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HIV•AIDS	JURIDIQUE
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NETWORK	VIH•SIDA

*Bringing National and International Law to Bear
in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS*

CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK

WORKPLAN

2005/2006

1 August 2005

INTRODUCTION

The 2005/06 Legal Network workplan groups our activities according to the five main areas of Network activities:

- research, policy development, and advocacy;
- capacity building, community mobilization, and technical support;
- communications;
- organizational planning and development; and
- involvement in external consultation and planning activities.

The Network's national and international activities are integrated. In each of these areas of activity, we work both in Canada and internationally. Our domestic and international activities are closely related and for the most part mutually reinforcing.

In most of the research and policy areas noted in the first part of the report, the Legal Network has a vast body of previous work on which to build. Our full body of past work is not described in detail here, but all of our reports and other documents, press statements and info sheets can be found on the Network's web site, www.aidslaw.ca.

Area 1: Research, policy development and advocacy

Objectives

- to undertake in-depth, authoritative, and up-to-date research and analysis of high priority legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS in Canada and internationally;
- to raise awareness about these issues;
- to stimulate informed and rigorous discussion among stakeholders concerning these issues;
- to involve other stakeholders in addressing these issues;
- to contribute to the development of sound, rights-based policy responses to these issues.

1.1 Promoting a rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

- A three-year project since 2002 on a rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS in Canada resulted in numerous documents and guidelines, including a guide to an audit of compliance with the UN International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights and a detailed description of anti-discrimination legislation in Canada and how to make use of it.
- The Network reviewed for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) international policies and practices related to applying rights-based principles to development programming and wrote a guide for CIDA personnel on incorporating these into Canadian development efforts.
- With Human Rights Watch, the Network has continued since 2002 to grant Canadian and international Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

Activities in 2005/06

- Finalize and publish info sheets presenting case studies analyzing instances of infringement of human rights in Canada linked to HIV/AIDS, with human rights analysis and showing what a rights-based approach would entail.
- Publish a short paper on assessing compliance with the UN International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS, including lessons learned from the process of such assessment.
- Continue the annual Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

In 2005/06, we will seek funding for a new project, in partnership with AIDS Calgary and drawing on the experience of their Equality Project, to build capacity of local ASOs on human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. This project may take the form of a training institute in which the Legal Network would give ASO staff the tools to conduct human rights-based advocacy, education and information activities. This training may be combined in some locations with an assessment of legal support available for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness in Canada, among people living with HIV/AIDS, community-based organizations, policy-makers, decision-makers, and the media of: (1) the link between health and human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS, (2) the importance of the adoption of a rights-based approach, and (3) the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.
- Increased capacity of AIDS service organizations and other service-providers to promote human rights-based approaches and give advice on use of human rights mechanisms.
- Outstanding human rights-centred work on HIV/AIDS in Canada and abroad is recognized, and the awards provide an occasion for raising rights-related HIV/AIDS issues with the media in Canada and internationally.
- Network's work contributes to the development of a sound policy response to HIV/AIDS.

1.2 HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination

Highlights of past activities

As part of three-year project to spur action in Canada against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, we launched a Plan of Action Against Stigma and Discrimination in January 2005 in seven locations across Canada, including a post card campaign directed at the prime minister. Based on a human rights analysis, the plan highlights the responsibility of government at all levels to lead both by example and by rigorous application of anti-discrimination laws and measures to reduce stigma. The plan includes actions designed to ensure the meaningful participation of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS in public policy that concerns them; encourage government leaders to show greater public support for the rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS; ensure more active and better informed media coverage of HIV/AIDS-related issues; engender support for peer-based programs; and strengthen human rights mechanisms in Canada to which people living with HIV/AIDS turn when their rights are violated.

Activities in 2005/06

Follow-up to the launch of the plan will include continued advocacy at all levels of government for implementation of the main points of the Plan of Action and responding to requests of AIDS service organizations and others for technical support and advice. Elements of the stigma and discrimination action plan will figure prominently in the training of ASO human rights workers if funding is secured for the project noted in 1.1 above.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness among policy makers and the public about the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS-related discrimination;
- More informed and rigorous discussion among stakeholders concerning HIV/AIDS and stigma and discrimination;
- Increased involvement of other stakeholders in addressing these issues;
- Rights-based policy responses to HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

1.3 Sex work and HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

Responding to membership views on the need for work on criminalization of sex work as an emerging issue, the Network did extensive preparatory work on the law regulating sex work in Canada, conducted interviews with sex workers and other key informants and strategized with key partners about how best to use a rights-based analysis of the prostitution laws. Interviews with Aboriginal sex workers were conducted in Montreal in early 2005. In addition, at the end of the last fiscal year in March 2005, Glenn Betteridge of the Legal Network testified before the Parliamentary Subcommittee on the Solicitation Laws of the Standing Committee on Justice.

Activities in 2005/06

- We will publish a report, info sheets and a plain-language booklet on the legal and human rights issues related to sex work and HIV/AIDS in Canada, examining how Canada's criminalization of prostitution-related activities affects vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and recommending reforms that would respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of persons living with or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. We plan to release the report at a strategic moment in the work on the Parliamentary subcommittee to maximize press impact. We will continue advocacy during the year toward the adoption of the report's recommendations.
- Glenn Betteridge participated in May 2005 as a rapporteur in the XXX Forum, an international conference of sex workers organized by Stella in Montreal.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness and education among identified target audiences about legal and human rights issues related to sex work and HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- Network's work contributes to the development of sound policy responses that respect the rights of sex workers and facilitate prevention, care, treatment, and support.

1.4 HIV/AIDS in prisons

Highlights of past activities

- The Network has produced a comprehensive body of work over the years on HIV/AIDS in prisons, with attention to harm reduction and other HIV/AIDS-related services, for national and international audiences, including a “report card” on harm reduction in Canadian prisons in 2002. The Legal Network also produced in 2004 the first global report on needle exchange in prison, which has been translated into French, Russian, Chinese and Czech.
- The Network undertook in 2003 a major multi-year project to provide technical assistance to prison services in eastern Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union. The Network was instrumental in helping to secure an agreement with the new government of Ukraine for pilot needle exchange programs in two prisons.
- We conducted the only satellite on prison and HIV/AIDS issues at Bangkok International AIDS Conference in July 2004.
- We helped secure the Minister of Health’s support of prison needle exchange in Canada, as expressed publicly on World AIDS Day 2004.

Activities in 2005/06

- Follow-up to Legal Network’s 2004 report on needle exchange programs in prisons, including advocacy with federal and provincial corrections officials in Canada. This includes continued coordination of the Canadian Prison HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Research and Advocacy Consortium.
- Continuation of two-year project on advancing the right to health of prisoners focusing on: (1) prisoners’ access to treatment equivalent to that available outside prison; a short paper will be prepared based on consultation with prisoners as well as with prison medical staff and public health officials, including an analysis of the legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised and recommendations for government; (2) an update of the 2002 survey of provision of harm reduction measures in Canadian prisons in collaboration with the Prisoners HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN) to be published as a “report card”.
- Continuation of the Network’s project to provide technical assistance to prison projects in eastern Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union. With support of the International Harm Reduction Development Program of the Open Society Institute, we will provide technical support to new needle exchange activities in Ukrainian prisons and advocacy toward prison needle exchange in Tajikistan and perhaps one other country. We will conduct a regional meeting on harm reduction in prison and adapt and translate more of the Network’s prison materials for use in Russian-speaking countries.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness and education among identified target audiences about HIV/AIDS in prison issues;
- Network’s work contributes to the development of sound policy responses in Canada and abroad that respect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by the disease, and facilitate prevention, care, treatment, and support efforts in prisons.

1.5 Injection drug use and HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

- The Network has produced an enormous body of Canada-focused and international work on human rights and harm reduction, including a overview paper prepared for Bangkok International AIDS Conference, where the Legal Network conducted a satellite meeting on harm reduction and prisons.
- In 2004/05, the Network undertook a project on greater involvement of drug users in work on HIV/AIDS with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and CACTUS-Montreal. The Network will soon release a short, easy-to-use resource about the importance, from a human rights, ethical, and practical perspective, of meaningfully involving drug users in the work of community-based HIV/AIDS organizations.

Activities in 2005/06

- We will publish and disseminate widely a literature review on involvement of drug users in HIV/AIDS policy and programs, a paper on enhancing meaningful involvement of drug users in HIV/AIDS work resulting from consultations with drug users and service-providers, related information sheets, a drug user manifesto resulting from the project, and an evaluation instrument for ASOs and other organizations. Follow-up will include advocacy on recommendations and promote the use of the tool among organizations providing services related to drug use.
- As part of a project that will extend to September 2006, the Network will conduct legal and human rights analysis of three categories of barriers to harm reduction measures for people who inject drugs, including (1) the effects of police actions and other law enforcement on access to and coverage of harm reduction programs, (2) access to and coverage of safe injection facilities with a focus on the issue of assisted injection, and (3) access to and coverage of needle exchange programs. An advisory group for these analyses will represent all relevant stakeholders and help guide the research. Short reports and information sheets will be produced. The first component will include the Legal Network's continuing advocacy as part of a coalition of organizations in Montreal that are seeking to reduce police harassment of drug users near needle exchange points in the centre city (work undertaken with CACTUS-Montreal and other organizations).
- We are seeking funding to develop research and advocacy tools with the goal of improving United Nations policies and programs related to persons who use drugs and their human rights. These would include: (1) a legal and human rights analysis of the "independent, quasi-judicial" International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) whose secretariat is located in the UN and whose policies have undermined harm reduction in many ways; (2) a review of ways in which human rights standards should be taken into account in protocols for treatment of drug addiction; (3) advocacy intended to get recognition from UN bodies of the vulnerability of persons who use drugs to a wide range of human rights abuses; and (4) an analysis of legal implications of WHO's inclusion of methadone on the Essential Drug List.

Outcomes

- Increased awareness and education among identified target audiences about the legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS and people who use drugs and especially

barriers they face to harm reduction services;

- Network's work contributes to the development of sound policy responses that respect the rights of people who inject drugs and people living with HIV/AIDS and facilitate prevention, care, treatment, and support efforts for people who inject drugs.

1.6 Criminal law and HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

- The Legal Network has been an authoritative voice on criminalization of HIV/AIDS exposure and transmission in Canada and abroad, having produced many widely used materials on the *Cuerrier* decision of 1998. It has also produced materials for a global audience, including a key paper on the subject for UNAIDS that has been widely cited.
- The Network has monitored and given technical support in the case of a woman charged and incarcerated in Ontario for non-disclosure of her HIV status before having sex with a soldier on the military base in Barrie.

Activities in 2005/06

- Update and publication of info sheets on criminal law and HIV/AIDS.
- Continued monitoring and support for the Barrie case. Press statement, monitoring and technical support in the case of a Hamilton, Ontario woman charged with assault for non-disclosure of her HIV-positive status at the time of the birth of her child and for subsequent breastfeeding of the child.

Outcomes

- Increased awareness and education about the legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to the criminalization of HIV transmission, including among practicing lawyers;
- Increased attention in the public domain to the specific consequences of the 1998 *Cuerrier* decision.

1.7 Global access to treatment

Highlights of past activities

In the last two years, the Legal Network played a leading role in the successful effort to amend Canada's Patent Act as a response to a World Trade Organization decision regarding the use of compulsory licensing to authorize the manufacture and export of generic medicines to countries lacking sufficient pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. The act in question, the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act of 2004 (Bill C-9), finally came into force in May 2005. Richard Elliott spearheaded the Network's efforts, as part of the Global Treatment Action Group (GTAG), a coalition of Canadian civil society organizations, that kept up pressure to make the bill a reality.

Activities in 2005/06

The Legal Network will continue to work with GTAG to guide advocacy related to the implementation of Bill C-9 through the process of development, approval and marketing of generic products suitable for use in low-resource countries. This will require answering technical inquiries and following the implementation of regulations and approval processes. In addition,

the Legal Network will publish two articles on the C-9 process and its meaning for global treatment access.

Outcomes

- Eventual flow of affordable medicines to low-resource countries as envisioned by the August 2003 World Trade Organization decision on public health and intellectual property.
- Increased collaboration on international treatment access issues, increased capacity to address these issues among Canadian organizations and activists, and sharing of Network resources and expertise in this area.

1.8 HIV vaccines and human rights

Highlights of past activities

- The Network has published many analyses of ethical, legal and human rights issues raised by HIV vaccines and vaccine trials.
- The Network produced resource materials examining the important areas for joint advocacy and collaboration between microbicide, treatment and vaccine activists (“MTV advocacy”).
- We have been part of the round-table working on the development of a Canadian HIV Vaccine Plan.

Activities in 2004/2005

- Finalize, translate into several languages and disseminate info sheets on HIV vaccines and human rights, intended to assist communities in places where vaccine trials are planned or occurring (activity supported by UNAIDS, WHO and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative).
- Continue to work in partnership with the Canadian AIDS Society and others to provide input into the development of the Canadian HIV Vaccine Plan.

Expected outcomes

- Communities where vaccine trials take place are equipped with user-friendly information about their rights and suggestions for mechanisms to secure respect for their rights.
- Human rights issues are central to the development of the Canadian HIV Vaccine Plan.

1.9 Disability and income security

Highlights of past activities

The Network conducted a national workshop on HIV/AIDS and disability insurance and formulated recommendations on ways in which provincial and federal laws could be improved to enhance disability insurance coverage for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Activities in 2005/06

- A briefing of members of Parliament and legislative staff members on HIV/AIDS and episodic disability was conducted in May 2005 in collaboration with the Canadian Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Rehabilitation (CWGHR), Canadian AIDS Society, Multiple Sclerosis Society, and other organizations. Members of Parliament and their staff were given

the organizations' Common Agenda on Disability, Full Participation and Work. The Network will continue to support advocacy of points on the Common Agenda.

- The Network's full report and info sheets on HIV/AIDS and disability protections and benefits will be finalized and published.

Outcomes

- Increased awareness and education among policy-makers and the public about the legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to the government income replacement programs and private disability insurance relied upon by significant numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- Network contributes to an awareness of the need for, and the development of, sound legislative and policy responses that increase the well-being and human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

1.10 Women and HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

The Network's extensive work on drug use, Aboriginal communities and HIV/AIDS, criminalization of HIV/AIDS transmission and exposure, and prison issues has highlighted the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and the HIV/AIDS risk that women face. The Network participated in the National Conference on Women and HIV/AIDS in 2000 and follow-up activities. In subsequent years, it engaged with women leaders and women's organizations to identify key legal and human rights challenges faced by women living with HIV/AIDS in Canada and those who are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

Activities in 2005/06

- The Network joined the Blueprint for Action on HIV and Women in Canada at its inaugural meeting in April 2005. Network staff will continue to serve on the communications committee and the legal and human rights committee of the Blueprint as it seeks to influence the gender-related content of the presentations at the Toronto International AIDS Conference in August 2006.
- The Network will publish an overview paper on women's human rights and HIV/AIDS in Canada, with a particular focus on women's access to treatment, care, participation in research projects, and support; challenges faced by women sex workers, women in prison, women who use drugs, women from countries where HIV/AIDS is endemic, and Aboriginal women. We hope the paper will be useful as a reference document for the Blueprint for Action. It will be distributed widely to service organizations and policy-makers.

Expected outcomes

- Important legal/policy issues for women living with and affected by HIV/AIDS are identified, analyzed from a human rights perspective, and brought to the attention of policy-makers and other stakeholders.
- The Network's work in this area contributes to the development of sound policy responses as well as improved women-centred content of the International AIDS Conference.

1.11 HIV testing

Highlights of past activities

- The Network has produced a large body of work on HIV testing and confidentiality, including some of the most widely used works on HIV testing and confidentiality in Canada, has looked at issues of particular concern to Aboriginal people in relation to HIV testing and confidentiality, has analyzed the human rights implications of routine or “opt-out” HIV testing for pregnant women, and has produced a detailed analysis of the issues that must be considered in regulating and using “rapid tests”.
- In 2000, the Network successfully spearheaded efforts to prevent passage of the federal “Blood Samples Act” (Bill C-217) that would have amended the Criminal Code to authorize forced HIV testing following cases of occupational exposure and imposed criminal penalties for non-compliance. Unfortunately, similar legislation, under public health laws, has now been passed at the provincial level in a number of jurisdictions, and there is a need to respond before this spreads further.
- The Network worked in 2004 with local organizations in Québec to combat mandatory testing in the Catholic Church, the police department and a hospital.

Activities in 2005/06

- With the Canadian Public Health Association, the Network has undertaken a project to identify legal and policy approaches that can increase HIV testing in a manner that respects and protects human rights. Following extensive consultation with health professionals, persons living with HIV/AIDS and other stakeholders, a paper and info sheets with recommendations for protecting human rights in the context of HIV testing will be produced, and a communications strategy for be formulated and implemented. This work will continue through September 2006.
- As the Network’s focus on a “new and emerging issue,” we will analyze pending legislation and proposed regulations in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan that would authorize forced testing for HIV and other diseases in some cases of occupational and non-occupational exposure. Some proposed legislative changes appear to fly in the face of what is understood about universal precautions and the best-practice principles of voluntary testing with informed consent. Submissions to provincial legislatures will be prepared, as well as a human rights analysis and an advocacy guide for ASOs, people living with HIV/AIDS and other stakeholders.
- The Legal Network has participated in the planning of, and will take an active part in, an international meeting on human rights and HIV testing in October 2005 that will bring experts and front-line service providers from around the world to discuss human rights protections in the face of the global momentum in favour of opt-out testing approaches. Collaborating organizations include the Center for Health and Gender Equity, Gay Men’s Health Crisis, and the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Outcomes

- Increased awareness and education among identified target audiences about the legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV testing;
- Discussion of new HIV testing legislation in Canada is informed by human rights principles;

- Engagement of a wide range of actors in advocating for human rights-friendly policies on testing in Canada and abroad.

1.12 Immigration and HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

The Network produced a comprehensive report and led an urgent action campaign on Canadian immigration policy in 2000-2001 following reports that Health Canada had recommended to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) a policy of testing all prospective immigrants for HIV and excluding those who tested positive. The Network's action helped eliminate some of the worst elements of that policy – in particular, HIV-positive persons are not automatically excluded from immigrating. Network materials on the subject are widely consulted, and the Network continues to receive many inquiries on immigration questions.

Activities in 2005/06

The Legal Network provided technical support to the successful effort of the Local Host Committee for the Toronto International AIDS Conference to persuade CIC to change the policy to allow persons living with HIV/AIDS from countries requiring a visa for a short stay to come to Canada for a short period without having to reveal their HIV status. The Legal Network will continue to respond to queries on the subject and to intervene as necessary regarding the implementation of the new policy.

Expected outcomes

- Network's monitoring and technical support contribute to the implementation of policy that respects the rights of people living with or at risk of HIV;
- Canada's action on short-stay immigration influences other countries that may host international HIV/AIDS conferences.

1.13 HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review

Highlights of past activities

The *HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review* is a widely used and widely respected resource for information on legal, ethical and human rights aspects of HIV/AIDS in Canada and beyond.

Activities in 2005/06

- The Legal Network plans to enter into a partnership with the HIV/AIDS Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) whereby the ABA will assist in expanding the *Review's* coverage of legal and human rights developments related to HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and will promote the *Review* to U.S.-based law libraries and practicing lawyers.
- The Legal Network and the ABA will establish an editorial board of eminent scholars and advocates for the *Review*. The editorial board will oversee an experiment in peer review of key articles in the *Review* beginning with the 2006 issues.
- Three issues of the *Review* will be published during the year, including in-depth and news articles covering a wide range of compelling topics.

Outcomes

- Greater access to regular, well researched, topical, and up-to-date coverage, accessible to a wide range of readers, of policy and legal developments related to HIV/AIDS;
- Greater awareness among target audiences about these issues;
- Increased dissemination of the *Review* to appropriate audiences.

1.14 Developing model legislation on HIV/AIDS

Highlights of past activities

The Legal Network produced a background paper for UNAIDS that identified the need for model legislation on HIV/AIDS, risks and criticisms of model legislation (and how they can be addressed), and a process for the development of model legislation. UNAIDS was unable to continue funding this project through to development of model legislation, but support was found from the International Affairs Directorate of Health Canada, the John M. Lloyd Foundation, the Hilda Mullen Foundation and the International Harm Reduction Development Program of the Open Society Institute. It was decided to develop options-based model legislation in two important areas related to HIV/AIDS – laws related to illicit drug use and laws related to women’s human rights. Global advisory committees were established for the two areas, and the committees reviewed a draft plan for the development of model laws.

Activities in 2005/06

- Options-based model legislation will be drafted in the two chosen areas. It will be reviewed by the existing advisory committees as well as in two expert meetings (one in the former Soviet Union for drug law and one in Africa for women’s rights). The model legislation tool with accompanying advocacy guide will be finalized, translated and disseminated widely to policy-makers, advocates and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Funding is being sought to support intensive technical support for legislative advocacy in two countries for drug-related legal reform and two countries for legal protections of women’s rights. When funding is secured, the Legal Network will work with national advocacy networks on well defined elements of legislative development or reform toward the goal of improved laws in these two areas.
- Key elements of the model legislation will be presented at international meetings and in skills-building workshops in Canada.

Area 2: Capacity building, community mobilization and technical support

Objectives

- to facilitate collaboration and access to resources and expertise in the area of legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS;
- to facilitate the involvement of other players, assist them in their efforts, and ensure that efforts in the area of legal, ethical and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS will be collaborative and will complement each other;
- to build capacity and skills of members, partners, and others to respond to legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Background

There are three main components to the Network's work in this area: (1) activities to build capacity of community-based organizations and individuals in Canada to respond to legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS; (2) activities to build capacity among the legal profession (in particular, law students and law faculties) in Canada to respond to legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS; and (3) activities to provide technical support to organizations outside Canada, to respond to legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

2.1 Capacity-building of community-based organizations in Canada

Activities

We will continue undertaking a variety of activities in Canada to build the capacity of community-based organizations and individuals to respond to pressing legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS. This includes:

- maintaining a listserv to facilitate exchange of information among members of the Network and all those working on or interested in legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in Canada;
- maintaining the Network's resource centre, updating it, making its database available on the Network's website, and responding to requests for access to resources from members, partners, other organizations, and the public;
- organizing skills-building workshops at the Network's Annual General Meeting;
- participating in preparations for the next Canadian Skills Building Symposium and participating in the symposium.

As noted in point 1.1 above, we will also seek funding this year for a project to build capacity of local ASOs on human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Outcomes

- increased sharing of information among the membership and all those interested in and/or working on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS;
- strengthened connections and working relationships among existing and potential partners in the legal, ethical, and human rights component of the Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS;
- a strong focus on legal, ethical, and human rights issues at the Canadian Skills Building Symposium.

2.2 Building capacity in the legal profession in Canada

Activities in 2005/06

- We will continue to update and refine the law school course modules on HIV/AIDS and the law and are hopeful that they will be used, at least in part, in a law school setting in Canada during the year. We are seeking funds to enable a detailed evaluation of the modules and their possible adaptation for use outside Canada.
- In summer 2005, we continued to work with individual law students through internships, in partnership with McGill Faculty of Law Legal Clinic, Pro Bono Students Canada, and the

University of Toronto Law School.

- We continue to distribute resources and provide follow-up support to law professors and lecturers, law students, law libraries, and practicing lawyers.
- We will speak at law schools as invited, including at Queen's University in September 2005.

Outcomes

- Continued awareness of the Network and HIV/AIDS-related legal, ethical and human rights issues among practicing lawyers, law faculty and law students in Canada;
- Increased knowledge about, and capacity to address, legal, ethical, and human rights issues among practicing lawyers, law faculty, and law students in Canada.

2.3 Providing technical support to organizations internationally

2.3.1 CIDA Partnership Branch – Kenya and Zambia

The Legal Network's multi-year CIDA-funded technical and financial support to professional legal associations in Kenya (the Kenya Network on Ethics, Law and HIV or KELIN) and Zambia (the Zambia AIDS-Law Research and Advocacy Network or ZARAN) was extended to September 2005. The Network hosted the communications director of ZARAN in Montreal in June 2005, and in May the Network provided in-country support for ZARAN's work on HIV/AIDS and prisons, a new area for the organization. The Legal Network will keep in regular contact with the two organizations and continue to assist from afar as resources allow.

Outcomes

This partnership has increased the capacity of ZARAN's and ZELIN's members and other legal professionals and government partners in Kenya and Zambia to address HIV/AIDS-related legal, ethical and human rights issues. It has helped to establish a stronger technical foundation for the future work of these young organizations and put them in contact with partners who can continue to be helpful to them in their work. The Legal Network also learned a great deal about the priority issues and the challenges facing our partners in Africa.

2.3.2 Implementing the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS

With funding from CIDA, the multilateral Caribbean Community or CARICOM is implementing a regional program of activities to address HIV/AIDS-related legal, ethical and human rights issues in countries in the region. In April 2002, the Legal Network was contracted by CARICOM to provide technical support in the design of this regional program. The Network has been working since then to provide technical support to this task and will continue this work in 2005/06.

Objective

Support CARICOM to implement the legal and human rights-related provisions of its Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS.

Activities in 2005/06

The Legal Network anticipates providing technical assistance in the following activities:

- Analysis of areas of HIV/AIDS discrimination and development of options-based model policies and legislation
- Review of national legal aid services and their relevance for HIV/AIDS
- Workshops on the development of regional policies and guidelines for law reform, capacity-building workshops for people living with HIV/AIDS on human rights issues, workshops to train legal aid service providers who work with people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, and workshops on rights-based policies for professional associations.

2.3.3 Supporting implementation of harm reduction measures in prisons in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union

As described in point 1.4 above, the Legal Network will continue its support to the corrections service of Ukraine, building on its commitment to implement pilot needle exchange programs in two prisons, and on the interest of the government of Tajikistan in strengthening harm reduction services in prisons. Activities in other countries may be added as opportunities and resources allow.

2.3.4. Laying the groundwork for a global legal network on HIV/AIDS

The Legal Network is seeking funding to launch a global legal network on HIV/AIDS that would be maintained by electronic exchanges, at least at first, and would be a forum for technical assistance and sharing of experience on legal and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS worldwide. Our hope is to launch this network through a meeting of the founding organizations just before the Toronto International AIDS Conference in August 2006. For this year, we will be preparing this inaugural meeting by preparing a background paper and surveying potential members of the network about their successes, challenges and technical support needs. We have applied for funding for both the preparatory activities and the meeting.

Area 3: Communications

Objectives

- to ensure the active exchange of information and resources to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Network ; and
- to ensure that the Network has a strong public profile on legal, ethical, and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS in the media and in other public fora.

In order to achieve these objectives, we will continue these regular activities:

- produce updates for Network members (4 issues of *Network News* and e-mail messages as necessary)
- produce urgent action alerts for members and others;
- undertake mailings of resources to members and others;
- maintain and update our website;
- undertake proactive media and public relations;
- respond to requests for information;
- produce an annual report on our activities; and
- review and update the Network's communications plan;

Of note for this year will be the completion of the translation and dissemination of the UNAIDS-supported CD-ROM of materials on law, ethics and human rights. This excellent tool includes hundreds of documents in four languages that can be searched by key word, subject, author, or country/region. The CD will be widely disseminated worldwide through UNAIDS and also sent to 2,000 law libraries. Thanks to support from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the CD will also be widely distributed to Canadian law schools, lawyers, students and AIDS service organizations. A web-based version will also be available.

The Legal Network will recruit a new director of communications in 2005/06 who will lead a strategic examination of communications activities of the Network and, we hope, bring new ideas for effectively getting our messages to our members and target audiences.

Outcomes

- improved access to information on activities undertaken by the Network and its members and to reports and other products of the Network on legal, ethical, and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS;
- global access to an outstanding CD-based information resource on legal, ethical and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Area 4: Organizational planning and development

4.1 Governance

Basic governance activities will continue during the year, including:

- organizing two in-person Board meetings;
- organizing two Board telephone conferences;
- organizing five Executive Committee telephone conferences;
- organizing the Annual General Meeting with ICAD;
- devising a scholarship/subsidy process to assist delegates to attend the AGM;
- producing delegate materials for the AGM, in both official languages;
- producing the proceedings of the AGM;
- continuing the development of the Network's policies and procedures manual;
- preparing and undertaking a membership drive;
- regularly updating the list of members.

4.2 Strategic planning

Although the Legal Network completed a four-year strategic plan in 2004, the new Federal Initiative provided an occasion for updating and refining our strategic plan. In 2004/05, the board of directors considered the elements of an environmental scan to guide the choice of strategic priorities. The Network also commissioned a consultant to design a survey tool to enable us to hear from AIDS service organizations and legal service organizations about the HIV/AIDS-related legal problems that they encounter day-to-day. In 2005/06, this survey and some additional interviews will be completed and will feed into a draft environmental scan and strategic plan that will then be considered by the Legal Network's membership, board and staff. Two staff members of the Legal Network also attended the annual conference of the Canadian

Association for HIV Research in May 2005 and conducted key informant interviews with members of the research community about their views of HIV/AIDS-related legal and human rights priorities in Canada. The new strategic plan will not be finalized until the completion of the joint voluntary sector strategic plan, an effort of the national HIV/AIDS NGOs working together.

4.3 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are built into all the Network's activities. Most activities are based on project documents that specify evaluation benchmarks against which the Network's activities are measured. Following the current strategic planning exercise toward the end of this fiscal year, the Network's board of directors will take up a reflection on strategies for evaluating and communicating the effectiveness of the Legal Network's work.

4.4 Fundraising and development

The Network is seeking funding from the Open Society Institute for enhanced international work as described above and will continue to seek to diversify its funding base. A grant from the Hilda Mullen Foundation early in the fiscal year will support the model legislation work for much of the year. The Network also raised funds from the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support the October 2005 international meeting on HIV testing and human rights.

4.5 Office maintenance

The decision early in the fiscal year to consolidate the Network's offices into one location in Toronto has entailed intensive office set-up efforts. Although the consolidation of our offices in Toronto in October 2005 will be somewhat disruptive, being in one location will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of all Legal Network activities. The new location also permits sharing of common office services with the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR), which will be located in the same premises in Toronto, and results in a savings in rental costs for the Network.

Area 5: Involvement in External Consultation and Planning Activities

Activities in 2005/06

Network staff will continue to serve on a large number of Canadian and international committees and reference groups. This includes, among many others:

- A Network staff member (R. Elliott) will continue to serve on the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, an advisory group to Canada's Minister of Health (this service is in a personal capacity);
- A Network staff member (J. Csete) will continue to serve on Canada's Global Consultative Group on HIV/AIDS;
- A Network staff member (J. Csete) was part of the Canadian delegation to the UN General Assembly high-level session on HIV/AIDS in June 2005;
- A Network staff member (J. Csete) will serve on the board of directors of HealthGAP, the international treatment advocacy organization, as of January 2006;
- A staff member (R. Elliott) represents the network on the Canadian Treatment Action

Council.

- Richard Elliott also served during the fiscal year on the community advisory board of the planned Toronto site of the NAOMI prescription heroin trial.