



ALBERTA COMMUNITY
COUNCIL ON HIV

Annual Report

2010/2011

*Recognizing that social change is a necessary response to HIV,
the Alberta Community Council on HIV
supports community-based responses and provides provincial
leadership through collective action and a unified voice.*



Our Vision:

*All individuals and communities in Alberta
will have the ability, capacity and desire to
eliminate the harm caused by HIV.*

Special thanks to:

ACCH member agencies and their representatives
Alberta Health and Wellness
ACHF Provincial Population Health Consortium
Public Health Agency of Canada
Our Partners
Our Staff
Our Contractors

**This report is dedicated to the people who work everyday to
prevent the spread of HIV and to support the people,
families, and communities living with it.**

Alberta Community Council on HIV

P.O. Box 4177
Edmonton, AB T6E 4T2
Phone: 780.200-ACCH
Email: info@acch.ca
Website: www.acch.ca

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Message from the Board

Over the past year ACCH has experienced growth, renewal and success. Acting on our vision, and mission, we have continued to monitor, review and refine our policies, procedures and bylaws.

This year saw a renewed level of commitment enhanced by the enthusiasm of new members of the Board of Directors, to further develop our organizational, programmatic and operational goals which will be a focus over the next couple of years.

We continue to engage in dialogue with community partners, Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium, and ASO's in an effort to further develop meaningful strategies to address HIV/AIDS and the needs of our funded agencies. These collaborative efforts ensure that the work of ACCH is sustainable, credible and strong.

All of this work would not have been possible had it not been for the dedication of the Board, and the staff. THANK YOU to each of you for the generous gift of your time, knowledge, wisdom and expertise. Without this valuable contribution we would not be where we are today.

I have enjoyed my past three years on the Board of Directors, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for allowing me this honor of serving you. I look forward to many years of success and continued growth for ACCH in the future under the reins of a new elected Chair. Thank you also to the representatives of Alberta Health and Wellness, Public Health Agency of Canada and the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium, for your support and collaboration.

Sincerely
Brenda Yamkowy
ACCH Chair

2010-2011 ACCH Key Points:

- ⌘ ACCH hosted a successful skills training meeting with membership focusing on working with Aboriginal communities
- ⌘ ACCH developed a Know Your Local ASO Brochure with listings of all our member organizations and the services they provide
- ⌘ ACCH wrote a letter to CARNA regarding their requirement to disclose HIV positive status, their policy has since been changed
- ⌘ ACCH was asked by Alberta Health and Wellness to provide feedback on their draft STI/BBP document and ACCH remains active in implementing the strategy as a community partner.
- ⌘ ACCH has launched our new site. It includes extensive information about our organization, ACHF Funding, our CBR Program as well as regularly updated information on HIV/AIDS news and events.
- ⌘ The ACCH Board had a Strategic Planning Session and through this meeting looked at the ACCH Governance model and how changes within the staffing would affect the model.
- ⌘ From this meeting a new job title was developed: the Executive Director is now the Executive Administrator.

2010-2011 Staff

Faisal Shafiq
Bronwyn Irvine
Julia Bietz

William Sutherland
Kim Mackenzie
Lori Crozier



Message from the Executive Administrator

I am pleased to be a part of a progressive organization that seeks to ensure the strength of the community based HIV/AIDS movement in Alberta. It is only through working together, developing a common vision, and learning from one another, can we harness our collective power to do the most good for our community.

ACCH and its member organizations have weathered much change in the last year, and a great deal has been learned in this process. We must continue to work together; to support a collective voice in Alberta. There are many challenges that lay ahead. Funding, advocacy, access to treatment, Harm Reduction supplies, the changing needs of People living with HIV are only a few of the issues in our community. Together, we can meet them!

I look forward to the coming year and the challenges and rewards it will bring.

Jessica Daniels
ACCH Executive Administrator

Members

**AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society
HIV Society of Southeastern Alberta
HIV Network of Edmonton Society
HIV North Society
HIV West Yellowhead Society
Kairos House
Lethbridge HIV Connection Society
Safeworks
Society Housing AIDS Restricted Persons Foundation
Streetworks
Wood Buffalo HIV & AIDS Society**



ACCH Team

Board Members

Chair	Brenda Yamkowsy, HIV North Society
Past Chair	Debra Jakubec, HIV Edmonton
Vice Chair Evaluation & Research	Raye St. Denys, Shining Mountain Living Community Services
Vice Chair Community Action	Simonne LeBlanc, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
Secretary/Treasurer	Floyd Visser, SHARP Foundation
Member at Large	Andrea Watson, HIV West Yellowhead

Committee Chairs

Community Action	Simonne LeBlanc, AIDS Calgary
HIV Positive	Mark Randall, AIDS Calgary
Research and Evaluation	Andrea Watson, HIV West Yellowhead
Harm Reduction	Jennifer Vanderschaeghe, Central Alberta AIDS Network

Current ACCH Staff

Executive Administrator	Jessica Daniels
Program Assistant/ Bookkeeper	Vacant
Fund Steward	Kim Mackenzie
CBR Coordinator	Faisal Shafiq



ACCH Partners

ACCH Member Organizations

ACHF Provincial Population Health Consortium

Alberta Advisory Committee on HIV and STIs

Alberta Community Planning Committees

Alberta Health and Wellness

Alberta Housing Coalition

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)

Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

Calgary STD Clinic

Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)

Canadian UNGASS Network

Edmonton STD Clinic

Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)

Health Canada - First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

National Harm Reduction Conference Committee

Northern Alberta HIV Clinic

Public Health Agency of Canada

Southern Alberta HIV Clinic



Community-Based Research Program

Community Based Research Facilitator Project 2010-2011

The Alberta Community Based HIV/AIDS Research Program generates new opportunities in Alberta. With funding support from Canadian Health Research Institute (CIHR) and in close collaboration with communities, organizations and researchers; ACCH work to support AIDS Service Organization (ASO's) in undertaking HIV/AIDS research to achieve their policy, program and service delivery goals; strengthen their skills to undertake and produce HIV/AIDS community based research. Research that is relevant, respectful and methodologically sound.

During this reporting period the CBR Coordinator continued to provide support to ACCH members and other organizations. Guided members in planning, designing and conducting CBR projects, advised ACCH member organizations in developing various research instruments as well as preparing applications for ethics review, established strong working relationships with academic researchers in order to ensure community university partnership and facilitated ACCH members and key stakeholders in disseminating research knowledge and proposal development and facilitated collaborations. Few of the Key activities undertaken during the period under report are as follows:

⌘ Community Based Research and Evaluation (CBR & E) Training:

A one-day capacity building workshop on CBR& E was conducted in Edmonton during the month of October 2010, which was participated in by representatives from ACCH's 13 member organizations, as well as students from the University of Alberta. Dr. Sherry Ann Chapman from Community University Partnership (CUP), University of Alberta was the lead facilitator of the workshop; and was co-facilitated by Faisal Shafiq, CBR Coordinator Alberta. Marlis Taylor from Streetworks was also invited to conduct a sessions.

⌘ On-Going Capacity Building Initiatives:

As part of the on-going support to the ASO's several sessions were organized during this period including a session on Ethics of CBR, conducted by Professor Glenn Griener, from University of Alberta. In addition CBR Coordinator also conducted sessions on CBR 101, Ethics, Research methodologies, Questionnaire design and Knowledge transfer; using face to face and audio visual methods. Evaluations conducted (participants feedback) during the various capacity building sessions were also encouraging and allowed to improve the on-going trainings.

⌘ CBR Seed Grant:

The CBR Seed Grant Program by ACCH provided funds to enhance community based research initiatives among ACCH member agencies. Two calls for proposals were issued during the period and very good response was received from the membership. After carefully evaluating the proposal the review committee approved seven projects that are currently under implementation. Two proposals were also submitted to Community Research Ethics Board of Alberta (CBREBA) for ethics approval.



Community-Based Research Program

⌘ Committees and Memberships:

CBR Coordinator also served on the Advisory committees of the HEAT project (developing social marketing campaign for gay men), being undertaken by AIDS Calgary Awareness Association; HIV and Housing by SHARP Foundation and REACH Interventions Program of Research, that worked towards compiling an inventory for evidence based HIV/AIDS interventions in Canada. During this period CBR Coordinator also became member of Provincial Health Ethics Network (PHEN) and Health Research Transfer Network of Alberta.

⌘ Abstracts/Posters and Conferences:

The CBR Coordinator presented his abstract at Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) 2011 held in Toronto. In addition he was also invited to attend the Pre-conference activity of meeting of minds. In collaboration with other CBR Facilitators across Canada abstracts were presented at the International AIDS Conference 2010 held in Vienna and CU Expo (Community University Partnership), 2011 held in Waterloo.

CBR Coordinator also participated in Canadian Aboriginal Networking Skill Building 2010 conference as well as attended sessions on Aboriginal Research, Faculty of Extension, U of A. He also attended International Qualitative Research Training conducted by U of A and Project level I ARECCI (Alberta Research Ethics Community Consensus Initiative) tool training by Alberta Health Innovates.



Information and Training

The purpose of the information and training program is to build upon and increase the skills, knowledge, and awareness of the ACCH membership in order to better provide community-based HIV programming in an effective and responsive manner.

ACCH Website

ACCH rolled out its new website in 2010 and has been enjoying much increased traffic. Since its launch the website averages over 20,000 hit per month. Content is updated regularly by ACCH staff.

Monthly Updates

ACCH continued to send updates to its members. The variety of information of interest to ACCH members included: information about ACCH and other learning opportunities; information about provincial, national and international trends in HIV/AIDS and related topics; information about research being conducted; and announcements by government and other stakeholders on HIV issues.

Skills Building

ACCH was proud to present the November 2010 skills sessions, which focused primarily on working with Aboriginal communities. The event showcased out newest member Shining Mountain Living Community Services, the only Aboriginal ASO which currently receives funding from the Alberta Community HIV Fund. The Central Alberta AIDS Network Society was also showcased. Sessions included:

- ⌘ Aboriginal Knowledge & Awareness
- ⌘ Putting Aboriginal Research into Action
- ⌘ Walking Outreach
- ⌘ Deliberative Dialogue – A Beginners Guide
- ⌘ CBR Ethics

Did You Know?

In Canada between 1998 and 2008, Aboriginal people represented 24.0% of all new HIV-positive test reports that included ethnicity data. This is the highest percentage of any ethnic group other than those identifying as "White". Aboriginal people make up less than 5% of the population of Canada



ACCH Meetings

ACCH membership meetings are held tri-annually (three times per year, every four months). This year marked the first year where ACCH held 2 of these meetings as virtual meetings. These meetings facilitate opportunities for sharing, networking, planning, and collaborating, as well as providing a platform for educational skill building and awareness sessions at the face to face meeting.

ACCH 2010-2011 Tri-Annual Meetings

June 2010 – Virtual

Committee meetings, the general business meeting, and member updates were exchanged. Highlights include:

- ⌘ Continued advocacy work with CARNA
- ⌘ Striking of the “Do you Know Your ASO” campaign committee
- ⌘ Striking of the Harm Reduction Committee in response to the disbanding of the provincial NPNU Committee

November 2010 – Edmonton

Committee meetings, AGM, and skills building sessions focusing on working with Aboriginal communities were presented. Highlights include:

- ⌘ Evaluation session to develop a culture of evaluation that meets reporting requirements and on going program planning needs of ASOs.
- ⌘ Community Engagement Alberta Syphilis Campaign
- ⌘ Rapid HIV Testing pilot project

March 2011 – Virtual

Committee meetings, the general business meeting, and member updates were exchanged. Highlights include:

- ⌘ Advocacy work concerning Point of Care Rapid testing, STI testing sites, and timely dissemination of Epi data
- ⌘ Harm reduction committee work on the Alberta Harm Reduction Conference

Are You a Parent?

Talking to your children about HIV shows them you care about their health and well-being. It lets them know you are interested in their future safety.



ACCH Committees

ACCH Committees are held at each ACCH membership meeting

Research Committee

(met June 3, 2010 via teleconference November 17, 2010, March 21, 2011 via teleconference)

The primary role of the ACCH Research Committee is to advise on community-based research projects and capacity-building activities amongst ACCH member organizations and the ACCH Community-Based Research Project. The ACCH Research Committee is generally responsible for providing provincial guidance to research activities undertaken by ACCH member organizations. Faisal Shafiq continues to be very supportive to ACCH members through his position as Community Based Research Facilitator. He works closely with individual agencies to help build CBR capacity and knowledge.

CBR Seed Grants are a major component of the CBR program within ACCH. The CBR Seed Grant Program is primarily intended to accomplish the following:

- ⌘ to assist in initiating community-based research projects
- ⌘ to assist in conducting small scale community-based research projects (i.e. needs assessments)
- ⌘ to assist in building partnerships
- ⌘ to increase the ability of member agencies' staff to conduct community-based research

The following are agencies that received funds from the CBR Seed Grant Fund:

- ⌘ Safeworks - impact of Safeworks crack pipe distribution on drug use and service utilization behaviors
- ⌘ The SHARP Foundation - defining the terms “unwilling” and “unable” to provide a level of knowledge and understanding that can be transferred to the development of a policy guide for ASO’s to engage a client who may be identified as unwilling or unable.
- ⌘ HIV North - attitudinal survey to determine attitudes towards HIV/AIDS in rural Albertan communities as well as attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.
- ⌘ Wood Buffalo HIV/AIDS Society – needs assessment of PWAs in Fort McMurray

At the November 2010 face to face meetings in Edmonton, Faisal organized a session with two guest speakers

Evaluation Committee

(met June 2, 2010 via teleconference, November 19, 2010, and February 22, 2011)

The purpose of the Evaluation Committee is to advise on the implementation of the ACHF provincial framework as well as provide guidance to agencies in terms of evaluation practices and training. The ACCH Evaluation Committee and Evaluation Working Group have been very busy this term. At the June 2010 meeting agencies discussed the different programs they were using to collect and store their data since HOMES was no longer available to use. It was decided that individual agencies would decide how they wanted to collect and store their own data as opposed to having one process such as HOMES.

BIM Larsson & Associates RFP was the selected to compile the 09/10 ACHF Evaluation and the 07/10 ACHF Evaluation roll up. Birgitta was also responsible for compiling the survey data collected from member agencies regarding the 10/13 funding application and allocation process.



ACCH Committees

Evaluation Committee Continued

The Public Health Agency of Canada contracted BIM Larsson & Associates to build the evaluation capacity of the ACCH membership aka Evaluation Capacity Building Project. Although this was a PHAC led process the Evaluation Committee Chair and member agencies were very involved throughout the whole process. The Chair of the Evaluation Committee met with PHAC staff and Birgitta on three separate occasions that was part of a four step process.

- ⌘ Step One: Pre-workshop Survey - assess ACCH members' perception, value and knowledge of evaluations.
- ⌘ Step Two: Workshop Nov 19th, 2010 - brought representatives from all ACCH member organizations together in a workshop format aimed at encouraging evaluative thinking and dialogue and to begin the process of building evaluation capacity.
- ⌘ Step Three: Group work (Capacity Building and Service Provision) - ACCH members were asked to participate in a group exploration that focused on either 1) service delivery or 2) community capacity building. . During these sessions it become evident that group had not engaged in an exploration of evaluation in relation to their program. Their approach had been to respond to each question individually and base their responses from already established work plans.
- ⌘ Step Four: Face to Face meeting (February 22, 2011) - which was designed to be open and organic and the only agenda item was to assist ASOs in any questions they had around evaluation and evaluation capacity building.

The ACCH Board of Directors put in a successful request with Alberta Health and Wellness to use approximately \$23,000 of carry over funds to continue working with Birgitta. The work to be completed in the upcoming year entails:

- ⌘ Capacity building – (ie. ARECCI training);
- ⌘ Ground the program and evaluation structures in theory – conduct literature review around theory that already exists pertaining to the five funding approaches;
- ⌘ Review evaluation framework – review in the context of the theory and refine if necessary
- ⌘ Review and revise narrative - Based on the indicators for success surfaced in the literature review define key indicators, and process for measuring and reporting on these; and
- ⌘ Review and refine surveys - Revise the tools to ensure they are user friendly, are meaningful, and provide data needed for the organizations.



ACCH Committees

Community Action Committee

(Met June 1st, 2010, November 18th, 2010, and March 23rd, 2011)

The Community Action Committee, formerly the Advocacy Committee, is very active in developing collective responses to emerging issues in the province of Alberta. Key accomplishments include:

- ⌘ Writing to CARNA regarding their requirement to disclose HIV status for members. The policy has since been modified.
- ⌘ Wrote a letter to Alberta Health and Wellness regarding the disbanding of the Non-Prescription Needle Use (NPNU) committee. The ACCH Harm Reduction Committee was formed to fill in the gap.
- ⌘ The development of the ``Do You Know Your Local ASO`` campaign and brochure.
- ⌘ Letter to the Chief Medical Officer for Health in Alberta regarding Harm Reduction funding and the urgent need to expand and support current efforts.
- ⌘ Letters were commissioned over emerging concerns over: The lack of point of care rapid HIV testing in Alberta, lack of STI testing sites, and the timely distribution of EPI data.

The committee continues its work on these issues and in developing key advocacy and media messages on emerging issues.

Harm Reduction Committee

(Met November 17th, 2010 and March 21st, 2011)

The Alberta Harm Reduction Committee was struck in response to members requests in November 2010. Terms of Reference were created and they included these key pieces:

- ⌘ Membership of this committee is open to all agencies providing harm reduction programming in Alberta;
- ⌘ Role of committee is to make decisions that are outside the scope of frontline harm reduction workers and may include harm reduction policy, programming at the macro level, etc.;
- ⌘ One meeting to be held face-to-face at annual ACCH meeting, teleconferences to be held quarterly;
- ⌘ Communication regarding teleconferences throughout the year is to go to all member harm reduction agencies' executive directors to pass on to relevant staff member;
- ⌘ Committee to be co-chaired, minutes to taken by committee members on a rotating basis.
- ⌘ Committee chair to change in one year, at each face-to-face ACCH meeting; and
- ⌘ Decisions to be made by majority, but looking for consensus where ever possible.

The first co-chairs for the committee were Jennifer Vanderschaeghe from CAANS and China Sieger from HIV North.

The content of the committee meetings included the Alberta Sexually Transmitted Infection and Blood Borne Pathogen Strategy and Plan (2011-2016), new single use syringes implemented throughout Alberta Health Services (AHS), the 2010 Alberta Harm Reduction Conference, AHS harm reduction policy and practice within their new organizational structure, Public Health Agency of Canada Hepatitis C funding, loss of access to the single use water distributed through the sites and the law related to sex work.



ACCH Committees

HIV + Committee

Over this past year there have been a number of changes made to the membership meetings that have had an impact on the HIV committee in allowing for provincial representation at the table for discussions. This is an area of concern and will be a focus of the group in the coming year on how to better engage and involve other PHA's from across the province to become involved with and more importantly aware of the Committee's existence and activities.

In the last year we confirmed our Terms of Reference for the group, had three meetings via teleconference, in person or both with the main focus being on the Alberta positive Voices Conference that was held in Jasper during March of 2011.

The task of organising, planning and executing this event fell to the member organisation Wood Buffalo HIV and AIDS Society and managed to create and provide a venue that was well above the previous ones in terms of amenities and upscale comfort; however it was limited in space for meetings and challenged by location and travel issues for some participants.

The presenters for the conference were overwhelmingly persons living with HIV or employees of National or provincial AIDS Service Organisations. They were well received by participants for their presentations, information and the reality that most were also people living with HIV who once were where many of our participants were. Many attendees were looking for something to become involved with and wanting to learn more about how to help themselves and others live healthy lives while addressing HIV and co-infections in their lives.

Overall; the Alberta Positive Voices Conference was a success and very well received by participants and presenters alike with great feedback from National partners and presenters. Our conference has been and continues to be a conference that National and Provincial PHA organisations want to be part of and included in. All have confirmed their desire to attend the next Alberta Positive Voices Conference.

It is my hope that the HIV committee will focus on the recruitment and retention of solid PHA leaders and mentors to further the work of the committee and to enhance the work and efforts of the ACCH member organisations as it realties to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and co-infection.

Respectfully;

Mark Randall
Chair, HIV+ Committee
Co-Chair, Alberta Positive Voices Committee 2011



Alberta Community HIV Fund Stewardship

ACCH administers the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF). The overall role of the ACHF Steward is to maintain the integrity of the fund and to support funded organizations in ensuring they are delivering competent HIV programming and services. The Steward must ensure that money is distributed in accordance with the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium's allocation decisions, and that spending by funded groups is in keeping with approved budgets. The Steward provides sound support to groups in preparation of their proposals to ACHF, and ongoing, and monitors financial and narrative reporting. The Steward also acts as liaison between funded groups, PHAC, AHW and ACCH.

⌘ 2010-2011 was the first year of the 2010-2013 Funding Cycle. 15 organizations received operational funds.

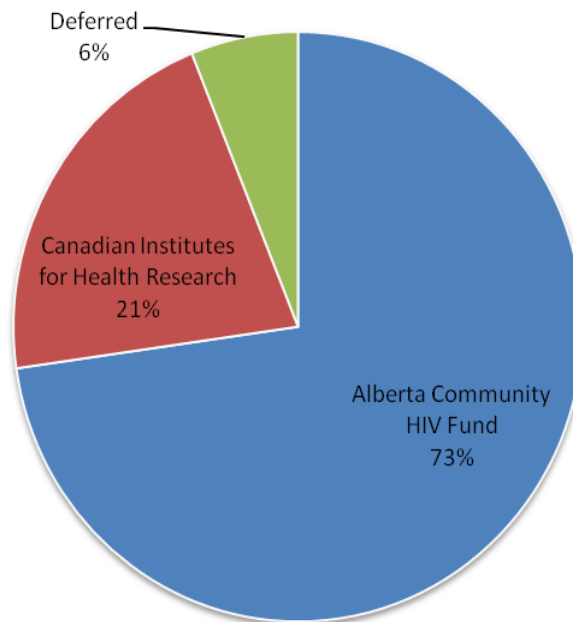
ACHF 2010-2011 Operational Funding	
Alberta Community Council on HIV	\$275,555
AIDS Bow Valley	\$34,334
AIDS Calgary Awareness Association	\$801,352
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society	\$311,788
HIV Network of Edmonton	\$700,000
HIV North	\$247,594
HIV Society of Southeastern Alberta	\$25,000
HIV West Yellowhead	\$133,922
Kairos House	\$83,818
Lethbridge HIV Connection	\$217,797
Safeworks	\$268,069
SHARP Foundation	\$145,000
Shining Mountains Living Community Services	\$60,000
Streetworks	\$439,011
Wood Buffalo HIV & AIDS Society	\$120,067
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$3,863,307
TOTAL	\$3,863,307

Alberta Health and Wellness Contribution: \$3,015,555
Public Health Agency of Canada Contribution: \$867,752



ACCH Financials

ACCH Revenue



ACCH Expenses

