



AHA Centre News Blast - Fall 2017

It is with great pleasure that I send this first of many news blasts to our wonderful AHA Centre family and friends. Without further ado...

Wise Practices VI:

Our event was held this year on September 27-28 at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino on the beautiful land of the Tsuut'ina First Nation in Calgary, AB. For the first time we partnered with CAANs Skills Building event and I think it is safe to say that it was a huge success! We are grateful to the large number of APHAs who were able to attend and we would also like to extend a special thank you to all the Elders who were present. Workshops had excellent attendance and participation and, as in past years, covered a broad array of relevant topics.

Since the agenda/workshops for Wise Practices are new every year, we thought we would highlight a few of the sessions:

- **CanCURE: Where are we with the Cure for HIV?**
The workshop gave information on the latest medical research, breakthroughs, and challenges. Attendance was at its maximum and participants were completely engaged.
Check out CanCURE's video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1NWzM_iTTk
- **REACH CBR Collaborative Centre:**
In collaboration with REACH, the workshop: **Working Together: A dialogue about supporting Indigenous peer researchers** brought together a large group of diverse participants. The group discussion brought to life a wall filled with suggestions to further support peer researchers.

The success of a workshop can sometimes be evaluated by how far into the hallway that the discussion continues, post workshop. Well, the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino's halls were filled with conversation!

A big thank you to everyone who organized, presented, helped, attended, and lent their time and talent to make this event a success.

Grant Submissions:

We are pleased to announce that we have multiple grant submissions under our belt. Below is a quick snapshot but please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any additional information.

- **WOW Study** (primary focus is on APHAs)
Indigenous People in Canada are disproportionately affected by HIV, yet interventions to support their health are commonly based on Western ways of knowing. Land-based approaches to wellness and to HIV research are urgently needed to support Indigenous People living with HIV.
- **Mobilizing Indigenous Community-led HIV and AIDS Research to Impact Policy and Advance New Knowledge**
This proposal seeks support to engage researchers, writers, policy analysts, among others, to work collaboratively and collectively in developing high quality articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals, including open access journals with high impact factors.
- **Indigenous Approaches to Wellness**
Information sharing is a two-way exchange: the wellness of Indigenous Peoples not only hinges on the information that is shared, but also on the **ways** in which that information is packaged and delivered. If messages are not properly articulated, communities will not receive them. There is a need to invest in a well-informed, evidence-based, culturally safe and passionate response to HIV and related issues that shifts from disparities to equities in health of Indigenous Peoples.
- We also supported the **TransPULSE** National Project submission.

CJACBR:

- We are happy to announce that Volume VIII will soon be available!
- Articles for Volume IX will be sent out for review shortly.

New Website

A new AHA Centre website is in the works! Stay tuned for the grand reveal coming in the next few weeks.

Dates and things to remember:

- Sherri will be attending the BC REACH committee meeting on November 20th in Vancouver. This is part of our ongoing collaboration with REACH.
- Abstracts for CAHR deadline: Dec 15, 2017
- New Governing Council members will soon be announced.
- CIHR's Institute of Aboriginal People's Health (IAPH) announces Indigenous health research workshops: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50621.html>
- The CAAN offices will be closed for Christmas holidays from December 18th to January 3rd.