

# Coordinating Multi-region and Multi-stakeholder Research

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At: Gathering of Spirits: Canadian women, trans people, and girls' HIV research collaborative

Special Session at CAHR 2012

Montreal, Quebec April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012



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

# Conflict of interest disclosure

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- We have no conflicts of interest.

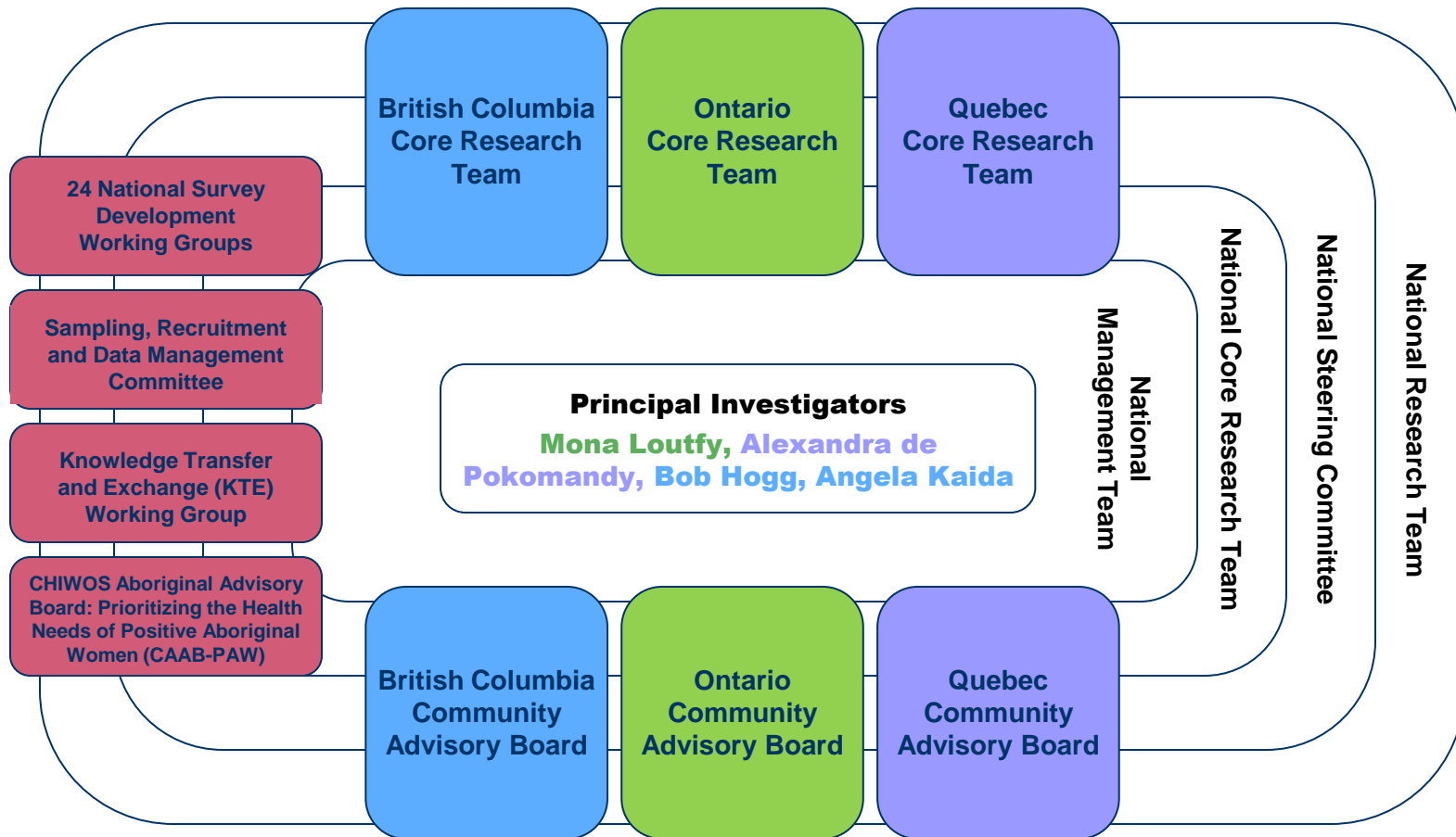
# CHIWOS Study Goals

- Among HIV-positive women
  - To assess barriers to and facilitators of women-specific HIV/AIDS services use
  - To assess the impact of such patterns of use on sexual, reproductive, mental and women's health outcomes
- Hypotheses:
  - Usage of women-specific services will a) be lower among more marginalized and stigmatized communities, and b) be shown to correlate with improved sexual, reproductive, mental and women's health outcomes

# Study Design (Overview)

- Five year, multi-site, prospective cohort study that is rolling out in BC, ON and QC
- Target sample size = 1,250 HIV-positive women
- Operates within women-centred CBR and GIPA approaches
- Two phases:
  - Formative phase (wrapping up)
  - National survey phase (launch in Fall 2012)
    - Recruitment at clinics, ASOs, online, word-of-mouth, peer-driven
    - Aims to enrol 350 women each in BC and QC; 550 women in ON
    - Participants will complete a Peer Research Associate (PRA)-administered survey at baseline (Wave 1) and again 18 months later (Wave 2)

# Study Team Structure



# (Some) Challenges of Collaborative Research

- **Tension and inequities in CBR stakeholder relationships**
  - E.g., PRA contributions as ‘volunteers’ vs. salaried research staff
  - **Addressing challenge (e.g.):** Commitment to the Meaningful Involvement of Women living with HIV (MIWA) and seeking innovative ways to facilitate this involvement
- **Diverse regional profiles, capacity, and priorities**
  - E.g., ACB women in ON, refugee women in QC, and IDU and Aboriginal women in BC
  - **Addressing challenge (e.g.):** National topic-specific survey development working groups
- **Negotiating and valuing diversity in stakeholder needs, incentives, priorities, etc**
  - E.g., Research interests vs. ‘Action’
  - **Addressing challenge (e.g.):** Commitment to relationship and trust building, open communication, and transparency
- **Funding**
  - E.g., \$1.19M across 5 years across 3 provinces across multiple provincial stakeholders/sites = not enough funding.
  - **Addressing challenge (e.g.):** Apply for additional funding, in-kind support

# (Some) Facilitators of Collaborative Research

- **Strong and well-connected leadership team**
  - E.g., Pre-existing multi-sector relationships
- **Multi-institution engagement**
  - E.g., Diverse capacities and strengths
- **Team commitment to continual learning and capacity building**
  - E.g., Creating opportunities for everyone to celebrate existing capacities and build on their knowledge, skills and abilities
- **Enthusiasm!**
  - E.g., Internal and external, potential for transformational change



# Perspective of a CHIWOS Peer Research Associate (PRA)





# Perspective of a CHIWOS Peer Research Associate (PRA)



# Acknowledgements

- Thank you to CHIWOS's 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, and community partners committed to this study
- 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

