

2-Spirits Speakers Bureau Project November 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

The 2-Spirits Speakers Bureau Project will build upon a pilot project also funded under the Toronto Urban Aboriginal Strategy (TUAS), which was completed March 31, 2006. Lessons learned from that pilot phase have been incorporated into this new phase II project, with elements that advance the initial objectives, activities and outcomes that were achieved.

The Speakers Manual - Developing a New Resource

The 2 Spirits Speakers Bureau project will create a Speakers Manual for Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS, create Speakers Bureau policies incorporating lessons learned from phase I, create a flexible draft Speakers Bureau mechanism/process and also create an innovative draft advertising/marketing strategy for this new service to be provided to the Aboriginal community.

This Speakers Bureau project, by March 31, 2007, will work to increase organizational capacity-building for Aboriginal HIV-positive people to develop skills and knowledge to provide accurate, culturally-appropriate, Aboriginal HIV/AIDS information among health and social service providers to 2-Spirit people. 2-Spirits will produce a printed and digital resource in the form of a Speakers Manual for this organization and others to use to increase capacity far beyond the funding cycle.

In order to start the training, 2-Spirits will recruit five (5) Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs) by November 15th 2006 to participate in the three (3) month training to take place Nov 30th to Feb 28th, 2006. This project will look to enlist APHA's from all walks of life with an emphasis on youth. As preparation for the training, these recruited trainees will attend the Beyond the Epidemics – From Knowledge to Action Conference which runs from Nov 30th to Dec 1st, 2006.

Long Term Objective

2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations will build capacity of HIV-positive Aboriginal individuals and our organization, in addressing the gaps in the Aboriginal community. This project enables the 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations organization in designing, developing and implementing a better response to the demand for Aboriginal HIV positive speakers and presenters. – Long Term Objectives

The involvement of Aboriginal HIV positive people enhances our programs and creates new opportunities. Phase I showed that this training process can help to increase levels of confidence and the ability to engage in personal behavioural change. These options in behavioural change which lead to safer practices will then be communicated to other Aboriginal people through the Speakers Bureau.

For further information on this project contact Art Zoccole by sending an email to art@2spirits.com