



# Alberta Community Council on HIV

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

## Annual Report 2011 | 2012



# Our Vision:

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

## **Alberta Community Council on HIV**

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# Special thanks to:

ACCH member agencies and their representatives  
Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium  
Alberta Health and Wellness  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Our Partners  
Our Staff  
Our Contractors

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

# Table of Contents

Message from the Board	4
2011-2012 ACCH Key Points and Staff	6
Message from the Executive Administrator	7
ACCH Team	8
ACCH Partners	9
Community-Based Research Program	10
Information and Training	11
ACCH Meetings	12
ACCH Committees	13
Alberta Community HIV Fund Stewardship	17
ACHF 2011-2012 Operational Funding	18

# Message from the Board

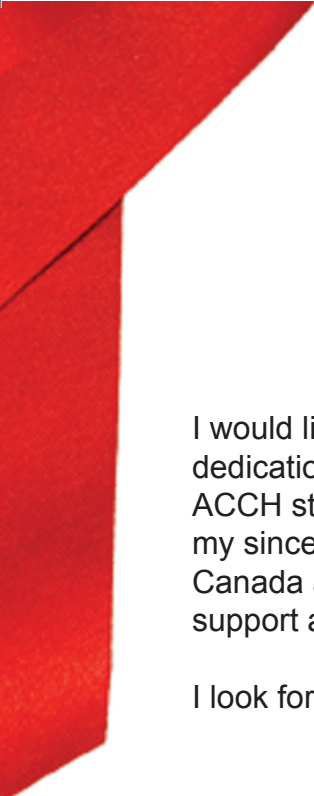
2011 – 2012 was a year of opportunities and challenges! The board worked diligently to strengthen ACCH's role provincially and nationally; and continue to achieve the outcomes outlined in the 2010 – 2013 work plan and as documented in this annual report.

The year began with significant challenges including the hiring of a new executive administrator, supporting a new Alberta Community HIV Fund steward and the loss of a long time member organization, Wood Buffalo HIV & AIDS Society. These challenges were met with the determination and dedication of staff and board to create opportunities for strengthening ACCH as well as the work it and its members do throughout the province.

The Alberta Sexually Transmitted Infection/Blood-Borne Pathogen (STI/BBP) Strategy was released to the community this year. The Strategy clearly outlines a leadership role for ACCH in implementing the five goals of the plan over the next five years. ACCH and its members will be active participants in developing an integrated model of prevention, treatment and care services throughout the province.

At the end of the year ACCH became the provincial source for Harm Reduction supplies which addresses a key issue of access expressed by many of our members. ACCH is also conducting a constructive review of its governance model. At the same time we began the process of evaluating the needs and trends in the communities we serve throughout the province. These consultations will help ACCH to better position itself as a viable, adaptable and inclusive organization.

The next year promises to be exciting for ACCH as it continues to evolve so it can better meet the needs of Albertans. We look forward to being inspired by the people we serve and collaborating with them, members, partners, funders and others to build a better community.



I would like to thank my fellow board of directors and all the ACCH members for their dedication and commitment. I want to extend special thanks to our hard working ACCH staff members who have been instrumental in our success this year. Finally, my sincere thanks to the representatives of Alberta Health, Public Health Agency of Canada and the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium, for your support and collaboration.

I look forward to working with everyone throughout the next year!

Best regards,

**Floyd Visser**

Board Chair

## 2011-2012 ACCH Key Points:

- ACCH hosted a successful skills training meeting with membership focusing on working with Endemic communities.
- ACCH revised the Do You Know Your Local ASO postcard with listings of all our member organizations and the services they provide.
- ACCH has developed a new organizational brochure
- ACCH was given an increase in funding by Alberta Health and Wellness and has been implementing aspects of the provincial STI BBP Strategy and Action Plan. ACCH staff worked hard to revise our 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 to reflect the increase.
- ACCH's website includes extensive information about our organization, ACHF Funding, our CBR Program as well as regularly updated information on HIV/AIDS news and events.
- ACCH has undertaken Bulk Harm Reduction supplies purchasing for our members groups
- ACCH continues to grow its Associate membership and is seeking new ways to engage community, especially those living with HIV and those disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS
- ACCH members and partners, working with consultant Birgitta Larsson, revised the ACHF narrative report and data collection instruments
- In partnership with ARECCI, ACCH provided training to membership and ACCH on ethics in evaluation and quality improvements projects

## 2011-2012 Staff

Faisal Shafiq  
Huzaifa Faisal

Tim Kim  
Jessica Daniels

Kim Mackenzie



# Message from the Executive Administrator

This has been a year of many opportunities and challenges. I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service. While we have grown stronger, we have also been taking a look at ways to engage community more, to reflect the diversity of the people impacted by HIV/AIDS, and to look at new ways to do what we have been doing for two decades now.

During this time, we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the first reported case of HIV/AIDS in North America, and the 20th anniversary of ACCH itself. We have come a long way, done great work, seen many changes. In my short time with ACCH, the need for renewal has become more and more apparent. The landscape of HIV has always been in constant flux, but as new technologies and approaches to treatment arise, the need for provincial coordination, ongoing information and skills building, and a unified provincial voice are more important than they have been since the very beginning of the epidemic.

ACCH has undertaken a tremendous amount of work to ensure it has the structure, capacity, and community support necessary to be an effective voice. The opportunity to end the epidemic lies before us; we could be the generation to end AIDS.

**Jessica Daniels**

ACCH Executive Administrator

# ACCH Team

## Board Members

Chair	Floyd Visser, SHARP Foundation
Past Chair	Brenda Yamkowy, HIV North Society
Vice Chair Evaluation & Research	Raye St. Denys, Shining Mountain Living Community Services
Vice Chair Community Action	Simonne LeBlanc, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
Secretary/Treasurer	Andrea Quick, HIV West Yellowhead
Member at Large	Charleen Davidson, Lethbridge HIV Connection

## Committee Chairs

Community Action	Simonne LeBlanc, AIDS Calgary
HIV Positive	Mark Randall, AIDS Calgary
Research and Evaluation	Raye St. Denys, Shining Mountain Living Community Services
Harm Reduction	Jennifer Vanderschaeghe, Central Alberta AIDS Network Brenda Yamkowy, HIV North

## Current ACCH Staff

Executive Administrator	Jessica Daniels
Program Assistant/ Bookkeeper	Tim Kim
Fund Steward	Kim Mackenzie



# ACCH Partners

## ACCH Member Organizations

Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium

Alberta Community Planning Committees

Alberta Health and Wellness

Alberta Housing Coalition

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)

Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

Calgary STD Clinic

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)

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 2011-2012

With funding support from Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), ACCH supported efforts by our membership to collaborate with communities, organizations and researchers in undertaking HIV/AIDS research aimed at achieving policy, program and service delivery goals as well as strengthening skills to undertake and produce HIV/AIDS community based research. The CBRFS project also worked to ensure the research was relevant, respectful and methodologically sound.

The Coordinator 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. Unfortunately due to changes in CIHR funding focus, the position of CBR Facilitator was ended in March, 2012.

## Future of CBR

ACCH looks forward to working with the successful applicants of the community-based research centre bid by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Letters of support and collaboration were provided to all the applicants including the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, CATIE and the CIHR Centre for REACH. The two successful organizations (aboriginal and general) will be funded equally, and have CBR facilitators whose job it will be to assist organizations such as ACCH and its membership to develop successful and effective CBR projects. It will be an interesting and challenging year ahead for ACCH and its membership in which is the opportunity to create relationships and imagine new paths of working together in CBR.

At the February meeting of ACCH, skills building sessions were presented to the membership such as CBR basics, ethics, and methodology. With these skills, the work of the CBR Facilitator project will be sustained and our membership will continue to take on research projects that enhance their work, and the field of HIV/AIDS as a whole. The importance of Community in this work cannot be overstated, and ACCH will continue to look for ways to support its membership in CBR work.

# 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 provide community-based HIV programming in an effective and responsive manner.

## ACCH Website





Since its' launch the website averages over 20,000 hits per month. Content is updated regularly by ACCH staff. ACCH has reactivated its members section and posts meeting minutes, notices, and article archives there for its members.

## 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 September 2011 skills sessions, which focused primarily on working with endemic communities. Sessions included:



-  Racialization of HIV in Canada
-  Cultural Competency and Beyond: Examining the influence of race, culture, power and privilege
-  Settlement Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Newcomer
-  Building Relationships with Racialized Communities

# ACCH Meetings

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





## June 2011 – Virtual

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

-  ACCH drafted 3 letters to Alberta Health and Wellness regarding lack of timely epidemiological data, lack of point of care rapid HIV testing, and lack of STI testing sites in Alberta
-  ACCH drafted a letter to the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium regarding Harm Reduction supplies and programming needs in Alberta



## September 2011 – Edmonton

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

-  Treatment as Prevention presentation from Dr. Julio Montaner
-  Drug Policy Forum
-  “What Does ACCH Mean to You?” group art projects to be highlighted in our 20th anniversary booklet
-  Frontline Panel – How to Engage Endemic Communities

## February 2012 – Edmonton

Committee meetings, the general business meeting, and member updates were exchanged. The skills building for this meeting focused on CBR. The skills training was developed according to the needs assessment conducted by our CBR Facilitator. Highlights include:

-  Introduction to CBR, Knowledge Transfer and Exchange, and Ethics
-  Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Research, Ethics in Research, Survey Methodologies, and Questionnaire Design

# ACCH Committees

## Research Committee

(Met June 16th, 2011 September 27th, 2011 and February 21st, 2012)






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 continued to be very supportive to ACCH members through his position as Community Based Research Facilitator. He worked closely with individual agencies to help build CBR capacity and knowledge

## Evaluation Committee

(Met June 16th, 2011 September 27th, 2011 February 21st, 2012)

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.

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 Larson of BIM Larson. The work included:





-  ACCH members participating in Level 1 training on ethics in evaluation and quality improvement projects through ARECCI
-  Conducting a literature review around theory that already exists pertaining to the five funding approaches
-  Reviewing the ACHF evaluation framework
-  Reviewing and revising the narrative report for ACHF; we now use the PERT reporting tool made available for that purpose by PHAC
-  Reviewing and revising surveys to ensure they are user friendly, are meaningful, and provide the data needed by organizations and funders

Since February 2012, the Research and Evaluation committees have been operating as one committee: The Research and Evaluation Committee – due to changes in Community Based Research funding across Canada.

## Community Action Committee

(Met June 20th, September 28th, November 9th, 2011 and February 23rd, 2012)

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:

-  ACCH prepared a response to the Provincial STI/ Blood Bourne Pathogens Strategy highlighting areas where ACCH and its members could assist in implementing key areas related to HIV/AIDS
-  Drafted a letter regarding Bill C-10, Safe Streets and Communities Act to Members of Parliament outlining the potential negative impact it could have to our HIV/AIDS prevention work.
-  ACCH drafted 3 letters to Alberta Health and Wellness regarding lack of timely epidemiological data, lack of point of care rapid HIV testing, and lack of STI testing sites in Alberta
-  ACCH drafted a letter to the Alberta Community HIV Policy and Funding Consortium regarding Harm Reduction supplies and programming needs in Alberta

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




## Harm Reduction Committee

(Met June, September, and November, 2011 and February 2012)

The committee comprises member organizations in Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Jasper, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. Rural Harm Reduction (HR) was identified as an emergent issue at the beginning of the year, while an urban issue identified was the involvement of HR organizations in assisting law enforcement in interventions to those participating in sex work.

Access to supplies and funding for supplies has been a general trend of discussion of the committee. Different regions and organizations were able to access different funding and supplies from different sources; there was neither consistency nor equity in how supplies were available for HR programs. With the access of supplies through ACCH, members of the committee had an opportunity to determine what supplies were best to utilize and where to access them.

While standardization has been a theme throughout these meetings, building relationships and acknowledging community needs have still been recognized as exceptionally important. Throughout this period as discussions continued, the following motions were put forward:

-  We the membership of ACCH agree that the agencies currently funded for Harm Reduction programming expand into safer inhalation supplies.
-  Current Harm Reduction programs will work to educate and support new Harm Reduction programs as they have meet the Harm Reduction criteria.
-  New Harm Reduction programming follow the standardized Harm Reduction criteria for Alberta

Highlights at the committee table have also included discussions surrounding the Harm Reduction strategy, areas in which advocacy work can be done and the Harm Reduction conference to be held in 2013, hosted by AIDS Calgary and Safeworks, with potential for a one day national satellite to coincide with the conference.

Some of the members of the Harm Reduction Committee have been also serving on national committees and boards such as the working group revising the National Harm Reduction best practices documents, and the National Harm Reduction working group. The wealth of knowledge and the skills of the group provide a firm foundation upon which Harm Reduction is propagated and supported across the province.

## HIV+ Committee

The HIV committee has spent much of the last year in the early planning phases of the Alberta Positive Voices Conference in March 2013 along with increasing the number of people living with HIV to attend and take part in the discussions and planning of the HIV committee and ACCH work for the coming year. We also provided input and suggestions to the ACCH membership on additional funding from Alberta Health for best use and possible suggestions for additional work and projects that could be undertaken.

We are currently heavily focused on the 2013 Provincial Conference for People Living with HIV and AIDS and have secured our host agency of Lethbridge HIV Connection, created a PHA advisory and planning committee for the project and hired a project coordinator to take the lead on the planning and implementation of the conference in partnership with the advisory committee and host agency.

Members of the HIV committee will be involved in the October 23 – 26 ACCH Skills Building “A Vision for Life with HIV” in Edmonton as volunteers and look forward to becoming more actively involved in the activities of the ACCH membership while benefiting from the capacity building opportunities this working relationship provides to member organizations and PHA’s alike. This is a strong step forward in applying the GIPAMIPA philosophy into the ACCH’s activities and work plans for the future.

There is also a recognized need to get more people living with HIV and AIDS involved with the HIV committee and that a broad provincial network of targeted mentors or sentinels will be required to create an environment of capacity building, strengths based peer support and the linking and connecting of PHA’s to work and volunteer opportunities in their local, provincial and national organizations as they present themselves. As such we will be working towards the training and ongoing commitment of these individuals to support, inform and motivate others in our communities to become more involved in local agencies to better support themselves and others.

On behalf of the HIV Committee and members  
Mark Randall, Chair HIV Committee - ACCH



# 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 monitors financial and narrative reporting. The Steward also acts as liaison between funded groups, PHAC, AH and ACCH.

# ACHF 2011-2012 Operational Funding

2011-2012 was the second year of the 2010-2013 Funding Cycle. 13 organizations received operational funds.

Alberta Health and Wellness Contribution: \$3,728,517

Public Health Agency of Canada Contribution: \$847,752

<b>ACHF 2011-2012 Operational Funding</b>	
Alberta Community Council on HIV	\$865,000
AIDS Calgary Awareness Association	\$884,203
Central Alberta AIDS Network Society	\$321,788
HIV Network of Edmonton	\$710,000
HIV North	\$357,661
HIV West Yellowhead	\$143,922
Kairos House	\$93,818
Lethbridge HIV Connection	\$227,797
Safeworks	\$278,069
SHARP Foundation	\$155,000
Shining Mountains Living Community Services	\$70,000
Streetworks	\$449,011
Wood Buffalo HIV & AIDS Society	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,576,269</b>



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# Our Mission

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# Our Vision

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