



**Annual Report
2008-2009**

J. Evin Jones
Executive Director

Message from the Executive Director, J. Evin Jones

2008-2009 was a milestone year of growth and positive momentum for the Pacific AIDS Network! Here are some highlights:

New Logo

At this year's AGM we are happy to officially launch our new logo. Thanks to everyone who offered feedback throughout the creative process – Board and staff of PAN solicited input from 15 different reps from across 11 member organizations. We will be doing some branding pieces with the logo over the coming months.

New Website

Our new website www.pacificaidnetwork.org was launched this year. Thanks to funding generously provided by **Abbott Virology**, PAN was able to work with a web designer to come up with a new design and architecture for the website with an emphasis on accessibility and usability. The new website uses Word press as its content management system (CMS) and is very user-friendly. This new CMS has helped to ensure that content on the website gets updated on a regular basis, even with limited staffing resources. We switched our domain from “.ca” to “.org”, and secured a new server located in Canada. Potential “next steps” for the website may include: creation of an online forum for staff and volunteers of member organizations, exploring live streaming for PAN events, and uploading education, professional development and “best practices” resources.

Our Funders & Donors– Historic and New

PAN's relationship with its funders, the AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP), Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), has never been stronger. We are deeply grateful to both PHAC and PHSA for their vision and providing sustained financial support to PAN.

We are also thrilled about some new relationships that were created this year, notably with Abbott Virology, who generously supported our website “refresh” and our Spring 2009 Skills Building Conference. Thank you Abbott Virology!

Thanks also to Merck Frosst, our newest partner, for their significant and deeply appreciated contribution to the September 09 PHA Level I Leadership Training.

Spring Skills Building Conference – February 2009

We were pleased to welcome 90 attendees to our Spring Skills Building Conference, including 26 PHA delegates. The conference included: a Priority Setting/Networking Session for EDs, a PHA Priority Setting Session, a PHA Leadership Stream, an opening and closing plenary, Skills-Building sessions for Service Providers on Grief and Loss and Self-Care, and a workshop co-presented by PAN, CATIE, and the HIV/AIDS Legal Network on HIV Disclosure and the Criminal Law. We were also honoured to welcome Elder Eugene Harry to the event, who dignified our proceedings and acted as a support to PHA delegates throughout the conference.

The conference was rated very highly by attendees in a number of categories including overall satisfaction and relevance. Perhaps more exciting, was the palpable feeling of success, new beginnings, fresh cohesion and positive energy that many delegates remarked upon – and the growing sense that PAN is going in “the right direction” . I encourage you to read the Evaluation Report for the conference, which can be found on PAN’s website, www.pacificaidnetwork.org.

Thank you to our conference partners: CATIE, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Community Based Research Program housed at the BC Persons With AIDS Society, and the Vancouver Native Health Society. You are appreciated!

CATIE/PAN Pacific Regional Educational Conference – October 2009

This Fall’s conference is evidence of a dynamic collaboration between CATIE and PAN. When CATIE brought this opportunity forward for our two organizations to once again work in partnership, we were delighted. The result of our collective efforts is an HIV/AIDS Educational Conference that I anticipate will prove to be insightful, informative and timely in speaking to some of the most urgent issues community-based AIDS organizations and PHAs in BC are facing today.

PHA Leadership Training Program – September 2009

One of the priorities identified at PAN's last two provincial conferences was to explore how best to bring leadership training opportunities to PHAs, to provide not only a meaningful personal and professional experience but also to reinvigorate the HIV/AIDS movement in BC. Towards that end, PAN entered into a partnership with the Ontario AIDS Network (OAN), which has provided a highly successful leadership training program to PHAs in Ontario since 2006. We are extremely grateful to the OAN for the generosity they have demonstrated and their commitment to a mutually supportive and respectful relationship that will inform the evolution of the program in both provinces. We also acknowledge the efforts of Kath Webster and Marc Seguin, who have been volunteering for PAN as "facilitators-in-training".

As a result of the hard work and efforts of many people, BC's first ever PHA Leadership Level I Training took place in September 2009 at Loon Lake, BC, with a total of 18 participants (the maximum number possible for any leadership training) attending from throughout the province. The feedback and evaluation from participants has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic, who described the training as a profoundly meaningful opportunity for them to identify, develop and nurture their leadership skills. I encourage you to read the Evaluation Report for the training, which can be found on PAN's website, www.pacificaidnetwork.org.

Based on this positive feedback, PAN has renewed its commitment to making this leadership training an ongoing reality for PHAs in BC, and exploring the eventual introduction of Level II and III in this province. This training is an effective, peer-driven and peer-led way to positively impact PAN member organizations and the larger community as well as to empower PHAs to make change on an individual level. PAN sees this as a key contribution the network is now making in promoting the GIPA (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS) Principle in BC.

Thank you to **Merck Frosst** for their significant financial support of the training.

Working Provincially to Contribute to a Just & Effective Response to HIV/AIDS

Another key priority identified for PAN at the last provincial conference was that a document be prepared and delivered to the Ministers of Health, underscoring the importance and effectiveness of the community-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in BC. The reality is that community-based AIDS service organizations (CBAO's)/PAN member organizations play a cost-saving and cost-effective role in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. PAN member organizations rely on volunteers to deliver services and programs to PHAs and those most at risk, representing millions of dollars of value to society. Furthermore, prevention and education programs that help to prevent new infections; and the support, care and treatment information services that help to improve the quality of life and health prognosis of people living with HIV/AIDS – all save the province significant amounts by averting health care costs.

A discussion document outlining this economic argument, and providing a snapshot of the current reality of the epidemic in BC, was researched and delivered by PAN on behalf of its 41 member organizations to Ministers Kevin Falcon and Ida Chong. PAN will be conducting further follow-up to this document with the Ministers, and we anticipate dovetailing that effort with what coalesces in the near future in terms of a collective response to the funding cuts that are now occurring throughout the regional health authorities.

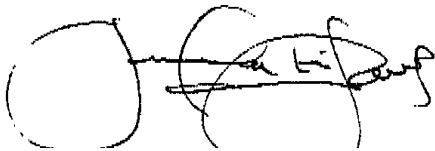
Looking to the Future

PAN is looking forward with great anticipation to expanding and refining our core work of providing skills building opportunities, including leadership training, for PHAs and/or the staff and volunteers of our member organizations. Planning is now in the works for the introduction of new, targeted skills programs and resources that will represent a more focussed way of delivering professional development opportunities to our member organizations.

PAN also looks forward to playing a meaningful role in addressing the emerging trials of our time, most notable of which is a severe challenge to the funding levels of many of our member organizations and agencies. While representing very little of each health authorities total expenditure, the services and programs offered by PAN member organizations represent significant value for the health care dollar. Now more than ever, this is a message that urgently needs to be communicated to government, policy makers, and the public-at-large.

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It has been a true privilege to work for the member organizations of PAN and alongside the Board of Directors and my other colleagues listed below. My thanks to all of you for the inspiration you provide and your dedication to this work.



Jennifer Evin Jones
Executive Director

2008-2009 PAN Board of Directors

Alphabetically

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