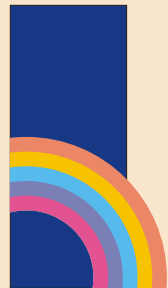


Committee for  
Accessible  
AIDS  
Treatment  
Toronto, Canada

2011  
Annual Report

Design: Artes Cheung



Committee for  
Accessible  
AIDS  
Treatment  
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# About CAAT

## CAAT Mission

The Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT) is a coalition of affected individuals and organizations from the legal, health, settlement and HIV/AIDS sectors committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV who are facing access barriers related to their status using the tools of education, training, research, service coordination and advocacy

## Vision

Our vision is a healthy urban community in which all individuals living with HIV/AIDS have the information and tools they need to access health, social and legal services that are welcoming, inclusive, and respectful regardless of their immigration status.

## Guiding Principles

The highest value is put on the voices and leadership of people living with HIV/AIDS in our work, and the view that health is a holistic and inclusive of the physical, emotional, sexual and spiritual aspects of life.

## Equity and Social Justice

We value a human rights based approach that respects individual rights for access to treatment and health care including access to sexual and reproductive health services regardless of HIV and immigration status, and demonstrate respect for the voices of all stakeholders. We are committed to social justice for all. CAAT works from an anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-homophobia and anti-sexism framework aimed at reducing discrimination, stigma and prejudice based on culture, ethnicity, religion, age, ability and above all, HIV status.

## Community Ownership/Responsiveness

We place great value on community and evidence-based advocacy and solutions as a means to effect systemic and policy change and community ownership, transparency, accountability, and meaningful collaboration with the communities we serve.

## CAAT's key program areas include:

1. Education and outreach
2. Community development
3. Service and volunteer coordination
4. Research & evidence based advocacy

# CAAT Event Highlights

## October 2010

- Legacy Mentorship orientation session 3

## November 2010

- OHTN Conference; four abstract presentations.
- ETSN Network Meeting
- Presentation to Sick Kids Hospital HIV Clinic staff
- Ethno Racial MSM Research development
- Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Advisory Committee set up

## January 2011

- Living and Serving 3 Retreat
- New ETSN Advisory Committee developed (first meeting)
- Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project: Peer Assistants Training

## February 2011

- ETSN Facilitators Training
- HIV/AIDS & Immigration Service Access Training (advanced level)
- ETSN Level 1 training

## March 2011

- Legacy Mentorship orientation session 4
- Lecture on HIV & Immigration to University of Toronto Sociology Class
- ETSN Level 1 training
- Legacy group mentoring session: PHA parenting
- Legacy interviewed by CATIE Program Connections
- CAAT Volunteers Appreciation event
- Prosecutorial guidelines consultation
- Socially engaged citizens research project development
- Living and Serving Convergence Meeting

## April 2011

- CAAT/ACCHO Ethno-racial MSM Strategic Planning meeting

- CAAT Members meeting
- CAAT Staff/Steering Committee Planning retreat.
- Presentations at CAHR Conference
- CAAT received CIHR funding for CHAMP

## May 2011

- Presentation at the Diversity and Equity in Mental Health and Addiction Conference

## June 2011

- Presentation at Canadian Refugee Health Conference
- 2011 Legacy "Spotlight" training event
- Presentation at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network Symposium
- Critical Community-Campus Research Learning Circle launched

## July 2011

- CAAT Newcomer PHA Sexual Health Promotion Project funding renewed
- UT Sociology class lecture on HIV & Immigration
- Legacy Reflective Practice Sessions
- Living and Serving 3 meeting

## August 2011

- ETSN Facilitators Training
- CAAT website development work group training

## September 2011

- ETSN level 2 Training Series
- CHAMP Project: Research Team Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) training

## October 2011

- ETSN level 2 Training Retreat
- CHAMP Project Peer Research Associate Training
- CAAT Annual General Members (AGM) meeting

## Message from the CAAT Co-chairs

First and foremost CAAT would like to thank all community members, community partners, supporters, staff, volunteers and funders for supporting another great year of growth and prosperity. We are about to bring to a close another successful year and there is a lot we would like to share with you.

Over the past year we've worked to solidify our leadership role in community-based research and service delivery and build on the major strengths of CAAT, which include the generation of evidence on the needs of our community, the development of innovative programming and advocacy for improved policies. Since our last annual meeting we've been granted CIHR funding for our CHAMP research study (Community Champion HIV Advocate Mobilization Project), attained new municipal funding for the Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion project, and continued the delivery of our core programming.

We are especially grateful to Regent Park Community Health Centre for continuing to host CAAT programs and provide office space for our staff. We are also thankful for the



Andre Ceranto  
CAAT co-chair



Devica Hintzen  
CAAT co-chair

financial trusteeship and support of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation and to the Ontario HIV Treatment Network for providing office space and technical support to our research program.

CAAT has just passed a significant milestone and will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in the coming year. To mark this important occasion we are planning a number of special projects and a big party. We wish you all will participate and celebrate it with us.

As we look toward the coming year the Co-Chairs, Steering Committee and staff of CAAT are very excited about our new work.

### A special farewell note from Andre

It is with sadness that I am informing you that this is my last year as Co-chair of CAAT. As my life moves forward and other work commitments emerge I am forced to resign from this role. However, I will still be part of the CAAT family. That is how I see CAAT and what CAAT has represented to me over the years. The feeling of family is the feeling I got from other people involved in CAAT's work, a big family providing support and

growth, making our community stronger. I also want to give a special thanks to all Steering Committee members for their support and patience in the last two years. Acting as Co-chair has given me many learning opportunities and unforgettable memories. Finally, thanks to Alan Li for getting me involved with CAAT and for believing in me.

Andre Ceranto  
CAAT co-chair

## CAAT Program Coordinator Report

With the collective effort and contribution of our funding partners, agency partners, volunteers, research team and staff, CAAT continues to use the tools of training, research, service coordination and advocacy to provide innovative and sustainable programs to promote the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV who face access barriers related to their status.

An exciting highlight for CAAT this year is the launch of our "Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project" funded by the City of Toronto AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program. Our project team includes a part-time coordinator and five highly motivated peer assistants/educators who have done a great job in developing and delivering dynamic and interactive educational workshops to newcomer groups all over Toronto.

Another highlight for CAAT this year was our success in getting operational research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for our Community HIV/AIDS Advocate Mobilization Project (CHAMP) study. The CHAMP Project will pilot and evaluate 2 capacity building interventions to support the development of community champions to challenge HIV stigma and to advance the HIV prevention/care agenda amongst racialized communities.

In our ongoing role as community mobilizer and advocate, CAAT continues to work closely with community and government partners to advocate for the recognition of newcomer and racialized PHAs as priority populations in the upcoming Provincial and Federal AIDS strategies. In response to the amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act,

CAAT is also working closely with HALCO and other immigration experts to inform our community of new updates regarding emerging legislation affecting immigrant/refugee PHAs and to identify strategic responses.

Our innovative Legacy PHA mentorship project continues to grow and now hosts over 100 members. The project has generated a number of peer driven initiatives, including an online newsletter by and for the program participants. In addition, we continue to work closely with the Toronto HIV Network's PHA Capacity Building Committee to support the development of two key initiatives: (1) the PHAlearning.org web portal to promote online access to, and easier self-management of, PHA skill building programs; and (2) ASO Volunteer Training Initiative that brought AIDS service organizations together to explore coordination and collaboration amongst their volunteer training programs.

As we reflect on 30 years of HIV, CAAT will continue to focus on building the strengths and resiliencies of our community to ensure that the next decade of HIV/AIDS is GIPA driven with well-empowered and strong PHAs taking the lead. We are proud of our work and we look forward to working closely with all of you on the many exciting program initiatives to improve the health and leadership of PHAs.



Maureen Owino  
Program Coordinator

# CAAT Program Reports

## CAAT Research Highlights

Alan Li, Principle Investigator,  
CAAT Research Team

Exciting CAAT news from the research front! This year CAAT has succeeded in getting our first CIHR CBR operational funding for our new research study **CHAMP: “Community Champions HIV Advocates Mobilization Project”**. The **CHAMP** study was developed as a strategic community-based action research initiative in response to the key findings and recommendations from our previous research study: **“Mobilizing Ethno-racial Leaders against HIV stigma” (MEL)** funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN). The MEL study identified the lack of visible ethno-racial PHA leaders, lack of community champions and deep-rooted homophobia to be key barriers that perpetuate HIV stigma amongst ethno-racial communities and undermine HIV prevention and support initiatives. The new CHAMP study will pilot and evaluate the effectiveness of two innovative training interventions (Acceptance Commitment Training and Social Justice Capacity Building Training) in supporting the development of community champions to advance anti-stigma HIV prevention initiatives amongst ethno-racial communities. We are happy to welcome Henry Luyomya as our CHAMP project coordinator. Henry brings years of international and local



CHAMP research team training workshop

HIV organizing experiences, academic training in international development and public policies, as well as direct working experiences as a peer research associate on two previous CAAT research studies. The project has also successfully recruited a team of peer research associates from our target cultural communities and is currently preparing for full launch of activities once we receive final ethics approval.

Through our leadership on the ethno-racial research working group at the CIHR Centre for REACH in HIV/AIDS, we are working to advance a coordinated research agenda to address the needs of newcomer and racialized communities across Canada, and identify effective evaluative frameworks to measure the impact of HIV health promotion initiatives in ethno-racial communities. To advance the Greater and Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS, CAAT works actively at the provincial level with the OAN Living and Serving 3 Project to promote GIPA best practices; and locally, we worked with Dr. Josephine Wong from Ryerson University to launch a “Critical Community-Campus Research Learning Circle” that brought together 8 community peer research associates and academic students to engage in CBR related skill development.

In addition, CAAT continues to play prominent roles collaborating on many important community-based research initiatives, including:

- Employment Change & Health Outcomes in HIV/AIDS (ECHO) Study (with OHTN, ACT & Toronto PWA Foundation)
- What's In It For Me? (ACT)
- Barriers and Facilitators of Research Study (OHTN)
- Keep It Alive Campaign Evaluation (ACCHO)
- Newcomer MSM Resource Evaluation (Black CAP / GMSH)
- Needs of Second Generations of HIV+ Youth (Hospital for Sick Children)

## Ethno-racial Treatment Support Network (ETSN)

Since its integration as a core program initiative of CAAT and the restructuring of its curriculum into a 2 level program of “Helping Ourselves” (Level 1) and “Helping Each Other” (Level 2); ETSN has made important progress in 2011.

Firstly, we established a new program advisory committee made up of a majority peer graduates from the program working with community agency representatives to advise on the design, implementation and evaluation of the program. Secondly, in 2011, we conducted two rounds of peer facilitator training involving 15 peer graduates; another round of level 1 training where 19 out of 20 participants successfully completed the course and graduated the highest percentage in our 8 year history! Last but not least, in September and October 2011, we successfully completed our first ever Level 2 training program that focused on peer counseling skills development.

A unique and innovative element of the ETSN training is its vision of community succession, structured mentor support and progressive peer engagement. Six core mentors worked intensively to provide structured mentoring support to a team of 12 peer facilitators (ETSN graduates) in planning, coordinating and delivering the whole training program to the participants. In addition, the facilitating team engaged in daily pre- and post-training debriefing to provide constructive feedback and support the continuing education of each other. The transformational leadership and enthusiastic commitment that emerged from this “community of learning” model was truly amazing.



In the coming year, we are working with the CIHR Centre for REACH in HIV/AIDS' Intervention and Ethno-racial working group to engage in a study to look at best practices in evaluating the impact of our program and explores program expansion and replication opportunities through collaborative partnerships with other culturally diverse communities across Canada.

## Newcomer PHA Sexual Health Promotion Project

Godelive Ndayikengurukiye,  
Project Coordinator

The Newcomer PHA Sexual Health Promotion Project aims to improve the health of Newcomer PHAs and to reduce their vulnerability to HIV/STI and criminalization through peer-based outreach and education activities. The project is funded by the City of Toronto AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program and was launched in October 2010.

The project was developed based on findings and recommendations from CAAT's “Improving Mental Health Service Access for Immigrant and Refugee PHAs Research Study” and needs articulated by participants in our “HIV and Immigration Service Access Training program” and “HIV/AIDS Disclosure and Criminalization and its impact on newcomers” forum. All identified a heightened vulnerability of newcomer PHAs due to lack of access to sexual health and legal information and support related to their immigration status, mental health, HIV status and other social determinants of health.

The Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project (NSHPP) hired a coordinator and five peer facilitators each from the project's target communities, including African, Caribbean, East Asian, South Asian and Latino/Spanish speaking communities. The project staff team worked with the project advisory group and developed 5 educational workshops for newcomer at-risk and affected communities on issues of:

- Stigma and discrimination
- STI and Sexual Health
- Immigration and legal issues
- HIV disclosure
- HIV prevention and care

Proactive outreach to at-risk and affected newcomer populations was also delivered by project staff and peers in settlement agencies, refugee shelters, community centres, health and HIV/AIDS service agencies. This has successfully resulted in many agency partners engaging and inviting our project to provide educational workshops to the populations they serve.

We are excited that the City of Toronto has renewed our program's funding for the coming year and we are looking forward to expanding our outreach efforts to reach and engage more newcomer PHAs who are not connected to HIV service agencies.

## The Legacy Project

*Derek Yee, Project Coordinator*

The Legacy Project aims to promote the Meaningful and Greater Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (MIPA/GIPA) through structured mentorship support. The Legacy Project was set up to bridge a gap for PHAs who have

graduated from various capacity building programs but lack ongoing mentorship support to apply their skills to pursue progressive engagement through either employment or volunteerism.

The project is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada ACAP program. Collaborative partners include the AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Project of Ontario, African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario, Ethno-racial Treatment Support Network, Ontario AIDS Network, Ontario HIV Treatment Network and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation.

Some of the work of the Legacy Project includes:

- The development of a mentorship training guide "Walk With Me".
- Four orientation sessions with a total of 80 mentors and mentees.
- An annual "Spotlight" event: a skills building and social community building session that brings together all project participants to interact, share lessons learnt from their mentorship experiences, develop new communication skills to further enhance their work, and collectively build a community of shared learning and practice.



*Legacy orientation 2011*

- On-going support and reflective practice sessions to provide the participants with the opportunity to give constructive feedback and to identify challenges and strategies for improvement.

Some of the accomplishment this year include:

- The launch of our first Communiqué; Legacy newsletter with testimonials, views, opinions, statements from Legacy participants.
- Two Legacy Orientations sessions with 34 new participants.
- Two reflective practice sessions attended by 30 participants.
- Group mentoring sessions on HIV and parenting.
- A poster presentation at the CAHR conference.
- Development of project to evaluate the impact of Legacy and to explore program replication in other sites.
- Development of two working groups, one focusing on updating the Legacy orientation curriculum, and the other looking at updating volunteer policies to guide our practices.

## HIV & Immigration Service Access Training

In 2010-2011 we have continued to facilitate the HIV/AIDS Immigration Service Access Training. This training is designed to enhance PHA and service provider awareness of the issues affecting immigrant/refugees with HIV/AIDS and the abilities to access treatment and support services for these populations.

In the last year we have facilitated one advanced level HIV/Immigration Service Access

Training and have presented more focused training workshops in response to request of other community agency partners. We continue to receive requests to present our training to many communities outside the GTA, including Ottawa, London, Hamilton, Kitchener, Waterloo, Winnipeg, and for the network of ACCHO strategy workers across Ontario. Over time we have found that participants in the training are better equipped to advocate for themselves and the success rates for the participants who go through the refugee hearing has been very high.

## Designated Medical Practitioners Training Project

In response to gaps in appropriate pre-/post test counselling and referral support identified by newcomer PHAs during the immigration medical examination process, CAAT worked with Dr. Darrell Tan and Dr. Roy Male to develop a training module for Designated Medical Practitioners (DMP), the physicians who perform all the HIV testing for all newcomer applicants to Canada. We held our first DMP training in May 2010 and then followed up by sending out updated community referral materials to them to facilitate proper referral. In 2011, we continued to work with Dr. Tan and his student and launched a follow up national survey to explore the knowledge and attitude of DMP on HIV related issues. The study generated useful insight to inform future training initiatives across the country. The findings will be presented at our AGM this year and at the upcoming OHTN research conference.

# Volunteer Recognition

## CAAT Steering Committee:

Alan Li  
Amutha Samgam  
Andre Ceranto (Co-Chair)  
Bomi Daver  
Claudette Samuels  
Devica Hintzen (Co-Chair)  
Fatima Barry  
Mercedes Umana  
Michel Alba  
Sandra Chu  
Suzanne Paddock  
Shannon Ryan

## CAAT CHAMP Research Team:

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Fanta Ongoiba  
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James Murray  
Jason Luoma  
Josephine Wong  
Julie Maggi  
Kenneth Fung  
Mateusz Zurowski  
Meredith Kratzmann  
Omer Abdulghani  
Rene Lopez  
Shannon Ryan

## DMP/Immigration Training:

Alan Li  
Darrell Tan  
Jennifer Tran  
John Norquay  
Michael Battista

## ETSN Advisory Committee:

Amanuel Tesfamichael  
Amutha Samgam  
Anand Kumar Sookwah  
Claudette Samuels  
Emmanuel Ndyababo  
Gladys Kwaramba  
Mary Ndungu  
Omer Abdulghani

Patrick Truong  
Rene Lopez  
Samuel Lopez

## ETSN Trainers / Peer facilitators (2011):

Abigail Dillon  
Alan Li  
Claudette Samuels  
Emmanuel Ndyababo  
Fatima Barry  
Gladys Kwaramba  
Henry Luyombya  
Josephine Wong  
Keith Wong  
Lena Soje  
Luis Lama  
Mary Ndung'u  
Marvelous Muchenje  
Michel Alba  
Omer Abdulghani  
Tim McCaskell  
Wonderly Knights  
Yvette Perreault

## Legacy Project Advisory Committee/Volunteers:

Alan Li  
Anna Demetrakopoulos  
Ashish Datta  
Catherine Mossop  
Claudette Samuels  
Ed Argo  
Eric Peters  
Francisco Corroy Moral  
Josephine Wong  
Keith Wong  
Mark Fisher  
Mark Byles  
Francis Madhosingh  
Christian Hui  
Ted Kloosterman

## Website Committee:

Vong Sundara (designer)  
Ashish Datta  
Bomi Daver  
Christian Hui

Francisco Corroy Moral  
Keith Wong

## Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project Advisory Committee:

Anda Li  
Atiba Lopez  
Francis Madhosingh  
Mikiki Hickey  
Mara Brotman  
Thomas Mbugua  
Rene Lopez  
Sandra Chu

## Staff:

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Maureen Owino

*Legacy Project Coordinator*  
Derek Yee

*Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project Coordinator*  
Luis Berumen (to 07/2011)  
Godlive Ndayikengurukiye (from 09/2011)

*NSHP peer facilitators*  
Alex Ciro Bisignano  
Christian Hui  
Dale Maitland  
Rose Kangabe  
Sabrina Salim

*CHAMP Research Project Coordinator*  
Henry Luyombya

*CHAMP Peer Research Associates*  
Alex Ciro Bisignano  
Christian Hui  
Dale Maitland  
Faith Lufhondvo  
Francisco Corroy Moral  
Kenneth Poon

*Student Placement*  
Dimple Bhagat (Nursing)  
Sunny Jung (Nursing)  
Gerson Mobo (Medicine)

# Funding Partner Acknowledgement

## Program Funding Partners:

AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care  
(Community Based Education and Support Program)

Public Health Agency of Canada  
(AIDS Community Action Program):  
Legacy Project

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)  
(Community Based Research Operational Program):  
CHAMP research study

Ontario HIV Treatment Network  
(Strategic Applied Research and Training Grant):  
Mobilizing Ethno-racial Leaders Research Study

City of Toronto (APCIP Program):  
Newcomer PHA sexual health promotion project

## Unrestricted Educational Grants:

### Ethno-racial Treatment Support Network Learning and Helping Out Peer Treatment Counselor Training Program

Abbott  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead Sciences Canada  
Merck  
Moss Park Pharmacy  
Tibotec  
ViiV Health care in partnership with Shire Canada

## Special Thanks:

*Sponsoring Partner Agencies:*  
Regent Park Community Health Centre  
Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

