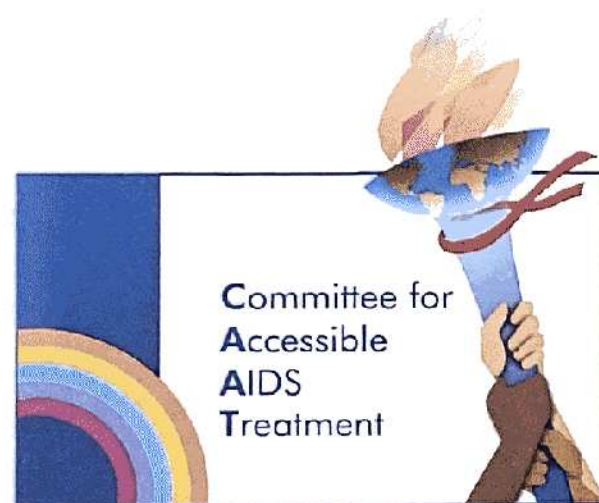


Committee for  
Accessible  
AIDS  
Treatment  
Toronto, Canada

# 2012 Annual Report



**Be a CHAMP!**

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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 (PHAs) who are facing access barriers related to their status.

## Brief History

Formed in 1999 to improve treatment and service access for marginalized PHAs, CAAT has been at the forefront of education, research, service coordination and advocacy on issues related to HIV, immigration and access. In 2001, CAAT undertook a groundbreaking collaborative community based action research project: Improving treatment access for PHAs who are immigrants, refugees and non-status (IRN). The study documented the challenges faced by vulnerable PHA groups and engaged stakeholders from various sectors to develop a joint action plan to address these barriers. As a result of the study, several innovative initiatives were developed that continue to this day.

## 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 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, diversity and demonstrate respect for the voices of all stakeholders. We are committed to social justice for all. CAAT works from an on anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-homophobia/transphobia and anti-sexism framework aimed at reducing discrimination, stigma and prejudice based on culture, ethnicity, religion, age, ability, sexual orientation 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. At CAAT, we also emphasize 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 2011

- ETSN level 2 Training Retreat
- CHAMP peer research associate training on CBR principles and research ethics
- CAAT Annual General Members (AGM) meeting

## November 2011

- OHTN conference: four oral abstract presentations
- ETSN Network Alumni Meeting
- Presentation to Sick Kids Hospital HIV clinic staff
- Ethno Racial MSM research development
- "When PHA becomes Service Provider" research team meeting

## December 2011

- CAAT, PWA, RPCHC partnership renewed partnership agreement
- CAAT/CTAC collaboration planning meeting
- Legacy project community planning forum
- DMP phase 2 research planning
- CHAMP research team recruitment strategy planning

## January 2012

- HIV/AIDS Immigration Service Access Training (basic level)
- CHAMP Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting
- CHAMP peer researchers outreach and media training
- "Best Practice in Evaluating HIV interventions" study development

## February 2012

- ETSN Level 2 Facilitators training
- HIV/AIDS & Immigration service access training (advanced level)
- ETSN Level 2 training
- CHAMP Press Conference and CTV interview

## March 2012

- Newcomer sexual health community forum on HIV/Immigration and Sexual health
- Legacy Orientation session
- Presentation on HIV/AIDS service Access at the AIDS committee of Windsor
- Legacy phase 2 program launch
- Provincial HIV/AIDS Strategy consultation
- CHAMP media launch with features in multiple ethno-racial media

## April 2012

- CAAT/ACCHO Ethno-racial MSM strategic planning meeting
- CAAT General Members meeting
- CAAT Staff/Steering committee planning retreat
- Presentation at 21st Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) in Montreal, QC
- Presentations at 15th Community-Campus Partnership on Health (CCPH) conference in Houston, Texas-USA

## May 2012

- Presentation at the Diversity and Equity in Mental Health and Addiction conference
- ETSN evaluation project focus group
- CAAT community research training workshop: Getting Research to Work For Us
- CAAT HIV and Immigration Research Think Tank
- Newcomer Sexual Health community forum on HIV and Legal issues
- Presentations at 6th National Community Health Nurses Conference, Markham

## June 2012

- 1ST Annual Interdisciplinary HIV pregnancy Research Group (IHPREG) Conference
- Supporting Women In Ways That Work - WHEALTH Forum
- Completed all CHAMP phase 1 training interventions
- Legacy Project PHAN replication planning

## July 2012

- UT Sociology class lecture on HIV & Immigration
- Toronto Public Health HIV 101 presentation
- CAAT staff gets community fellowship of Universities Without Walls (UWW)
- HIV and Immigration lecture at Ryerson University Graduate Nursing class
- Presentations at 19th International AIDS Conference or AIDS 2012, Washington DC

## August 2012

- ETSN Level 1 Facilitators training
- ETSN Alumni Social event
- ETSN advisory committee meeting

## September 2012

- ETSN level 1 Training Series
- Legacy PHA Workers training
- Legacy facilitator training for PHAN
- CHAMP Structured Networking Session

## October 2012

- Focus groups for: "When PHAs become service providers research study"
- ACCHO Research Committee meeting
- "Best Practices in Evaluating HIV Interventions" community feedback forum

## November 2012

- Community forum on the Supreme courts decision on Criminalization
- Workshop on the impact of new changes to the immigration and refugee laws
- Legacy PHA worker training
- Learning together Community evaluation Forum
- OHTN research conference: 8 oral presentations, 1 poster, 2 special sessions
- Legacy Mentee reflective practice session



## CAAT Program Reports

### CAAT Research Highlights

Alan Li, CAAT Research Committee

CAAT has an exceptionally busy and productive year in engaging many diverse stakeholders in a number of community relevant research activities to advance culturally competent policies and practices affecting our communities.

Besides implementing the innovative interventions of the CIHR funded CHAMP study (see CHAMP highlights), CAAT also co-led and partnered with other partners in many exciting research projects; organized a research think tank on HIV and Immigration, conducted many knowledge transfer and training activities in a variety of academic and community based conferences and forums.

#### CAAT Research Think Tank:

The CAAT research think tank on HIV and Immigration was held on May 29th in Toronto and attracted over 40 participants from health, legal, policy, HIV, social service, academic institutions, and people living with HIV/AIDS from across the GTA. The objectives of the research think tank were to share current knowledge and identify evidence gaps and research priorities among newcomer communities, and to facilitate community-campus partnership development to address these gaps.



CAAT Research Think Tank.

Key research priorities emerged from the think tank included: (a) inter-linkages amongst mental health, substance use and HIV amongst racialized and newcomer communities; (b) health needs of long term survivors of HIV from ethno-racial communities; (c) effective models of service navigation and coordination to meet the health- & social services needed of newcomer PHAs; and (d) tracking the impact of changes in health care coverage cutbacks on refugee PHAs.

#### CAAT Research Projects:

In addition to CHAMP, CAAT also conducted the exciting developmental research study *"When PHAs becomes service providers"*. This project explores the impact on access to support for PHAs who have made the role transitions as a service provider.

CAAT also co-led the CIHR Centre for REACH funded study on "Identifying best practices in evaluating impact of HIV prevention and health promotion interventions for culturally diverse communities". This project engaged affected stakeholders to review and articulate meaningful and rigorous evaluative indicators to assess the impact of 4 HIV interventions: 3MV from Black Cap, Mano en Mano from Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples, and CAAT's ETSN Peer counselor training program and Legacy project.

In addition, CAAT also partners in the following research projects:

- Ontario Women's Study
- Interdisciplinary HIV Pregnancy Research Study
- Systematic review of perinatal HIV transmission from breastfeeding when the mother has full viral suppression with antiretroviral therapy

- Women's Health in Women's Hands' HIV disclosure intervention integration project
- ECHO Study: Employment & Health Outcomes in HIV/AIDS (OHTN)
- Barriers and facilitators on Research Study (OHTN)
- CIHR Centre for Community Based Research Team grant (OHTN)
- What's in it for me (ACT)
- "Getting the News study: The diagnosis experiences of PHAs" study (St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto)
- Neurodevelopmental outcomes of pre-and peri-natal exposure to antiretroviral treatment in HIV uninfected children (Sick Kids)

#### Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building:

Continuing its role as a leader in advancing meaningful engagement of affected communities in research, CAAT conducted a number of training and knowledge transfer activities including:

- Research skill training for community based peer research associates;
- "Getting Research to Work for Us!" translating frontline needs into researchable questions;
- Community Campus Learning Circle summer training program in partnership with Ryerson university;
- "What's in it for me" in partnership with ACT;
- Placement and mentorship of many nursing, medical, social work students;
- Showcasing our work at many regional, national and international conferences including Ontario HIV Treatment Network conference, Canadian Association of HIV Research, International AIDS Conference, Community Campus Partnerships in Health, Canadian National conference on Community Nursing, HIV and Social Science conference, just to name a few.

### CHAMP Research Study (2011 – 2014)

Henry Luyombya, Project Research Coordinator

In September 2011, CAAT launched its first Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)-funded action research – Community Champions HIV/AIDS Advocates Mobilization Project, the "CHAMP study". As a strategic community-based participatory action research, CHAMP is a response to an earlier research study that identified HIV stigma and lack of HIV champions/advocates as key issues that impede HIV prevention and care efforts in ethno-racial communities.

CHAMP aims to engage PHA and non-PHA leaders from 3 ethno-racial communities (Asians, Black & Latino) to pilot and evaluate two anti-stigma interventions: Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Social Justice Capacity Building (SJC). Specifically, we work hard to mobilize leaders from the faith, media and social justice sectors to participate in the project.

In 2012, we have successfully:

- Obtained research ethics approval from all our academic partners - University of Toronto, University of Ryerson and University of Windsor.
- 6 feature media stories on CHAMP – CTV, Global, Sway Magazine, Ming Pao Daily, Voices Latinas CHHA 1610 & La Voz de la Comunidad/Community Voice
- Recruited 319 interested participants (183 non-PHAs, 136 PHAs); 66 participants were randomly selected and successfully completed our training interventions (31 non-PHAs, 35 PHAs)
- Did 11 presentations at conferences (3 posters, 6 oral abstract presentations & 2 workshops) including the International AIDS Conference in Washington.

# Be a CHAMP!

## Volunteer Recognition

### CAAT Steering Committee:

Amutha Samgam  
Bomi Daver  
Claudette Samuels  
Devica Hintzen (Co-Chair)  
Dora Londono  
Fatima Barry  
James Murray (ex-officio member)  
Mercedes Umana  
Michel Alba  
Sandra Chu  
Suzanne Paddock  
Shannon Ryan (co-chair)

### CHAMP Research Team:

Alan Li  
Amanuel Tesfamichael  
Constantine Cabarios  
Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale  
Fanta Ongoiba  
Jack Kapac  
James Murray  
Jason Luoma  
Josephine Wong  
Kenneth Fung  
Mateusz Zurowski  
Omer Abdulghani  
Rene Lopez  
Shannon Ryan

### CHAMP Project Advisory Committee:

Akim Adé Larcher  
Andrew Campbell  
Angie Seth  
Carly Yoshida-Butryn  
Charles Olango  
Consuelo Rubio  
Ellen Wong  
Habeb Ali  
Herman Astudillo  
Karen Sun  
Lobsang Tendon  
Morris Komakech  
Natalie Wood  
Paulette Senior  
Peter Lee  
Rose-Anne Bailey  
Seema Nadarajah  
Thomas Mbugua (until October 2012)  
Wangari Muriuki  
Zubeida Ramji

### PHA Service Provider Research Project Team:

Alan Li  
Andrew Miao  
Charlie Guiang  
Claudette Samuels  
Devica Hintzen  
Joshua Wales  
Lena Soje  
Patrick Truong (until January 2012)  
Precious Maseko  
Yvette Perreault

### DMP/Immigration Training:

Alan Li  
Darrell Tan  
Jennifer Tran  
John Norquay  
Michael Battista  
Omar Torres  
Uitsile Ndlovu  
Roy Male

### ETSN Advisory Committee:

Rose Njeri  
Andrew Miao  
Shazia Islam  
Claudette Samuels  
Emmanuel Ndyababo  
Gladys Kwaramba  
Mary Ndungu  
Omer Abdulghani  
Patrick Truong (until January 2012)  
Rene Lopez  
Samuel Lopez

### ETSN Trainers / Peer facilitators (2012):

Alex Ciro Bisignano  
Alan Li  
Christian Hui  
Claudette Samuels  
Derek Yee  
Emmanuel Ndyababo  
Fatima Barry  
Faiz Elsoni  
Francisco Corroy Moral  
Henry Luyombya  
Josephine Wong  
Keith Wong  
Lena Soje  
Marvelous Muchenje  
Medys Kihembo  
Paulina Tshuma  
Tim McCaskell

### Legacy Project Advisory Committee/Volunteers:

Alan Li  
Anna Demetrakopoulos  
Bridget Young  
Christian Hui  
Claudette Samuels  
Ed Argo  
Eric Peters  
Francisco Corroy Moral  
Keith Wong  
Mark Fisher  
Mark Byles  
Ted Kloosterman

### Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Advisory Committee

Anda Li  
Andre Ceranto  
Atiba Lopez  
Mikiki Hickey  
Mara Brotman  
Thomas Mbugua (until October 2012)  
Rene Lopez  
Sandra Chu

### Staff List:

*Program Coordinator*  
Maureen Owino  
*Legacy Project Coordinator*  
Derek Yee (until July 2012)  
Gorata Komane  
*Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion project Coordinator*  
Godelive Ndayikengurukiye  
*Newcomer Sexual Health Promotion Project Program Assistants*  
Alex Ciro Bisignano  
Christian Hui  
Dale Maitland  
Rose Kangabe  
*CHAMP Research Project Coordinator*  
Henry Luyombya  
*CHAMP Peer Research Associates*  
Alex Ciro Bisignano  
Christian Hui  
Dale Maitland  
Faith Luyombya (until December 2011)  
Francisco Corroy Moral (until October 2012)  
Kenneth Poon  
*CHAMP Student Research Assistants*  
Chandi Chandrashekar  
Jennifer Ho  
*Student Placement:*  
Arron Maynard (until April 2012)

## 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  
Ontario HIV Treatment Network

