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Interagency  
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and Development



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# **Strategic Approaches in Addressing HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Populations**

**A Jointly Sponsored Event**

**Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network &  
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development**

**Annual General Meetings 2005  
& Skills Building Workshops**

*Montreal, 9 – 11 September 2005  
Crowne Plaza – Montreal Centre, 505 Sherbrooke Street East*

**Final Program**

# Final Program:

TIME	Friday, September 9, 2005	Saturday, September 10, 2005	TIME	Sunday, September 11, 2005
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Registration <i>Hallway - outside Vangogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>	Registration Continued <i>Hallway - outside Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>		
9:00 am – 10:30 am	ICAD Workshop: "Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective" <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	ICAD AGM <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	9:00 am – 10:45 am	ICAD "Strategic Planning Process Feedback Session" <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>
	Legal Network Workshop: "Nothing about us without us: Greater involvement of people who use illicit drugs – an ethical and human rights imperative" <i>Van Gogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>			Legal Network Workshop "Model Legislation" <i>Gagnon Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break <i>Hallway - outside Vangogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>	Break <i>Hallway - outside Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break <i>Hallway - outside Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	ICAD Workshop Continued <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	ICAD AGM <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Closing Presentation <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>
	Legal Network Workshop Continued <i>Van Gogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>			
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch (not provided)	Lunch (not provided)		
1:15 pm – 2:45 pm	ICAD Workshop Continued <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	Legal Network AGM <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>		
	Legal Network Workshop "Rights Now   Canadian and International Perspectives on the Health and Human Rights of Sex Workers" <i>Van Gogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>			
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break <i>Hallway - outside Vangogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>	Break <i>Hallway - outside Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>		
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	ICAD Workshop Continued <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>	Legal Network AGM Continued <i>Riopelle Mtg Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</i>		
	Legal Network Workshop Continued <i>Van Gogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>			
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Free time – a cash bar will be open outside of Vangogh/Renoir	Free time		
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Opening dinner, Key Note address and Presentation of Awards <i>Van Gogh/Renoir Mtg Room (Mezzanine)</i>			

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK  
SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

***“Nothing about us without us: Greater involvement of people who use illicit drugs – an ethical and human rights imperative”***

**Presenters / Facilitators:**

**Ralf Jürgens, Consultant**  
**Gregory Liang, VANDU volunteer**  
**Ann Livingston, VANDU**  
**Darlène Palmer, CACTUS**

The workshop examines how to increase meaningful involvement of people who use illicit drugs in the response to HIV/AIDS and HCV, and why it is important to do so. It explores what is meant by greater involvement of people who use drugs in the response to HIV/AIDS and HCV at community and government level; why it is so important to involve people who use drugs, including ethical and human rights imperatives; and challenges to implementing greater involvement, and ways to overcome them. It reviews positive experiences and lessons learned; research on the benefits of greater involvement; and suggests additional readings.

A mix of short presentations, small group work, and discussion with the workshop facilitators (who come from a variety of backgrounds including front-line service provider, researcher, user activist, legal expert) will enhance the learning experience. In addition, participants will receive short written materials with further readings that will allow them to deepen their understanding after the workshop.

*This workshop will be delivered in French and English.*

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**INTERAGENCY COALITION ON AIDS AND DEVELOPMENT  
SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

***“Addressing HIV/AIDS from a gender perspective”***

**Presenters / Facilitators:**

**Juanita Altenberg**, *Executive Director of Stichting Maxi Linder Association, an NGO working with sex workers in Suriname*

**Sara Austin**, *Policy Analyst on HIV/AIDS with World Vision Canada*

**Marie-Hélène Bonin**, *(Moderator), National Representative (Africa) for the International Department, Canadian Labour Congress, and ICAD Board Member*

**Jacqueline Gahagan**, *Associate Professor at the School of Health & Human Performance, Dalhousie University*

**Françoise Nduwimana**, *Consultant; Member of the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations*

**Nicolas Vonarx**, *Consultant; Working with Centre de cooperation internationale en santé et développement (CCISD)*

Adopting a gender perspective is now generally considered as the most effective way to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, what does this really mean in practice -- and even in theory?

Through panel presentations, plenary exchanges and small group discussions, this one-day workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to learn how gender and AIDS are related. The workshop will also help define how a "gender perspective on HIV/AIDS" can be operationalised in policy and programming, and will include discussions on Canadian organizations' best practices in their domestic and international work.

*This workshop will be delivered in French and English.*

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**1:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK  
SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

***“Rights Now ! Canadian and International Perspectives on  
the Health and Human Rights of Sex Workers”***

**Presenters / Facilitators:**

**Joanne Csete**, *Executive Director, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network*

**Glenn Betteridge**, *Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network*

Both in Canada and internationally, the HIV epidemic has had a negative impact on the health and human rights of sex workers. The portrayal of sex workers as “vectors of transmission” of HIV has served to increase the social marginalization, stigmatization, discrimination and violence faced by sex workers. This situation is intensified for sex workers living with HIV. Laws and policies that criminalize sex work encourage human rights abuses and poor health among sex workers. On the other hand, decriminalization and anti-discriminatory measures have been effective in improving the health and working conditions of sex workers. Programs of, by and for sex workers have proven especially effective.

The workshop will examine recent international experiences of sex worker organizing, including the experience of the VAMP collective from India. Important recommendations for programs and other action that promote the health and human rights of sex workers in the context of the HIV epidemic will be presented. The workshop will also look at the public health and human rights rationales for the repeal of the Canadian Criminal Code provisions relating to prostitution. In this regard, the workshop will draw on the Legal Network’s recently released report *Rights now: Reforming Canadian criminal laws on prostitution*.

*This workshop will be delivered in French and English.*

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

***Opening Dinner & Plenary  
“Strategic Approaches in Addressing HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Populations”***

After the official welcome to the Legal Network and ICAD's 2005 AGM and Skills Building Workshops, Juanita Altenberg, Executive Director, Stichting Maxi Linder Association (SMLA), Paramaribo, Suriname will give the keynote address. She will speak about her work with male and female commercial sex workers in Suriname focusing on how Stichting Maxi Linder Association applies a human rights framework and reporting on successful interventions.

This will be followed by the announcement of the Canadian and international recipients of the "Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights" awards established in 2002 by the Legal Network and Human Rights Watch. The award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to addressing HIV/AIDS and human rights issues. Both recipients will address the audience and talk about their inspiring work.

**Program will include:**

**6:45 p.m. Words of Welcome:**  
**Kevin Midbo**, *President, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network*  
**San Patten**, *President, Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development*

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:**  
**Dr. Robert Carr**, *Member of the Board of the Legal Network; Co-convener of the Coalition of Vulnerable Communities of the Caribbean, former Executive Director Jamaica AIDS Support*

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Juanita Altenberg**, *Executive Director, Stichting Maxi Linder Association, Suriname*

**Presentation of Awards:**  
**Jonathan Cohen**, *Human Rights Watch*

**8:30 p.m. Closing Words:** Board Presidents

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Sunday, 11 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK  
SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

***“Model Legislation”***

**Presenters / Facilitators:**

**Richard Pearshouse**, *Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network*

Legislation can be instrumental in impeding or promoting initiatives to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. While a large number of countries have passed general HIV/AIDS laws, model legislation on HIV/AIDS does not exist. Almost without exception, general HIV/AIDS laws ignore crucial issues - and human rights abuses - that perpetuate the epidemic. International human rights treaties and standards provide an indispensable framework for empowering those who are marginalized and whose rights are at particular risk in the HIV epidemic. The Legal Network's model legislation project draws together international human rights law and laws that represent best legislative practice as the basis for developing model laws on two sets of issues frequently ignored by legislatures: (a) a legal framework that enables harm reduction approaches respectful of the rights of injecting drug users; and (b) a legal framework so as to respect, protect and fulfill women's rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. These model laws are intended as an advocacy resource for developing countries and countries in transition. Our current focus for the first stage of the project is on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union for drug policy laws and sub-Saharan Africa for women's rights in law. The project will involve extensive partnerships with grass-roots civil society activists. It is hoped that such partnerships may generate the momentum required to realize the potential of a human rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS legislation.

*This workshop will be delivered in French and English.*

# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Sunday, 11 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**INTERAGENCY COALITION ON AIDS AND DEVELOPMENT  
SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

***“Strategic Planning Process Feedback Session”***

**Presenters / Facilitators:**

**Le-Ann Dolan**, *Director of Community Services, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, and ICAD Board Member*

**Sian FitzGerald**, *Executive Director of PATH Canada, and ICAD Board Member*

Throughout 2005, with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, ICAD has been involved in the development and implementation of a strategic planning process which focuses on ICAD's niche, strategic directions and programming priorities for the next five years. This workshop will provide ICAD members with the opportunity of discussing the results of the members' survey, the environmental scan highlighting opportunities and challenges for the organization over the short, medium and long-term, and the proposed strategic directions. It will also provide an update on the broader HIV/AIDS Voluntary Sector Strategic Planning Process, in which all the Canadian HIV/AIDS National Partners have been involved.

*This workshop will be delivered in French and English.*



# DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Sunday, 11 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## ***“Closing Presentation”***

The theme of the joint Legal Network and ICAD AGM has been strategic approaches in addressing HIV/AIDS and vulnerable populations. The three workshops on the greater involvement of people who use drugs, the human rights of sex workers and the development of a gender perspective on HIV/AIDS all address this theme. The closing plenary will provide an opportunity to report the key observations and recommendations of the workshops. The conclusions from the workshops will be considered in light of the strategy with respect to vulnerable communities outlined by Canada in the Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS. A moderated discussion will focus on steps to be taken to support people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and draw attention to programming gaps and policy priorities.

### **Participants will include:**

***Ida Mukaka***, *Head of Community Outreach*, Lusaka District Antiretroviral Treatment Program, Center for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia.

***Stephanie Nixon***, *Consultant*, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), ICAD Vice President (moderator).

Representatives from each of the three workshops.

A representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **JUANITA ALTENBERG:**

### ***Opening Keynote Speaker***

### ***Workshop on "Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective"***

In October 1994, Stichting Maxi Linder Association (SMLA), a non-profit, non-governmental organization that advocates for the rights of male and female commercial sex workers in Suriname was established. Since then, Juanita Altenberg, one of the founders, has served as the director. The organization is a pioneer in working to create solidarity, foster development, and achieve empowerment among all sex workers. SMLA's mission is to optimize the social, economic, mental and physical health and well-being of commercial sex workers as well as those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Juanita's additional roles within SMLA include health educator, trainer, fieldworker, researcher and host for Peace Corps and Canadian Crossroad International volunteers.

Juanita has had extensive involvement with the National AIDS Program in Suriname, including serving as the Prison Project Coordinator, the Counselling and Testing Coordinator, and the Sex Workers Project Coordinator. She is also a member of Suriname's Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria, a member of the Regional Council of HIV/AIDS Change Agents, a member of the Women's Parliament Forum, Chairperson of the Konmandra ("Come Together") Network, and Board Member of an NGO sheltering sexually abused children. Her past research activities cover topics such as child sex workers, evaluating needs of youth and commercial sex workers, and condom outreach. She has recently conducted a behaviour survey among 250 sex workers and 300 men who have sex with men.

## **SARA AUSTIN:**

### ***Workshop on "Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective"***

Biography will be available at the workshop.

## **GLENN BETTERIDGE:**

### ***Workshop on "Rights Now! Canadian and International Perspectives on the Health and Human Rights of Sex Workers"***

Glenn joined the Legal Network in February 2003. Glenn came to the Network from the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario) where he was a staff lawyer and acting legal director, representing low income people living with HIV/AIDS in housing, income maintenance, disability insurance, and human rights matters. He has also worked with federal and provincial prisoners, and advises AIDS service organizations. Glenn's involvement with HIV & AIDS began in Montreal as a member of the AIDS activist group ACT UP in the late 1980s. While at law school he spent a summer working for Ralf Jürgens researching HIV/AIDS and prison issues for the final report of the Expert Committee on AIDS in Prisons (ECAP). Glenn holds LLB and BCL degrees from the McGill Faculty of Law and is a member of the Ontario Bar.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **ROBERT CARR:**

### ***Opening Plenary "Strategic Approaches in Addressing HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Populations" Introduction of Keynote Speaker***

Robert Carr is executive director of Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS), the country's biggest AIDS service organization and one of the leading organizations in the Caribbean region. JAS provides education, care and support and policy advocacy, including extensive programs for sex workers, prisoners, and young people. Jamaica AIDS Support has done ground-breaking work against homophobia and against numerous forms of stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. He is also co-founder of the Coalition of Vulnerable Communities of the Caribbean, a regional group representing populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Trained in social work and management, he has worked as a counselor and program manager in numerous AIDS programs and services in Jamaica and Trinidad.

## **JOANNE CSETE:**

### ***Workshop on "Rights Now! Canadian and International Perspectives on the Health and Human Rights of Sex Workers"***

Joanne became Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network in November 2004. She came to the Network from Human Rights Watch, where she was Director of the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Program. In that capacity, she oversaw research and advocacy on a wide range of human rights violations related to the AIDS epidemic around the world. From 2001 to 2004, she was a member of the Legal Network's Board of Directors. Joanne was previously Chief of Policy and Programs at the UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi, where she worked on AIDS programs and policies. She lived and worked in Africa for over ten years, focusing mainly on public health and nutrition programs in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton, a Master's degree in Public Health from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Public Health Nutrition from Cornell University.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **JONATHAN COHEN:**

### ***Presentation of Awards***

Jonathan Cohen joined Human Rights Watch in 2002 as a researcher with the organization's HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Program. His research and advocacy focuses on human rights abuses against people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS worldwide. He has conducted field investigations in Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Togo, the Philippines and Thailand, as well as in the United States and Canada. His publications include legal articles about family law, sexual rights and critical legal theory, as well as numerous opinion pieces about international HIV/AIDS law and policy. A Canadian lawyer, Mr. Cohen served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada prior to joining Human Rights Watch. He is a graduate of Yale College, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, where he was co-editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law Review.

## **JACQUELINE GAHAGAN:**

### ***Workshop on "Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective"***

Jacqueline Gahagan, PhD began teaching at Dalhousie University in the fall of 1999 in the School of Health & Human Performance in Health Education/Health Promotion. Dr. Gahagan is also cross-appointed to Community Health & Epidemiology, Nursing, International Development Studies, and Women's Studies. Prior to joining Dalhousie University, she worked in public health in health promotion programming and evaluation related to HIV/HepC prevention, and tobacco use prevention. Jacqueline's research areas include sexual and reproductive health, gender based analyses of HIV/AIDS/Hep C prevention, care, treatment and support programmes and policies, harm reduction, injection drug use, and access to health care resources among socially marginalized populations, in particular, homeless youth. Jacqueline has also been involved in the development and implementation of the Inaugural International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS in Benoni, South Africa with the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the UK. She has recently completed a CIDA-funded project on gender and HIV/AIDS in the agricultural sector in Southern Africa with the Interagency Coalition on AIDS in Development. Dr. Gahagan continues to offer her research skills on income security issues among people living with HIV/AIDS with a variety of stakeholder groups. Jacqueline is currently a Commissioner with the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS, a member of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, a board member with the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association, and a board member with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **RALF JÜRGENS:**

***Workshop on "Nothing About Us Without Us: Greater Involvement of People Who Use Illicit Drugs – An Ethical and Human Rights Imperative"***

Ralf Jürgens is one of the co-founders of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and was its Executive Director from 1998 to 2004. Since then, he has been working as a consultant on HIV/AIDS, health, policy and human rights. Ralf has a Master's Degree in Law from McGill University, and a doctorate in law from the University of Munich.

## **GREGORY LIANG:**

***Workshop on "Nothing About Us Without Us: Greater Involvement of People Who Use Illicit Drugs – An Ethical and Human Rights Imperative"***

Gregory is currently a volunteer and a member of the Executive Board for the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) and a Downtown Eastside of Vancouver resident. He has been very active participating and volunteering with various Downtown Eastside agencies and groups.

## **KEVIN MIDBO:**

***President of Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network***

Kevin Midbo is President of the Network. He has worked in the field of HIV/AIDS since 1988. Kevin is currently working as an organizational development consultant to nonprofit organizations and the public sector. He has held a number of management and leadership positions over the years, including Business Lead for Regional Services (Canadian Cancer Society Alberta), Executive Director (AIDS Calgary), and Chair (Alberta Community Council on HIV). Kevin has also provided community representation to a wide array of community-based and government-led consortia and initiatives over the years. He is particularly interested in international aspects of HIV/AIDS work, in building organizational, advocacy and service capacity among affected communities, and in developing effective partnerships between NGOs, government, and for-profit businesses. Kevin is a registered social worker with a Master of Social Work degree in Community Organization, Management, and Policy. He is currently completing an executive Master of Business Administration degree with a focus on international and multicultural approaches with a consortium of European schools of business.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **IDA MUKAKA:**

### ***“Closing Presentation” Reporting on “Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective”***

Ida Mukaka is the head of community outreach for the Lusaka District Antiretroviral Treatment Program, which is part of the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia. Ida Mukaka has had more experiences in her 34 years – personal and professional – than many have had in a lifetime. She is the widowed mother of three: two daughters born to her, and a son whom she adopted. Her brother, who had contracted HIV, urged her to devote her giving spirit and outgoing nature to the fight against AIDS, and since then, she has worked as a counselor, advocate, teacher, community organizer, and leader in Zambia, bringing hope to the struggle against HIV/AIDS in her country.

## **FRANÇOISE NDUWIMANA:**

### ***Workshop on “Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective”***

Françoise Nduwimana is a historian. She is a lecturer at the Université du Québec en Outaouais, where she teaches “Le développement communautaire comparé”. She also works as a consultant in human rights and international development. In the past, Françoise Nduwimana has served as a policy advisor for the French Médecins Sans Frontières mission to Burundi, and as the program manager for Centre justice et foi, a Jesuit research centre based in Montreal. As part of her initiatives to promote a culture of world peace and justice, Ms. Nduwimana has conducted several campaigns denouncing the impact of armed conflicts on women and children. She has written several articles on the problem of African under-development. She has just published two reports on behalf of Partnership Africa Canada and Rights and Democracy, entitled “African civil society: Prospects for raising awareness on priority issues” (PAC, October 2004), “The right to survive: Sexual Violence, Women and HIV/AIDS” (Rights and Democracy, December 2004).

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **DARLÈNE PALMER:**

### ***Workshop on "Nothing About Us Without Us: Greater Involvement of People Who Use Illicit Drugs – An Ethical and Human Rights Imperative"***

Darlène has been a community worker with CACTUS, a Montreal harm-reduction group that runs a needle exchange and provides support for sex workers since 1995. Since 1996, she has coordinated the Réseau SurvUDI Montréal, a Quebec study on HIV/AIDS and intravenous drug users. From 1995 to 1998, she worked at Stella, a sex-worker drop-in and resource centre in Montreal, and served on the board there from 1995-1999.

Darlène has been a member of the Board of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network since 2004. As a recovering drug addict who has been in recovery for 9 years and a long-time sex worker, Darlène has shared her experience and expertise at harm reduction conferences and AIDS research conferences in Canada and around the world. She is a member of the Health Canada committee on safe injection sites, and a co-author of a report on the feasibility of supervised injection facilities in Montreal, which involved doing community-based research with 250 IDUs. She is working on the upcoming Montreal pilot project, NAOMI (North American Opiate Medication Initiative) and is currently a member of the board of directors of Méta d'Âme, a resource and day centre for current and recovering drug users.

Darlène is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Network's Follow-up Project on Stigma and Discrimination. In 2003, Chatelaïne Magazine voted Darlène a woman-of-the-year for her resilience and her dedicated work toward a better quality of life for intravenous drug users.

## **SAN PATTEN:**

### ***President of Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development***

San Patten completed an MSc. in Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. She worked for AIDS Calgary Awareness Association as Project Leader for two years and for the Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) as their Research Technical Assistant for four years. Currently, San is an independent research and evaluation consultant, focusing on HIV/AIDS issues. San has extensive experience in project planning and management, health research and evaluation, policy development, community-based research and twinning projects, and has provided technical assistance internationally in many of these areas. Her international work experience includes HIV/AIDS projects in India, Mexico, Moldova, Serbia and Cambodia.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS / FACILITATORS

## **RICHARD PEARSHOUSE:**

### ***Workshop on "Model Legislation"***

Richard Pearshouse, Senior Policy Analyst on the research & policy team, began working at the Network in November 2004. Richard moved to Montreal from Dili, East Timor, where he was working as a Legal Advisor to the UN Special Panels for Serious Crimes.

A citizen of Australia and the United Kingdom, he is a graduate in law from the University of Sydney and holds an MA from the International Centre for Peace and Development Studies at the Universitat Jaume I in Spain. Before working for the UN, he was a legal research project officer for an East Timorese human rights NGO and spent several months as a human rights monitor with a Guatemalan human rights NGO. He is the former assistant to the President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission in Australia and interned at the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

## **NICOLAS VONARX:**

### ***Workshop on "Addressing HIV/AIDS from a Gender Perspective"***

Nicolas Vonarx is a medical anthropologist and consultant in the field of international public health. He also holds a State diploma in nursing. In the area of international cooperation, he has worked for a French NGO supporting the organisation of the health system in Haiti. He is currently working with the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Santé et Développement (CCISD) (International Cooperation Centre in Health and Development) where he brings his expertise on the links between AIDS and masculinity, doing training and project evaluation. In addition, he has recently completed a doctorate dissertation in anthropology at Laval University. In this dissertation, he examines Haitian voodoo as a care system and questions the links existing between health and religion.

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