

# Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment

Toronto, Canada

## Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment

### Our Mission

The **Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment** (CAAT) is a coalition of affected individuals and organizations from the legal, health, settlement and HIV/AIDS sectors. We are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of People Living With HIV/AIDS (PHAS) who are facing access barriers related to their status through education, training, research, service coordination and advocacy.

### Our Vision

Our vision is a healthy community in which all PHAS have the information and tools they need to access health, social and legal services that are culturally competent.

### Our Membership

Membership of CAAT is free and is open to any individuals or organizations that support CAAT's mission statement.

### Our Achievements

CAAT was formed in 1999 by a group of affected individuals and organizations to improve treatment and service access for marginalized PHAS. Since its inception, CAAT has been proactively involved in education, research, service coordination and advocacy on issues related to HIV, immigration and access.

In 2001, CAAT conducted a community based research project: Improving treatment access for PHAs who are immigrants, refugees and without status.(IRN-PHAs) that resulted in several innovative service programs resources including:

- The HIV Treatment Access Program housed at the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation that facilitates compassionate access to HIV treatment
- The HIV and Immigration Service Access Training Program at Regent Park Community Health Centre that facilitates provider and PHA skills development on HIV-immigration related issues.
- Accessible legal information on HIV and immigration

Over the years, CAAT has played an increasingly important role in the HIV community through organizing various skill development forums, community planning sessions, policy analysis and research projects on issues affecting IRN-PHAs. In 2007, CAAT received funding from the AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to support its role in service coordination and community development. In spring 2008, CAAT elected its official Steering Committee.



## Our Current Programs:

### Community Capacity Building Programs:

- **HIV & Immigration Service Access Training**

This educational program, offered twice yearly at both basic and advanced levels, provides PHAs and service providers with knowledge and skills in HIV related immigration policies, cultural competency and service access skills for newcomers with HIV.

- **Legacy Project: Structured Mentorship program for PHAs**

This new program provides mentorship support and organizes practical opportunities for PHAs to further develop their career path.

- **Learning and Helping Out: Peer Treatment Support Counselor Training Program for culturally diverse communities**

This is a partnership program of the Ethno-racial Treatment Support Network (ETSN)

- **Other PHA Capacity Building Collaborative projects**

Additionally, CAAT collaborate on PHA capacity building initiatives with many partners including the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO), the Toronto Community Building Initiative (TCPI) and the Ontario Living & Serving Working group.

## Community Based Research:

- **Improving Mental Health Service Access for Immigrant, Refugee and non-status PHAs**

This project explores issues affecting access to mental health services for newcomer PHAs and advances PHA/stakeholder identified best practice recommendations.

- **Mobilizing ethno-racial communities in anti-HIV stigma prevention interventions**

This project aims to engage ethno-racial faith based, media, settlement and social justice sectors to develop and evaluate effective anti-HIV stigma prevention strategies.

- **Other research collaboration:**

- Research studies related to employment & HIV
- Medical inadmissibility criteria affecting newcomer PHAs
- HIV prevention issues affecting ethno-racial men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Research needs of HIV positive women in Ontario

## Our Funding Partners:

AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; ACAP (Ontario region), Public Health Agency of Canada; Canadian Institute of Health Research, Institute of Infection and Immunity; Community Innovation Fund, GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Shire Biochem; The Ontario HIV Treatment Network; The Wellesley Institute

## To get involved

Volunteers are an integral driving force in guiding and delivering CAAT's work. To find out more about our programs or getting involved, please contact our staff:

**Program Coordinator,**  
Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment  
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For more information and to access all our publications and resource materials, please visit our website at:

[www.HIVImmigration.ca](http://www.HIVImmigration.ca)

