Positive Action Canada Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Initiative
Community Grants:
Results of Third Call for Proposals

ViiV Healthcare’s Positive Action Canada Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Initiative awarded four grants in the Third Call for Proposals focused on HIV prevention education for Aboriginal men, women, and youth in Canada; an emphasis targeting Aboriginal youth was encouraged.

The Positive Action Canada Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Initiative supports grassroots, community-based projects that enhance care, treatment, support and prevention services for Aboriginal people in Canada living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Proposals were required to respond to a community-identified need; build on community strengths; be driven by the community they serve; respect Aboriginal culture, teachings and traditions; and implement GIPA/ MIPA (Greater and Meaningful Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS) Principles.

Applications were evaluated by an advisory committee composed of Canadian Aboriginal HIV community experts. Four community-based organizations shared the $116,900 available in 2015. The proposals selected to receive funding are:

**Blood Ties Four Directions Centre** – *Health Education Program for At-Risk/ Street Involved Aboriginal Youth in Yukon*, $7,400. To help prevent the acquisition of HIV and STI's amongst vulnerable, street-involved and other at-risk Aboriginal youth in Whitehorse, the program will offer a culturally relevant comprehensive health education program designed to address the informational, motivational and behavioural needs of these youth.

**Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network** – *Moving the Front Line Forward: Awareness Campaigns on Integrated HIV, Hep C & STI Prevention Strategies for Aboriginal People*, $34,500. This HIV prevention knowledge-based initiative will assist Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal front-line service providers serving Aboriginal populations across Canada to increase their knowledge of holistic, evidence based and unified prevention strategies that address HIV, hepatitis C, and other related sexually transmitted and blood borne infections, relevant co-infections and social determinants of health.
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Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre – Dream Catcher Red Ribbon Project.
$50,000. The project will develop and provide culturally relevant HIV prevention education programming to reach Aboriginal youth, local service providers, and at-risk community members in the Saskatoon region, with a view to communicating implications for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The project will be supported through peer leadership development, focused on indentifying and working with local Indigenous/Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs) who can act as role models, knowledge keepers and leaders in the Indigenous community.

YouthCO AIDS & Hep C Society (YouthCO) – Indigenous Youth Knowledge & Information Exchange Gatherings $25,000. The youth-driven initiative led by YouthCO and Native Youth Sexual Health Network will assemble 40 Indigenous youth residing in the Prince George and Ottawa regions to share skills, build knowledge and decrease isolation as peers responding to the realities of HIV in their communities.

An initiative of Viiv Healthcare Canada, the Positive Action Canada Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Initiative has granted a total of $236,552 in funding to 10 projects over the past 3 years.

Information regarding the Positive Action Canada Aboriginal Initiative Fourth Call for Proposals will be available in June 2016.