

Women Centered Care for HIV Positive Women

Presentation by Valerie Nicholson,
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Positive Gathering Conference
Sunday March 24th 2013
Coast Plaza Hotel, Comox Room



Étude sur la santé sexuelle et reproductive
des femmes vivant avec le VIH au Canada

Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and
Reproductive Health Cohort Study

Welcome!



**We would like to acknowledge that we have
gathered together on the traditional territory of
the Cedar Coast Salish people**



Acknowledgements

- Thank you to the CHIWOS co-PIs, provincial co-ordinators, PRAs, and the entire national core research team
- Thank you to the Steering Committee members, CAB members, CAAB-PAW members, and all the co-investigators, collaborators, working group members, community partners, and women living with HIV who are committed to this study!
- Thank you to our affiliated studies: REACH, CANOC & OSC
- Thank you to our funders: CIHR (Institute of Gender and Health) and the CTN



the CTN
CIHR Canadian
HIV Trials Network

le Réseau
Réseau canadien
pour les essais VIH des IRSC



Outline of workshop

- **Opening Activity**
- **What is CHIWOS?** – An overview and discussion of our study
- **What is WOMEN-CENTRED CARE?** – An overview and discussion of our preliminary research findings
- **Closing Activity**



Opening Activity



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What does it mean to **YOU** to be a **WOMAN**?



CHIWO⁺S

What is CHIWOS?

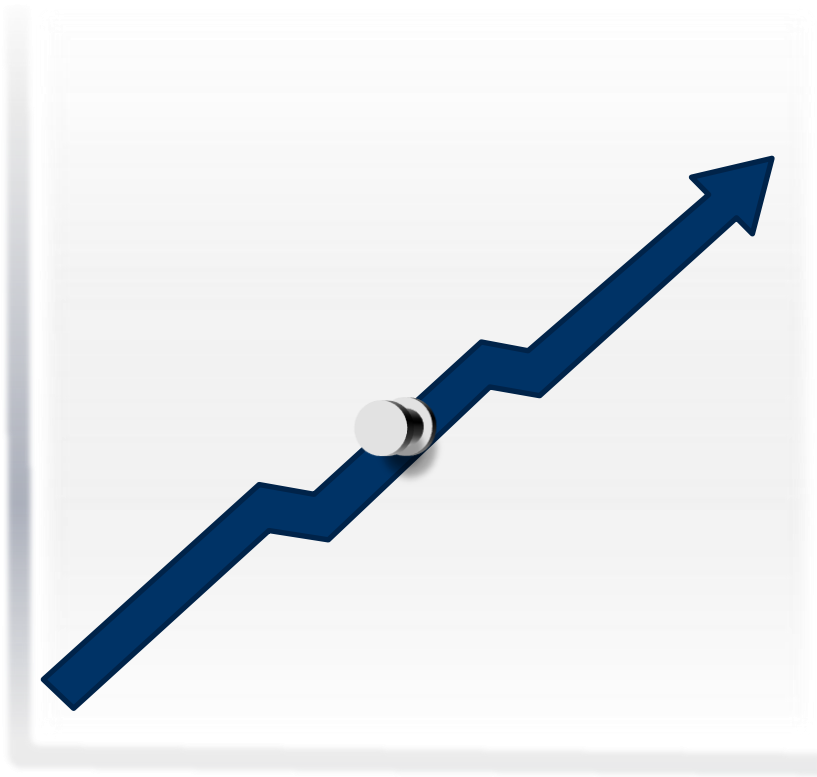


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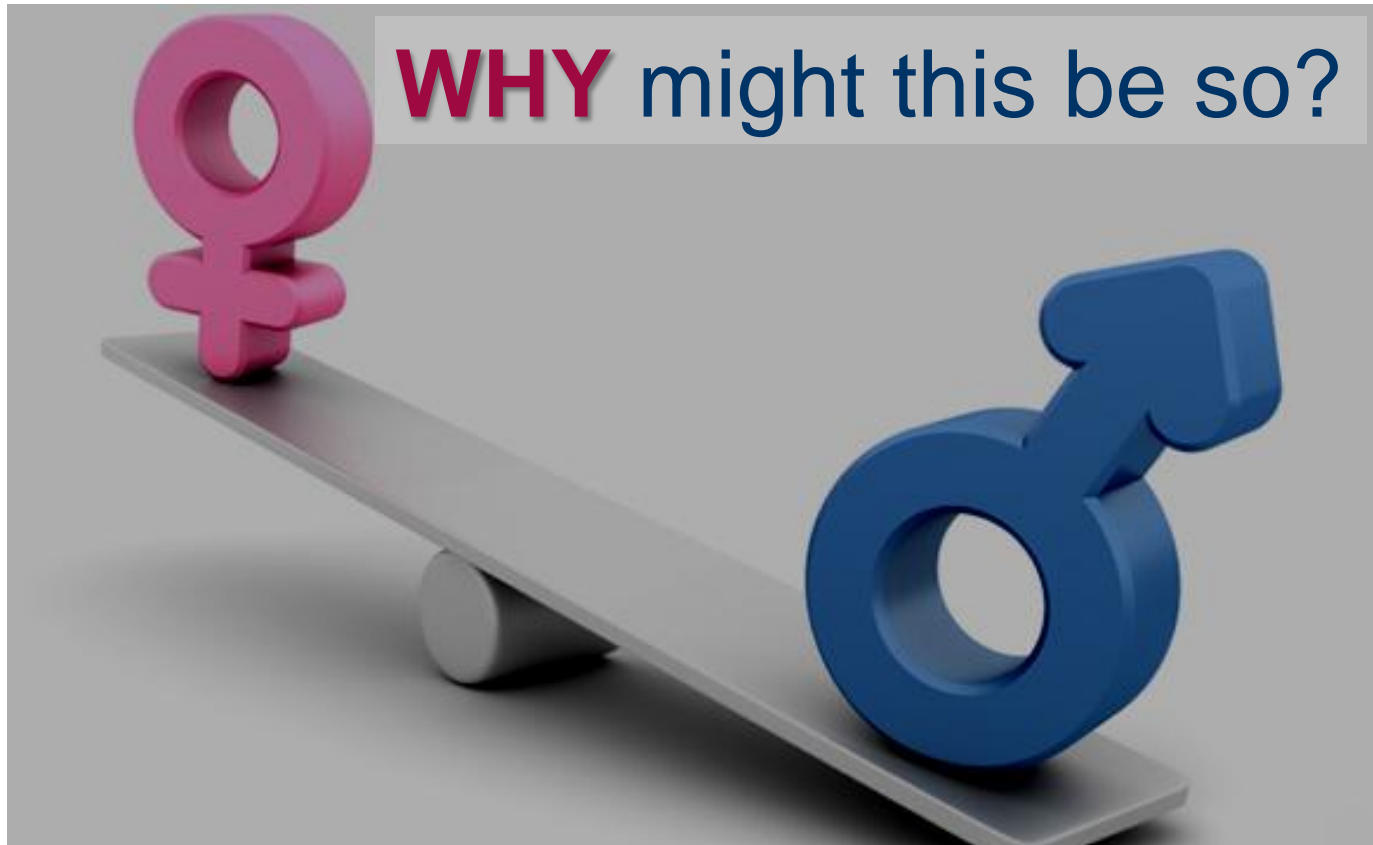
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WHY are
**MORE
WOMEN**
living with
HIV now?

CHIWO S



Access to and engagement in care is also unequal between men & women



Women have **UNIQUE** medical and social needs

What issues / needs / concerns are important in the **lives** and **care** of women living with HIV?



What does all this tell us?



Women are **unique** and **tailored services** that respond to women's needs may be critical to improving their **health**

We're listening



CHIWO⁺S

That leads us to... CHIWOS!

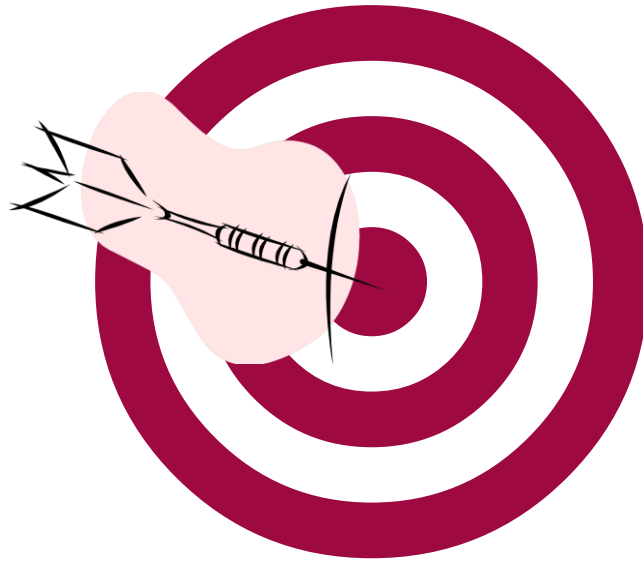


CHIWOOS
✚

What are our study goals?

What are our study goals?

Does **women-centred care** lead
to **improved health** outcomes?



CHIWO^WS
♀

How are we going to do this?



How are we going to do this?



What is women-centred care?



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What does **WOMAN-
CENTRED CARE** mean to
YOU?



Do you think there is a need for
WOMAN-CENTRED CARE, and
WHY or **WHY NOT**?

Here's what we found in our research...



We conducted **focus groups** with women with HIV to explore **women-centred care**

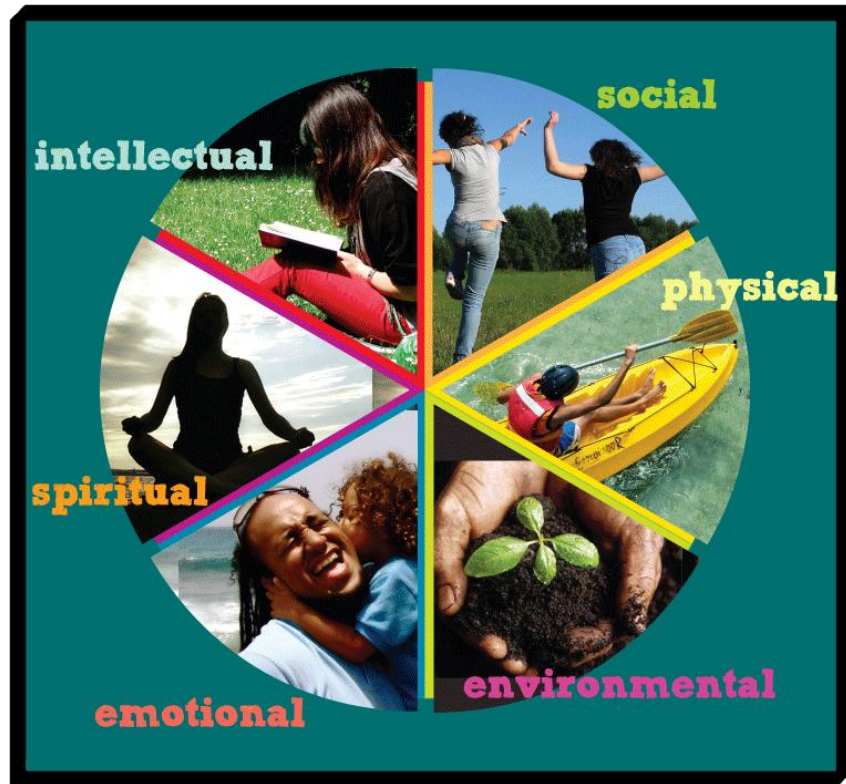


Preparing for the focus group in Prince George

Focus group training



Providers who care about your **WHOLE** life, not just your viral load or CD4 cell count



“Yeah, I mean he doesn’t just check with your health. He wanted to know if your kids were okay, and how your relationship was going. And everything, sexual health, emotional health, all of it. He was interested in all those aspects that make you a whole person.”

(Victoria Participant)

A space where women can feel **safe** (emotionally and physically)

“...I would like to see a women’s-only clinic where I can go in there, I can be comfortable seeing a woman doctor, woman social worker, someone that has gone through menopause even. Somewhere where I can sit around like here and talk to a group of women that have so many wonderful ideas...Just a safe space where I can actually talk about my period’s really heavy, my boobs have got, just something that some other people can relate to... I want to do girl things. It’s kind of a weird thing to say, but I don’t have a place where I’m comfortable.”

(Vancouver Participant)



Policies that recognize women as **MORE** than volunteers & recipients of services



“That’s a clear indication that [Organization X] doesn’t follow GIPA principles... It’s very disturbing... I’m expected to put in volunteer hours. I see a couple of my neighbours, they drive them like slaves. They work like dogs and don’t get a penny for it. They don’t get recognition. They don’t even get a cake or something on volunteer day. It’s like there’s this glass ceiling.” (Vancouver Participant)

What’s that called?

Meaningful
Involvement of
Women living with HIV/**A**IDS

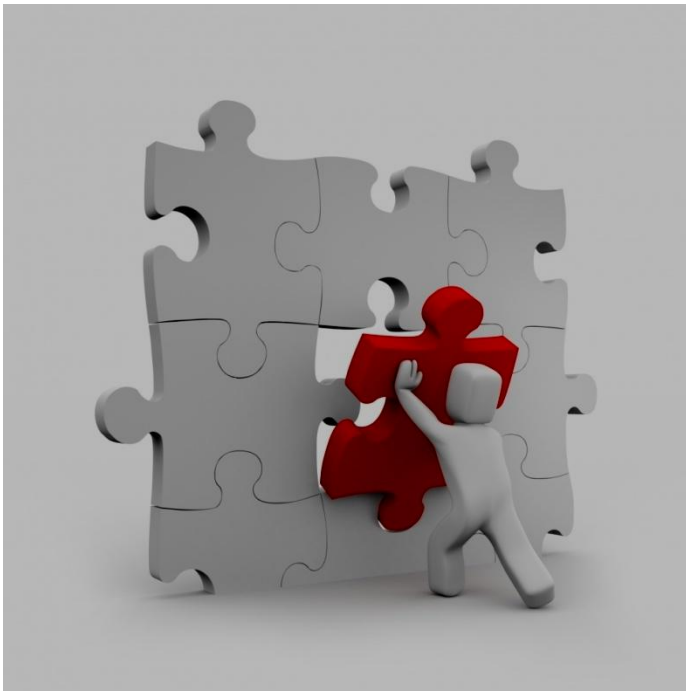
MIWA!

CHIWO**S**
♀

Care environments that are non-stigmatizing

We're still fighting stigma!

“...If you're Aboriginal and you're complaining. Say if you had been drinking that night or whatever... As soon as they find out that you're on methadone or you're currently using, it's like you're down to here and back in the line... They will help you eventually. But you are so tired at one point that you're either trying to curl up on a chair or you've got to leave. And then you haven't been helped and they're saying well you know you were next in line. Well that's bullshit. You know exactly where you stand in line and it's right at the very bottom of the list...” (Prince George Participant)



From your own perspective,
what are the **KEY**
CHALLENGES to the
implementation of women-
centred care practices in your
own clinics, ASOs,
communities?

And what
ACTIONS
actions can we
take towards
addressing these
challenges in a
sustainable way?



Closing Activity



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Please share one **idea / thought /**
‘Aha!’ moment / word you are
leaving with today

Final questions/thoughts?



Thank you!

For more information, please contact Allison Carter (604-682-2344 ext 62544 pr allison_carter@sfu.ca) or connect with us online.

CONNECT!

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