

EDITORS' LETTER

Welcome to another issue of *The Positive Side*, CATIE's magazine about, for and by Canadians living with HIV/AIDS. In this issue, we are pleased to present a variety of perspectives and opinions on the massive International AIDS Conference (IAC), which Canada hosted last summer.

Take our cover story, for instance. As a positive woman, writer and longtime activist, Shari Margolese is uniquely positioned to report on the conference, which adopted women's issues as its "unofficial" theme. In her article on page 10 ("Front and Centre"), Shari considers then-UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis's calls for greater attention to the impact of the epidemic on women and for a heightened role for women in confronting the epidemic. As she and many of her interviewees see it, this was undeniably valuable, but the fact is that it is only the beginning and there is a very, very long way yet to go.

The same can be said of the Aboriginal perspective. As you will read in the article by Charlene Catchpole and Michael Bailey on page 23, there was great disappointment among participants: the feeling was, for a conference held in Canada where Aboriginal issues are so critical, there was very little of concrete value. Fortunately, the conference was preceded by the International Indigenous Peoples' Satellite, which created a forum for discussion, knowledge exchange and solidarity among Indigenous peoples from around the world. The good news is that organizers instituted a plan for similar gatherings to occur around each IAC.

These are undoubtedly timely improvements. Despite its origins as a scientific conference, the IAC has evolved into something quite different. Of course there were some important developments (see CATIE staffer David McLay's article on treatment advances, "Good News on the Horizon," page 18, for a survey). As important though, for the IAC of today, is the extraordinary spirit of unity, connection and camaraderie that permeated the Global Village, without a doubt the beating heart of the conference. That may be the real legacy of the event: valuable linkages were made amid a shared spirit of optimism and resolve that this is indeed the "time to deliver," as the conference motto declared. Perhaps though, the enduring message remains: "Together, we fight on." —The Editors

THE POSITIVE SIDE

Fall/Winter 2006/2007

Publisher:

Canadian AIDS

Treatment Information
Exchange (CATIE)505-555 Richmond St W
Box 1104

Toronto ON M5V 3B1

Canada

© 2007, CATIE.

All rights reserved.

ISSN: 1191-9809

Publications Agreement

Number 1707361

Editors:

Matthew Church,

Sean Hosein, Anna

Kohn, RonniLyn Pustil,

Tim Rogers

Contributors:

Moe Asem, Michael

Bailey, Charlene

Catchpole, Paul

Litherland, Shari

Margolese, David

McLay, Jake Peters,

RonniLyn Pustil,

Ann Silversides,

Huan Tran

Creative Direction
and Design:

David Vereschagin,

Quadrat Communications

For expert review,
thank you to:

John Gill, MB, ChB, MSc,

Southern Alberta Clinic

Cover Photograph:

Jake Peters

Chatty CATIE

Seven attendees of CATIE's AIDS 2006 Learning Institute, reflect on the lasting effects.

Interviews by **RonniLyn Pustil**

4

Through a Long Lens

Since 1989, photographer **Jake Peters** has attended every International AIDS Conference but one. He presents his impressions and photos of the most recent.

6

From the Front Lines

What's happening at AIDS Service Organizations across the country.

9



Front and Centre

AIDS 2006 finally put positive women's issues at the forefront. **Shari Margolese** looks at what was accomplished... and what wasn't.

10

Accessible to All

With the recent rollout of access to HAART around the world, more and more attention is being paid to treatment literacy.

Ann Silversides offers a global survey

15

Good News on the Horizon

CATIE staffer **David McLay** reports on some promising new drugs. Plus: understanding the viral cycle and how new drugs can break it.

18

Hope and Anger

From the perspective of the world's Indigenous peoples, AIDS 2006 was both a terrible disappointment and a great success. By **Charlene Catchpole** and **Michael Bailey**

23

The Art of Being Positive

CATIE was the proud creator of "art posi+ive," a national series of exhibits of art by people living with HIV/AIDS.

27