

# Year End Report

## Brittany Cameron

ICWNA



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF  
WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV  
NORTH AMERICA

2018

## **Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice: Canadian Webinar Series on Implementing the WHO Guidelines on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women Living with HIV**

Date: January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

In collaboration with the World Health Organization, Canadian Positive People's Network, Oak Tree Clinic, Women's Health in Women's Hands, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, and the IBP Initiative Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron presented during this webinar from her office located in Peterborough, Ontario.

The webinar objectives were to provide an overview of new WHO recommendations on elective C-section and safe abortion for women living with HIV as well as current research about the reproductive health of women living with HIV in the Canadian context using data from the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS). To introduce guidelines and a toolkit developed by clinicians, women living with HIV and stakeholders for health and social service providers to support reproductive health and rights within a reproductive justice framework; including the newly updated Canadian HIV Pregnancy Planning Guidelines (2018) and the Supporting Mothers in Ways that Work: A Resource Toolkit for Service Providers Working with Mothers Living with HIV (2016).

In addition we aimed to gain insights from women living with HIV to highlight gaps in research and priority areas for further attention and to assist in the development of an action plan to support the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV in the Canadian context, including actions to support the reproductive health, rights, and justice of women living with HIV.

You can view the complete webinar here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhhrFTxspg4&feature=youtu.be>

## **Love Positive Women**

**Date: February 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron participated in a number of events for the 2018 #LovePositiveWomen Campaign.

Notable is the partnership with Cobourg, Ontario Police who held a high tea for women living with HIV in our community.



### **Canadian Positive People Network (CPPN) Members Meeting**

Date: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron participated in the Canadian Positive People Network (CPPN) Members Meeting hosted at AIDS Vancouver located in Vancouver, British

Columbia. CPPN is an independent network for and by people living with HIV and HIV co-infections in Canada. For her presentation Brittany was asked to speak to the U=U (Undetectable Equals Untransmittable Campaign) specifically around women's issues and perspectives. In addition to the presentation on UequalsU Brittany introduced ICW NA to community members and encouraged them to join our membership.



## **National Action Planning to Advance the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Living with HIV.**

**Date: Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

In partnership with Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (WHO), Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS), Canadian Positive People Network (CPPN), Simon Fraser University, Women's College Research Institute, Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Centre, Oak Tree Clinic, BC Women's Hospital, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN), Positive Living British Columbia, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Initiative; Canadian Board Members Chantel Mukandoli and Brittany Cameron participated in an ancillary event at the 2018 Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia, in April 2018. Our goal was developing a National Action Plan to Advance the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Living with HIV. This event brought together nearly

100 women living with HIV (WLWH), policy-makers, community workers, social workers, clinicians, students, and researchers from across Canada to discuss policy, programming, and research considerations that will lay the foundation for a national action plan to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of WLWH. Our four key discussion topics were as follows (1) Trauma- and Violence-Aware Care/Practice; (2) Supporting Safer HIV Disclosure; (3) Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice; and (4) Resilience, Self-efficacy, and Peer Support.

The final report can be viewed online here:

[https://pacificaidsnetwork.org/files/2018/11/CHIWOS\\_Developing\\_National\\_Action\\_Plan\\_CAHR\\_Ancillary.pdf](https://pacificaidsnetwork.org/files/2018/11/CHIWOS_Developing_National_Action_Plan_CAHR_Ancillary.pdf)



## **The AIDS Committee of Ottawa's U=U Community Forum**

Date: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

In collaboration with the AIDS Committee of Ottawa and the Prevention Access Campaign Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron participated in a one day community forum in the Ottawa, Ontario – Canada's Capital City/ Brittany specifically spoke to women's issues and perspectives in the UequalsU Campaign.

## The AIDS Committee of Ottawa's



### Guest speakers include:



Bruce Robinson is the founder of Prevention Access Campaign's award-winning U=U movement, a community of over 550 organizations from 71 countries that have united to communicate the still widely unknown fact that a person living with HIV with an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV to sexual partners.



Brittany Cameron is an HIV+ Mother, Wife, Peer and sits as a Canadian Representative for the U=U campaign.



Bob Leahy is the lead Canadian representative for the U=U campaign. He is also publisher of *PositiveLife.com*, Canada's award-winning HIV Online magazine.



Bryan C. Jones has been thriving with HIV for over 34 years. He is one of the founding steering committee members of the U=U campaign.

**Saturday, March 24, 2018**  
10am - 4pm  
223 Main St. Saint-Paul  
University Amphitheater

Lunch will be provided as well as U=U t-shirts for everyone. The ACO Board of Directors will be engaging with our community members in our collective work in the past few months and ACO's priorities moving forward.



For more information, contact [khaled@aco-cso.ca](mailto:khaled@aco-cso.ca) or [gord@aco-cso.ca](mailto:gord@aco-cso.ca)



## Eastern Opening Doors Conference – Women's Lounge

Date: May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron collaborated with HIV AIDS Regional Services (HARS) (Kingston, Ontario) and the AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO) to host a woman's community building lounge at their annual Eastern Opening Doors Conference.

The woman's lounge provided a calm and supportive environment with space for informal discussion and peer support for women living with HIV. Our main objective was around visibility.

The conference allowed ICW an opportunity to engage women with HIV, introduce them to ICW, encourage and empower them to get involved by joining our membership. Our secondary goal was to start an ongoing conversation on how we can support one another in leading and advocating for policies and services which will end disparities and lead to equality within our communities and around the world. Most importantly we aimed to equip women living with HIV with self-love skills to help them strive for healthy mind, body and soul.

The Eastern Opening Doors Conference Goals are to enhance local community capacity to provide effective counselling and support to people living with HIV. The conference aimed to meaningfully engage partnerships between service providers and people living with HIV. Additionally the conference promotes anti-oppression and the social determinants of health approaches to HIV related support and counselling. Day one of the event is solely intended for people living with HIV only.

### **Self-Love, Self-Care - IAS – Women’s Networking Zone**

Date: July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Building directly upon more than a decade of collaborative organizing around women and HIV at International AIDS Conferences, the Women’s Networking Zone (WNZ) is a community built forum within the International AIDS Conference and parallel to other global fora that is open to the public – and a place where community members, advocates, researchers, service providers, and decision-makers can meet, share, and learn together. Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron hosted a session called “Self-Love, Self-Care” where we learned about each other and shared in a safe space how we can reduce burnout and depression by aiming for a

healthy body, mind and soul.



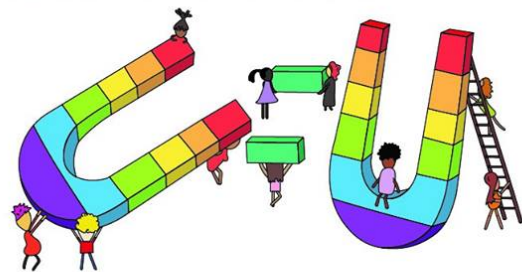
## **The AIDS Committee of Ottawa and Capital Pride's U=U Community Forum**

Date: August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

In collaboration with the AIDS Committee of Ottawa, the Prevention Access Campaign, The National Art Center and Capital Pride; Canadian Board Member Brittany Cameron participated in a UequalsU community forum during Pride Week in the Ottawa, Ontario – Canada's Capital City/ Brittany specifically spoke to women's issues and perspectives in the UequalsU Campaign.



## THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA WITH CAPITAL PRIDE PRESENTS THE



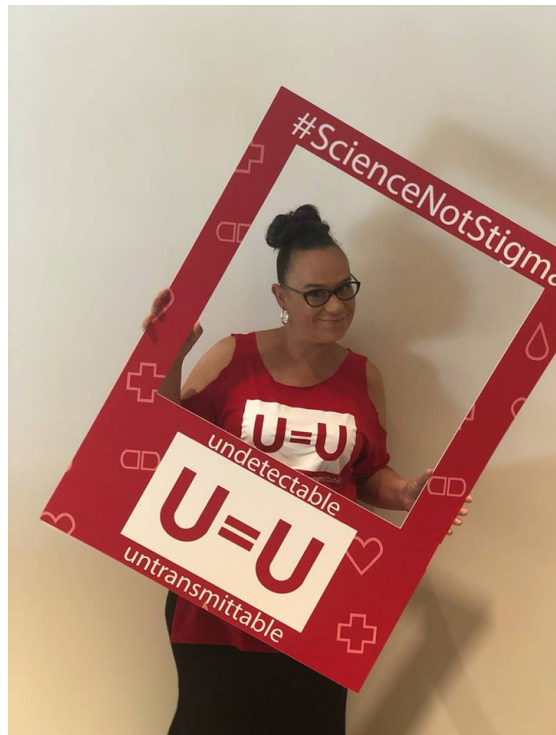
## UNDETECTABLE EQUALS UNTRANSMITTABLE COMMUNITY FORUM

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GLOBAL PHENOMENON KNOWN AS U=U FROM THE FOUNDERS AND LEADING MINDS IN THIS GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT. GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

	Bruce Richman is the founder of Prevention Access Campaign's award-winning U=U movement, a community of over 700 organizations from 85 countries that have united to communicate the still widely unknown fact that a person living with HIV with an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV to sexual partners.
	Brittany Cameron is an HIV+ mother, wife, peer and acts as a Canadian Representative for the U=U campaign.
	Rudy Barty is the first Canadian representative for the U=U campaign. He is a public health educator, researcher, and community organizer.
	Brian E. Jones has been living with HIV+ AIDS for over 34 years. He is one of the founding steering committee members of the U=U campaign.
	Randy Barty recently accepted the position of Gay Men's Sexual Health Coordinator with The Gifted Centre, and volunteers as the Pride Coordinator for the Prevention Access Campaign. As an activist and advocate for people living with HIV, Randy is a loud and proud supporter of the U=U message and movement.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 FROM 2PM-4PM**  
**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, FOURTH STAGE**  
**1 ELGIN STREET, OTTAWA ONTARIO**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION: INFO@ACO-CSO.CA**

**Cap tal Pride**  
**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE**  
**CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS**  
 Ottawa is our stage. Let's celebrate our future.



## Central East Opening Doors – Women's Lounge

Date: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Board Member Brittany Cameron along with a young woman born with HIV; Muluba Habanyama co-facilitated this event in collaboration with The AIDS Committee of Durham Region (ACDR) and PARN – Your Community AIDS Resource Network (Peterborough and the

Four Counties) to host a woman's community building lounge at their annual Central East Opening Doors Conference. The woman's lounge provided a calm and supportive environment with space for informal discussion and peer support for women living with HIV.

Our main objective was around visibility.

The conference allowed ICW an opportunity to engage women with HIV, introduce them to ICW, encourage and empower them to get involved by joining our membership. Our secondary goal was to start an ongoing conversation on how we can support one another in leading and advocating for policies and services which will end disparities and lead to equality within our communities and around the world. Most importantly we aimed to equip women living with HIV with self-love skills to help them strive for healthy mind, body and soul.

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## **AIDS Awareness Week**

### **World AIDS Day**

**Date: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

World AIDS Day 2018

Parliament Hill,

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Speech by Brittany Cameron

In Canada it's estimated that over 14 thousand women live with HIV.

Today, I stand before you as an HIV Positive Mother, Wife, Daughter, Aunt, Ally and fellow Canadian. Like many of you, we as women living with HIV have hopes and dreams.

In 2009 research revealed that 69% of HIV Positive Women in Ontario, who are of reproductive age and wanted to get pregnant. 57% of those women had intentions to have a

baby. There are close to 4000 HIV Positive Women of Reproductive age in Ontario alone. The risk of an HIV Positive woman transmitting HIV to her baby with an undetectable viral load is zero. HIV Positive women can and do have babies. HIV negative babies. U equals U makes this possible. From conception to childbirth and beyond.

However on World AIDS Day we must not forget the women being left behind. Indigenous and First Nations women. African, Caribbean and Black women. Trans women. Women who use drugs. Women engaged in sex work. Women who are incarcerated. Young women and girls. There are many systemic barriers my sisters face that prevent them from becoming undetectable and we must continue our work to dismantle those barriers and the stigma to ensure access for all women.

We must ensure that as women we all have the right to equitable and accessible sexual and reproductive health care, that includes access to birth control and access to safe and legal abortion, however providing the right health services to those who need them, in itself, isn't enough. If we are to achieve equity, and to ensure the right to health for all, we need to work beyond the health system. The broader policy and social environment continues to play a critical role in shaping our epidemic and facilitating or hindering effective responses.

Support our right to make informed choices about our bodies and our right to celebrate sexual pleasure. Increase, improve and guarantee access to HIV. Assure that we are well represented in science and research. Invite us to the decision making table.

Today I encourage you to ask yourself what you can do to make Canada and your local communities a place where all women living with HIV, live free from gender oppression, where we realized and claim our full rights inclusive of sexual, reproductive, legal, social, economic and health rights.

Our sisters are still dying. The time to act is now. No more excuses. Educate yourself. Get an HIV test. Listen to the stories of the women in your community. Let them guide you. Stop the stigma. Call out the violence. End the silence.

