



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter



Introducing our new logo! Designed by Britt Permien, a graphic and web designer with over 20 years of experience working within the HIV sector on various projects across Canada.

Thank you again to Britt for her creativity and enthusiasm that made this process incredibly special.

To explore more of Britt's outstanding work, visit [her website!](#)

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, where we will share exciting updates and resources! We also will feature various members of the WCHC Hub, so you can get to know your colleagues.



Let's take a moment to recognize and honour these significant upcoming dates:

- March 31- Trans Day of Visibility
- May 5- National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- May 17, 2024 - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, features of members in the WCHC Hub, resources, and more. Keep Reading!



Upcoming Hub Sessions

THIS MONTH:

The WCHC HUB Women-Centered Care

MENTORING FUTURE LEADERS: INSIGHTS AND DIALOGUE

LIVE VIRTUAL SESSION
All members of the WCHC Hub and other Women's Health Hubs are welcome!

Dr. Notisha Massaquoi
Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Society
University of Toronto, Scarborough

Friday April 5 9-10 PDT / 10-11 MDT & CDT / 12-1 EDT

Dr. Massaquoi, Assistant Professor, Black women's health advocate, Assistant Professor, and Founder of the Black Health Equity Lab will share her experiences conducting research through an Anti-Black racism lens.

[**Click here to access the zoom!**](#)

The WCHC HUB Women-Centered Care

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS FRAMEWORK

LIVE VIRTUAL SESSION
Part of the Frameworks, Values & Rights Hub Discussion Series

Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose
Associate Professor and Chair,
Educational Psychology and Counselling
at the University of Regina
Wellness and Research Director,
Muskiki Muskwa Medicine Bear Healing
Lodge and Peer Advocacy Services

Friday April 12 10-11 PDT / 11-12 MDT & CDT / 1-2 EDT

Dr. Sasakamoose, Associate Professor, recently appointed Applied Public Health Chair, researcher, and leader from M'Chigeeng First Nation will explore the Indigenous Cultural Responsiveness Framework she co-authored.

[**Click here to access the zoom!**](#)

NEXT MONTH:

- **May 3** - Claudette Cardinal & Asha Ulusow from the Women's Community Leadership Team
- **May 17** - Community Based Research with Mina Kazemi + Laura Mata Lopez
- **May 31** - Asya Gunduz & Dr. Ashley Lacombe-Duncan from the Trans Women and Gender Diverse People Sub-Hub

[Share the flyers with your network & encourage folks to register!](#)

[Can't make it? Check out our new YouTube channel for recordings!](#)

External Events

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIV & WOMEN 2024

Registration is open for this highly anticipated annual conference, scheduled for **April 12-13**, offering both **in-person (in Washington DC)** and **virtual attendance** options.

Register [here](#) and use code **WOMEN25CHIWOS** for 25% off registration!



Resources



Want your resource featured?

Email: jill.koebel@wchospital.ca

Black Manifesto on HIV

In Canada, Black women made up 42% of the 280 new cases among women in 2019, and 19.6% of the 158 new HIV cases in 2020. Despite the reduction in new infections nationally, Black women are still overrepresented given that Black people represent only 3.5% of the population. Researchers, policymakers, and service providers all have a role to play so we ask that our allies and supporters review and champion the 10 demands outlined in the Black Manifesto on HIV as we work to advance Black health equity throughout the HIV sector. [Read the full manifesto here.](#)

Featured Sub-Hub of the Month: Saskatchewan Sub-Hub

Every newsletter we aim to highlight the dedication and hard work of our sub-hubs. This month, we are featuring our Saskatchewan (SK) Sub-Hub!



The SK Sub-hub has begun planning their first knowledge mobilization event, *“Digging Deeper into the Women-Centered HIV Care (WCHC) Model”* in collaboration with STEPS at the University of Saskatchewan to be held **virtually Wednesday, June 12 from 11-12:30 CST!**

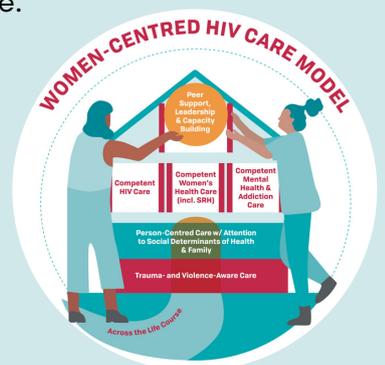
Event Objectives:

1. Understand trauma-informed care and its benefits.
2. Develop support strategies for patients in trauma healing.
3. Explore the role and impact of trauma-aware care in women-centred HIV care.
4. Access the Women-Centred HIV Care toolkit for healthcare providers.

Co-Presenters :

Mona Loutfy, MD, FRPC, MPH (Professor, Infectious Disease Specialist & Clinical Researcher) &
Dessie-Jo Sutherland (Peer Advisor and Community Consultant)

For more information, see the event poster!



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)
ALL ARE WELCOME.



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Saskatchewan



Hub Member Spotlights

Join us as we spotlight the achievements of our hub members each month. From promotions to awards and media features, we're here to celebrate it all! **No achievement is too small – every success deserves recognition!** *If you would like to be featured or nominate someone else, please email Jill (jill.koebel@wchospital.ca).*

Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose awarded Applied Public Health Chair!

Join us in celebrating **Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose**, hub Co-PI and Co-Lead of the SK & Indigenous Sub-Hubs, who has been awarded a prestigious CIHR Chair in Promoting Indigenous Wellness and Health Equity at the University of Regina, funded by PHAC. This award will complement the work the SK & Indigenous Sub-Hubs are doing, with a focus on developing holistic cultural care models, addressing Indigenous health inequities, and promoting Indigenous wellness in collaboration with First Nations and Métis partners.



TWIRI Leadership Update

Established in 2017 by Yasmeen Persad and Dr. Mona Loutfy, the **Trans Women HIV Research Initiative (TWIRI)** focuses on advancing research for trans women with HIV, and has collaborated closely with the Trans Women and Gender Diverse People Sub-Hub in the past year.

With mixed emotions, TWIRI announces Yasmeen Persad has finished her term as Co-Chair, and welcomes Asya Gunduz as the new Co-Chair!

Yasmeen's pivotal leadership for the past 6 years on TWIRI led to incredible progress in research for trans women living with HIV and astounding progress in healthcare provider education on gender-affirming care. Her dedication is deeply appreciated and celebrated.

Looking forward, **Asya's** extensive experience as Co-Lead of the Trans and Gender Diverse People Sub-Hub and Policy Lead at the OHTN, coupled with her commitment to community activism and intersectional, anti-colonial approaches, promises to continue TWIRI's mission with passion and dedication.

Thank you Yasmeen!



Welcome, Asya!



AIDS Vancouver is now Ribbon Community!

On March 26 2024, **AIDS Vancouver**, a partnering community based organization on the hub, and one of Canada's first AIDS service organizations, revealed its new purpose, values, name and look as **Ribbon Community**. **Ribbon Community** will continue to serve people living with HIV and our broader communities through its programs and services which remain the same. Read more on the change [here!](#)



Access
the zoom
link here!

Mentor Speaker Spotlights

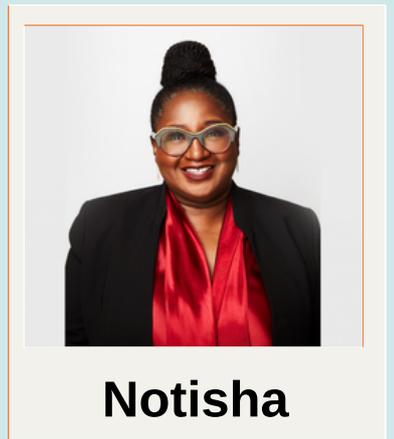
This month, we're featuring **Marvelous Muchenje** and **Dr. Notisha Massaquoi**, leaders in the women and HIV field in Canada. They will be leading guest speaker sessions as part of the "Mentoring Future Leaders: Insights and Dialogue" series in April and May.

Friday April 5, 12-1 EDT

Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, Scarborough, has dedicated 30 years to advancing Canadian women's healthcare. With 20 years as the Executive Director of Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Centre, specializing in primary healthcare for Black and racialized women, she now leads the Black Health Equity Lab (The BHEL), leading community-based health research and developing advocacy tools. Named one of Toronto's most influential figures by Toronto Life Magazine and a recipient of the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 2023, Notisha is a leading expert in fostering equity-responsive organizations and combating anti-Black racism in Canadian systems.



Check out the **Black Health Equity Lab's work [here!](#)**



Notisha



Marvelous

Friday May 10, 12-1 EDT

Marvelous Muchenje is the Community Relations Manager at ViiV Healthcare Canada and a PhD Student at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. With 24 years of experience in social work and global health, she has held diverse roles in non-profit and NGO sectors, including 12 years at Women's Health in Women's Hands, Community Health Centre in Toronto. As an affirming HIV-positive woman, Marvelous passionately spreads love and empowerment through her work as a writer, motivational speaker, and advocate for marginalized communities. She also serves on several national boards, using her platform to uplift the narratives of those facing injustice globally.



UNTIL NEXT TIME...

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission of strengthening healthcare for women and gender-diverse people living with HIV. Let's keep striving for a future where every individual can reach their full potential through gender-inclusive care and knowledge sharing. **Together, we're making a difference.**

VISIT OUR BASECAMP [HERE!](#)

Email jill.koebel@wchospital.ca for access

Check out our [interim website!](#)