



National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Month Launches Documentary ***Promising Practices in Timiskaming First Nation Debuts May 1***

Vancouver, BC (April 12, 2017) – The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is proud to release, “*Promising Practices in Timiskaming First Nation*”, the second film in a series of documentaries which showcase community-led initiatives and the power of storytelling to improve health outcomes. To launch the May 2017 *National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Month* the documentary will debut May 1, 2017 in Cobalt, Ontario.

This time the camera lens focuses on tackling Hepatitis C with culturally appropriate practices as Indigenous People in Canada are 7 times more likely to be infected and 44% of those chronically infected are not aware of their status. In 2011, it was estimated over 461,000 Canadians had a history of a Hepatitis C infection and injection drug use remains the highest risk factor for contracting this blood to blood virus.

While filming over a two-year period, “*Promising Practices in Timiskaming First Nation*” tells the story of how the Timiskaming First Nation (TFN) is addressing Hepatitis C in their community. They have utilized the Community Readiness Model and reduced the risk for contracting Hepatitis C amongst people who are using drugs or engaging in risky behaviours, and increased the number of people getting tested and onto treatment.

Their approach entailed readiness assessment matched with interventions and stage-appropriate strategies which included education of staff, leadership and community; alongside the distribution of harm reduction kits and meeting people where they are at with a non-judgemental attitude.

“Culture and awareness are key to healing and wellness,” Carol McBride, Director Health and Social Services, TFN Health Centre. “Being part of this documentary allows us to pass along our success with education and following traditions. It’s our hope this will foster conversations around culturally appropriate practices in order to empower other communities to take ownership of their health.”

One of the documentary’s narratives follows an Anishnabe woman’s powerful story of her lived experience using rich Indigenous culture and traditions to face her challenges. She is now healthy and sharing her journey in order to help active drug users living with Hepatitis C.

“*Promising Practices in Timiskaming First Nation*” and “*Promising Practices in Indigenous Communities in Saskatchewan (Sturgeon Lake)*” are part of the documentary series that in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and First Nation communities will feature Indigenous-led responses toward Hepatitis C, HIV and AIDS Community Readiness, and HIV and Youth. CAAN invites anyone to request a copy of these documentaries for personal or community sharing.



Screening Details *Promising Practices in Timiskaming First Nation*

When: Monday, May 1, 2017 7:00 -9:00 pm EST
Where: Classic Theatre Cobalt, 30 Silver Street, Cobalt, Ontario P0J 1C0
Cost: Free Event
Details: www.bit.ly/promisingpracticestimiskaming

About Timiskaming First Nation www.atfn.ca

Timiskaming First Nation is an Algonquin Community in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Québec. It is located at the head of Lake Timiskaming which is on the provincial boundaries of Quebec and Ontario.

There are nine Algonquin Communities in Quebec; 7 communities are in Abitibi-Témiscamingue region and 2 are in the Outaouais region.

About CAAN www.caan.ca

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) is a non-profit coalition of individuals and organizations which provides leadership, support and advocacy for Aboriginal individuals living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, regardless of where they reside. Their philosophy is that all Aboriginal Peoples deserve the right to protect themselves against infectious disease and thrives on providing the Aboriginal community with accurate and current information about HIV including risks of contracting the virus, issues of care and treatment, and support for families and those living with the disease.

Join the conversation on Facebook: [@CAAN.ca](https://www.facebook.com/CAAN.ca) Twitter: [@CAAN_says](https://twitter.com/CAAN_says)

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PROMISING PRACTICES – MOVIE STILLs

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