunity to renew its work on HIV/AIDS. The Cégep had been involved in an earlier project in Burkina Faso. The project enabled le Cégep to improve its project management and partnership skills. • The project provided an opportunity to validate a particular approach to STD and HIV/AIDS prevention programming. 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project may result in new partnerships being developed which could lead to new HIV/AIDS projects being developed and submitted for funding. • One of the lessons learned for the Canadian partners was that success depends largely on adapting to the context of the country in which one is working. 	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marquis Project, Brandon (lead organization) • Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC), Brandon 	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <p>Tanzanian Society of Agricultural Education & Extension (TSAEE), Ukiriguru, Mwanza District</p>
<p>Project Description</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to develop the capacity of TSAEE, SERC and Marquis to deal effectively with HIV/AIDS education in rural communities in Tanzania and Manitoba. The objectives of the project are (a) to increase awareness among Tanzanian youth about HIV/AIDS, including prevention, care and counselling of those affected; and (b) to put HIV/AIDS education in Manitoba in a global perspective, thus sensitizing youth to the many factors that contribute to the epidemic. Project activities include: (a) researching the present status of HIV/AIDS knowledge and education in each community; (b) sharing resources and developing educational materials and strategies; (c) training youth educators in Tanzania; (d) educating youth in Tanzania; and (e) educating youth in Manitoba through sexuality workshops.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERC's mission is to promote universal access to comprehensive, reliable information and services on sexuality and related health issues by fostering awareness, understanding and support through education. SERC has been doing HIV/AIDS programming for about 15 years. As a result of this project, SERC has been able to increase its HIV/AIDS programming. • SERC has been able to add a global context to its HIV/AIDS programming, thus providing students with a greater awareness of the international dimensions of the epidemic. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has taken the Marquis Project from the periphery of HIV/AIDS work, where it was a small aspect of its overall work, to being much more heavily involved. Board, staff and members have been educated on the issues and involved in addressing them. • The project has resulted in greater cross-fertilization between the two Canadian partners. Not only have the two organizations done joint programming locally and overseas, but they have also had joint learning and planning meetings and are currently working on several new joint project funding proposals. • The project has attracted new donors (e.g., church groups, doctors, people with a personal interest in HIV/AIDS and development) and invitations to speak to congregations, school classes, the media and groups of health professionals. 	
<p>Other</p>	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, Nanaimo, British Columbia</p>	<p>International Partner(s) Christian Campaign Against AIDS (CAIDS), Manzini, Swaziland</p>
<p>Project Description In this project, Tillicum and CAIDS worked together to develop a community performance using giant puppets and popular theatre. Youth were used to create the performances. The purpose was to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among aboriginal youth in Canada and among communities in Swaziland. In each country, local leaders, elders, community members, HIV/AIDS professionals and persons living with HIV/AIDS were involved in events surrounding the performances. An HIV educational video was made; it will be distributed in the Nanaimo area and shown on television in Swaziland.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project enabled Tillicum to better reach aboriginal youth in the Nanaimo area and to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among this population. • As a result of the project, aboriginal youth in Nanaimo learned how to create plays, how to make puppets, and how to present health-promotion messages. • The project provided Tillicum with an opportunity to work together with four First Nations communities. Similar collaborations will be undertaken in future programming. 	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project provided Tillicum with valuable skills (working in new media: puppetry, plays and video) which it will be able to use in the future. • As a result of the publicity generated by this project, Tillicum is more widely known locally, regionally, nationally and in Swaziland. • The project enabled Tillicum to learn about programs that are working in Swaziland to stop the spread of HIV. • The project has taught Tillicum numerous skills about international work (such as dealing with communications and cultural barriers). 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of this project, many people in Nanaimo learned about how HIV affects Swaziland and Africa in general. • The project demonstrated that there are many similarities between the situation of First Nations people in Nanaimo and that of the Swazi youth. • It also showed Tillicum that it can learn from groups in Africa about how to do more with less. 	

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Response to ICAD Questionnaire on the Benefits of Twinning for Canadian Organizations

<p>Canadian Partner(s) World University Services of Canada (WUSC)</p>	<p>International Partner(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping Centre for People Living with HIV/AIDS (COCEPWA), Botswana • Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) • Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA)
<p>Project Description The project involved representatives of WUSC working with three organizations in Botswana to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS. The project had three main thrusts: (a) providing training for counsellors; (b) raising awareness about legal rights in the legal, judicial and trade union sectors; and (c) exploring potential income-generating activities for persons living with HIV/AIDS.</p>	
<p>Direct Benefits for HIV/AIDS Programming in Canada N/A. WUSC does not have HIV/AIDS-specific programs in Canada.</p>	
<p>Other Benefits for Canadian Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has given WUSC better knowledge of local organizations; this will help WUSC in future programming in Botswana. • Some of the project reports will reach Canadian students because (a) part of WUSC's membership base is Canadian university campuses and (b) WUSC plans to post the reports on the WUSC Net. 	
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BONELA workshops in Gabarone that were part of this project were highly profiled by the Botswana press, thus giving exposure to the effort that Canada is making to address HIV/AIDS. • Two of the local partners plan to hold a press conference in Gabarone to publicize Canada's role in helping grassroots organizations address problems confronting persons living with HIV/AIDS in Botswana. 	

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Appendix I List of Projects

The following is a list of all 26 projects funding under the CIDA Small Grants Fund in 2002 and 2001.

Phase I

	Canadian Partner(s)	International Partner(s)
1	AIDS Calgary Awareness Association	Child Foundation of India
2	AIDS Vancouver*	Red Mexicana de Personas que Viven con el VIH/SIDA, Mexico City
	Storefront Orientation Services, Vancouver	
3	Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, Toronto	Operation Blessing Guyana
		Hands International, Guyana
4	Bureau de la coopération internationale, Université de Montréal	Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar
5	Canadian AIDS Society	Christian Children's Fund, Minsk, Belarus
6	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	AIDS Law Project, South Africa
7	Canadian Human Rights Foundation	Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) – Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
8	Central Secretariat, International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, Toronto	Southern African Network of AIDS Service Organizations (SANASO)
9	Le Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire du Québec, Hôpital du Saint-Sacrement	Population Services International (PSI), Bénin
		Programme national de lutte contre le SIDA et les IST (PNLS), Bénin
		Centre de santé de circonscription urbaine (SCCU) Cotonou 1, Bénin
10	Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax*	Jamaica AIDS Support, Kingston
	AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia	
11	PATH Canada	Mao Tae Clinic, Thailand
12	Polish Gay and Lesbian Association, Toronto	National AIDS Centre, Poland

* lead organization

Phase II

	Canadian Partner(s)	International Partner(s)
1	AIDS Committee of Toronto*	Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	VIVER – Portuguese-Speaking HIV/AIDS Coalition, Toronto	
2†	AIDS Vancouver	Red Mexicana de Personas Que Viven Con el VIH/sida, Mexico City
3	Alberta Community Council on HIV	Instituto Mexicano de Investigación de Familia y Población
4	Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS, Vancouver	Women’s Education, Development, Productivity and Research Organization, Manila, Philippines
5†	Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, Toronto	Operation Blessing Guyana
		Hands International, Guyana
6	Canada Africa Community Health Alliance, University of Ottawa Health Services	Caravane médicale du Gabon
		Alliance Santé Benin/Canada
		MKUKI, Moshi, Tanzania
7†	Canadian AIDS Society	Christian Children’s Fund, Minsk, Belarus
8	Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre, Toronto	Facilitating Access to Confidential Treatment and Support, Basseterre, St. Kitts/Nevis
9	McGill University (Gendering Adolescence and AIDS Prevention Project, Faculty of Education)	Centre for the Book, Capetown, South Africa
10	Save the Children Canada	Asociación de Programas de Salud del Area Rural, Bolivia
		Centro de Estudios y Trabajo para la Mujer, Bolivia
11	School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria	West China Medical Centre, Sichuan University
		Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing
12	School of Health Services Administration, Dalhousie University	Claudia A. Foundation, Suriname
		Pan American Health Organization, Suriname
13	Service de Coopération et de Développement International, Cégep de Jonquière*	Association mauritienne pour la santé des femmes, enfants et développement, Nouakchott, Mauritanie
	Mouvement d’information, d’éducation et d’entraide dans la lutte contre le sida, Saguenay–Lac St-Jean–Chibougamau–Chapais	
14	The Marquis Project, Brandon	Tanzanian Society of Agricultural Education and Extension, Ukiriguru, Mwanza District
	Sexuality Education Resource Centre, Brandon	
15	Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, Nanaimo	Christian Campaign Against AIDS, Manzini, Swaziland
16	Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users	Society for Service to Urban Poverty, New Delhi, India
17	World University Service of Canada	The Coping Centre for People Living with HIV/AIDS, Botswana
		The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS
		The Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS

* lead organization

† extensions of Phase I projects

Appendix II Questionnaire

The following questionnaire was sent to all lead Canadian partners in the twinning projects.

Health Canada has asked the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) to prepare a report on the domestic impact of international HIV/AIDS twinning projects – i.e., the benefits of twinning on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, support, policy research and other programs in Canada. This questionnaire is being used to solicit your input.

1. Please provide the name of your organization, the names of other Canadian organizations involved in your twinning project, and the name(s) of your international partner(s).
2. Please describe how your twinning experience has benefited the HIV/AIDS programs and services that your organization provides. If possible, please structure your answer by type of program – e.g., prevention, care, treatment, support, policy research, other (please specify).
3. If appropriate, please describe how your twinning experience has benefited the HIV/AIDS programs and services of other Canadian organizations that were involved in your twinning project, or that you work with.
4. If there are other ways in which the twinning experience has contributed to, or improved, the work of your organization or other Canadian organizations, please describe these. What lessons has it taught your organization? How has your twinning experience benefited the staff and volunteers in your organization or other Canadian organizations?

Note to NGOs that do not have HIV/AIDS-specific programs and services: If questions #2 and #3 are not appropriate for your organization, please concentrate on question #4.