



# PRAIRIE COMMUNITY-BASED HIV RESEARCH PROGRAM

## A Novel Approach in the Field of HIV/AIDS

Community-Based Research refers to research processes which are, to various degrees, driven by, or responsive to, the needs and interests of a specific community.

Community-Based Research is research that is conducted in equitable collaboration between trained researchers and members of a community and follows methodological rigour.

### The CBR Program

- *Supports research and capacity-building initiatives with communities engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.*
- *Situates a community-based research facilitator in a community organization in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to provide support.*

### The Program in Action

Over the last few years, the Prairie program has supported community-based research initiatives through:

- workshops (CUPID: Community-University Participatory Inquiry Designs for capacity building in project development)
  - consultation on specific needs of a project from proposal writing, research tools, ethics protocols, dissemination (Knowledge Attitudes and Behaviours among rural youth; Housing, Health and HIV)
  - support to peer-led projects (Peer Involvement in Services and Prevention among Young Women in Care)
  - knowledge exchange gatherings (Cocktails Scientifique)
- among others...

### Issues and Experiences

CBR is an increasingly popular tool to support community and policy development through meaningful engagement, and has been part of advancing research in HIV/AIDS.

CBR is a flexible research approach, which can draw on a variety of research methods in support.

CBR is particularly useful for addressing social justice issues, and therefore may be criticized or less supported by proponents of more traditional research methods.

CBR offers communities and organizations an alternative research process, which is usually better suited to their needs and capacity. The Prairie CBRF provides guidance and facilitation process, and in this way we influence social justice and action *together*.

### Lessons Learned

- There is a need for ongoing promotion of CBR, its principles and appropriate applications.
- Community organizations face service delivery demands and have diverse research needs; this impacts on the Program strategies.
- Supporting CBR requires innovation in engaging stakeholders, including community-based organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS, and academics.
- The Program requires flexibility to meet the changing needs of CBOs and development in the research area.

### Contact Information

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