



CANFAR ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

OUR MISSION

HIV is now a preventable infection, yet the number of new cases only continues to climb with **an estimated 63,050 people living with HIV in Canada.**

It's estimated that six people newly acquire HIV each day - that's nearly one person affected every four hours.

The Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR) aims to end Canada's HIV epidemic by leading national strategies to increase prevention, testing and linkage to care and to end HIV stigma. Fueled by fundraising, CANFAR supports research, builds awareness and cultivates partnerships.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear CANFAR community,

Dr. Isaac Bogoch is one of the eminent doctors upon whom we rely for so much; he has been one of the leading minds working on tackling COVID-19 in Canada. As he clearly states, ending HIV in Canada is actually within our grasp, yet the number of new infections in Canada continues to grow stubbornly year over year, unlike every other G7 country where the numbers are falling.

What do we need to do to reverse this trend?

First and foremost, we need to **improve access to testing** so we can identify those Canadians who are HIV positive and don't know it – approximately 14% of those infected do not know it. At-home self-testing kits were finally approved in Canada at the end of 2020. CANFAR co-funded the necessary research to secure Health Canada approval (led by our Scientific Advisor Dr. Sean Rourke), and we are now working to ensure that all Canadians, and particularly those in marginalized communities, have access to these rapid, accurate, anonymous, and life-saving kits.

Just this month, CANFAR has funded two HIV express-test machines located at HQ, a new state of the art, comprehensive health clinic for men in downtown Toronto. These machines can process and confirm HIV tests within minutes, and, while housed at HQ, will serve several clinics in the central Toronto area.

This equipment is expensive, but the availability of rapid testing like this can be a game changer, particularly for marginalized and hard to reach populations. CANFAR is actively pursuing similar partnerships with other key health groups at strategic locations across Canada about the possibility of providing them with similar equipment.

Once tested, getting positive folks **into treatment quickly** is critical. Equally important is to get those **who test negative but who belong to a high-risk group prescribed with pre-exposure prophylactics (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylactics (PEP)** as quickly as possible, **minimizing their risk of contracting HIV**. Ensuring that PrEP and PEP are available to those who need it regardless of location or ability to pay is also something we are focused on.

Two new online programs were launched this past year: ***Sexfluent*** (sexfluent.ca) is a CANFAR-funded platform and campaign providing critical information to Canadian youth about safe sex, healthy relationships and HIV/STI prevention; as well as ***I'm Ready*** (readytoknow.ca), co-sponsored by CANFAR, a first-of-its-kind national research program that is sharing 50,000 free self-test kits and offering participants the choice to connect to care either with trained peer navigation support or on their own using the program's online resources. *I'm Ready* collects anonymized data from participants through surveys.

Finally, this year as we continue to partner with different people and groups, I've enjoyed working with CANFAR's newest addition to our Board, **Trevor Stratton**. Trevor is an exceptional person, an inspirational member of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation near Toronto. He is of Ojibwe and English heritage and is a well-respected leader within the HIV community in Canada and internationally. Diagnosed with HIV in 1990 and literally on his death bed when anti-retroviral drugs were introduced towards the end of that decade, Trevor has devoted much of his life since to helping others, and in particular Indigenous communities across this land and around the world that have been devastated by the HIV epidemic.

Both Trevor and I believe passionately that we *can* and *must* finally put an end to this epidemic in Canada. As Dr. Bogoch says, there's no reason for anyone to be getting HIV. **But we need your help if we are to realize this dream and leave an AIDS-free country to future generations.**

Thank you for joining our campaign this past year by supporting this effort to find *pragmatic* and *equitable* solutions that will result in the end of AIDS in Canada. Together we can achieve that objective.



Andrew Pringle, CM
Chair, CANFAR Board of Directors

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Some of Canada's foremost leaders in the financial, legal, and philanthropic sectors sit on CANFAR's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing the mission, vision and direction of CANFAR, while representing the interests of the organization.



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As a committee, the SAC are ultimately responsible for selecting the most significant research projects from the many applications that they receive.



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CURRENT RESEARCH

ON-GOING RESEARCH

Title: 2019 CANFAR/CTN Postdoctoral Fellow

Funding: \$50,000 CANFAR Grant

Lead: Dr. Elisabeth McClymont

Time Frame: On-going since 1992

Description: An undergraduate course, “The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic”, enthralled Elisabeth with the multifaceted nature of the HIV epidemic. During her time as a postdoctoral fellow with the CTN, Dr. McClymont will be investigating cytomegalovirus (CMV) transmission among women living with HIV and their children. CMV is one of the most common viral infections, present in an estimated **40-100%** of people worldwide. In those with compromised immune systems (uncontrolled HIV, leukemia, newborns), the virus can cause health complications including gastrointestinal infections and neurological disorders. Dr. McClymont explained, “The earlier stage of vaccine development for CMV brings different and interesting questions of how to optimize a vaccine to best suit people living with and without HIV. Understanding the natural CMV transmission dynamics in women living with HIV will help inform that optimal vaccine design.”



Title: ENGAGE: A Canadian Research and Intervention team on Gay and Bisexual Men's Sexual Health

Lead: Dr. Trevor Hart

Time Frame: 2016 – 2021

Description: Engage is a five-year multi-site Canadian collaboration between researchers and community-based organizations on HIV and sexual health among gay men in Canada. Its three primary aims are to provide research evidence to inform HIV and STBBI prevention initiatives for Canadian gbMSM, and integrate community engagement into all stages of the project to enhance community-researcher collaboration and bidirectional knowledge exchange.

Title: Pan-Canadian PrEP Cohort Study – grants from CIHR, CANFAR, REACH, OHTN

Lead: Dr. Darrell Tan

Time Frame: 2018 – 2022

Description: PrEP is intended to prevent HIV infections, and possibly reduce STIs (testing patients often may lead to earlier treatment and less transmission). However, some stakeholders remain skeptical of PrEP, concerned that poor adherence could drive the emergence of drug-resistant HIV, that unbridled risk-taking may fuel epidemics of sexually transmitted infections (STI's), and that stigma could curtail clinically indicated use. What balance is being achieved between these undesirable and desirable outcomes? Which users have worse outcomes, and how could they be better supported?

2021 CAHR-CANFAR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARDS

The **CAHR-CANFAR Excellence in Research Awards** are bestowed annually to mid-career researchers who while at the prime of their careers have achieved a track record of excellence and demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of those living with HIV with or at risk. Awarded since 2017, the recipients are honoured each year at the opening ceremony of the CAHR Conference to highlight the achievements of investigators in all pillars of HIV research.

Those recognized for 2021:

Basic Sciences:

Dr. Ralph Pantophlet, Simon Fraser

Clinical Sciences:

Dr. Alex Wong, University of Saskatchewan

Epidemiology-Public Health:

Dr. Mark Gilbert, University of British Columbia

Social Sciences:

Dr. Sarah Flicker, York University

Community-Based Research:

Dr. Randy Jackson, McMaster University

CURRENT RESEARCH

OVERVIEW OF CANFAR RESEARCH GRANTS

Title: A Study to Evaluate the Accuracy, Usability, and Acceptance of a Blood-Based HIV Self-Test Performed by Observed Intended Users in Canada

Funding: **REACH Nexus** (previously “CIHR Centre for REACH”) and CANFAR (\$150,000)

Time Frame: August 2019 – March 2020

Description: This **REACH Nexus** research led to the Nov. 3, 2020 approval of Canada’s first HIV self-test, the **INSTI HIV Self-Test**.

HIV self-testing is a pragmatic solution that has the potential to increase the access, uptake and frequency of HIV testing and to more effectively reach people who are undiagnosed, especially in key populations. The objectives of this REACH-led study, intended for submission to Health Canada for regulatory approval purposes, were to:

1. Evaluate the INSTI HIV Self-Test performance compared with laboratory reference testing;
2. Document if intended users could follow the steps to use the HIV self-test device; and
3. Determine if intended users could successfully interpret mock positive, negative and invalid results.

REACH submitted the study results to Health Canada for the INSTI HIV Self Test licensure, leading to its early November 2020 approval.

We are confident that adding an approved, and now available to consumers, HIV self-test to the Canadian HIV testing landscape will significantly increase HIV testing rates. Having a blood-based HIV self-test approved in Canada offers an accurate, acceptable and simple alternative to facility-based HIV testing, particularly while testing access is impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

reachnexus



THE MANITOBA COMMUNITY EVENT-BASED STBBI TESTING TOOLKIT!

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* YOUR COPY NOW

WWW.MHRN.CA/TESTING-TOOLKIT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MHRN AND THE MANITOBA HIV-STBBI COLLECTIVE IMPACT NETWORK
WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY CIHR REACH NEXUS AND CANFAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

ninecircles
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

MHRN
MANITOBA
HARM REDUCTION
NETWORK

Title: Manitoba Pathways to Care: Building the Foundation for Innovations in HIV-STBBI Testing, Linkage and Care in Rural and Remote Areas of Manitoba.

Funding: CANFAR Strategic Initiatives (\$100,000) and REACH Nexus

Time Frame: November 1, 2019 – ongoing

Description: This project, led by Nine Circles Community Health Centre and the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network, is aiming to build the foundation for innovations in HIV and STBBIs testing, connections and care in rural and remote areas of Manitoba. This is a developmental project that's using a number of promising emerging practices.

Innovative testing and connections to care strategies for rural and remote communities are in demand. This project brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners together in a two-eyed seeing way to develop a peer navigator program, an event-based testing toolkit, and to introduce innovative testing methodologies to support increased testing and connections to care for rural, remote and First Nations communities in Manitoba.

This project led to the development of the *Community Event-Based Testing Toolkit*, now available to download on the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network's website. Through this project, the leads are also building important relationships with the Manitoba First Nations AIDS Awareness Working Group.

NATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS PROGRAMS

SPONSORS HIGHLIGHT

CANFAR's national youth awareness program would not be possible without the generous support from our Program Sponsors: **The Slaight Family Foundation**, **Canada Life**, and **MAC AIDS Fund**.



PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY FINDINGS

In June of 2021, CANFAR released a **new Report** on findings from their **2019 National Youth Survey**, which examined Canadian youth's sexual health, mental health, and substance use experiences, as well as probed youth's HIV knowledge and stigma levels. After months of data analysis and report writing, CANFAR published the findings online and shared them in a **national webinar presentation** with over 100 community partners.

The findings showed that **youth prefer to access sexual health information online** over more traditional settings like in schools or from teachers; are interested in topics related to **mental health, healthy relationships, safer sex, and substance use**; and revealed that **HIV stigma continues to be prevalent among Canadian youth today**.

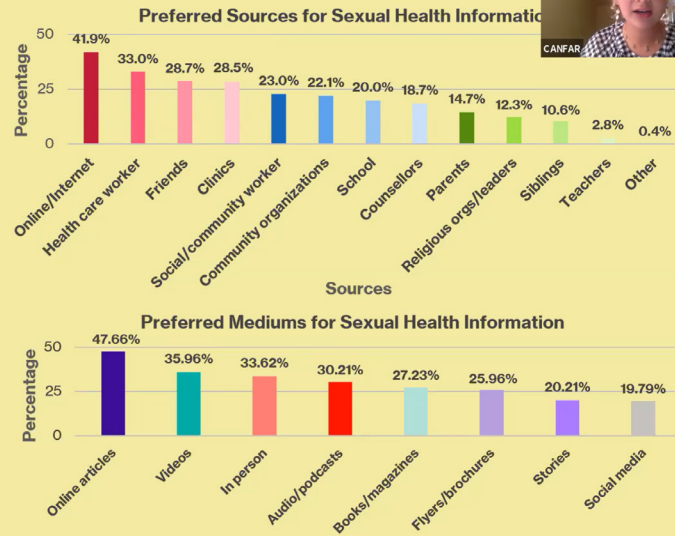


WHERE / HOW TO REACH YOUTH

- ❖ **Most preferred** source for receiving SH info is **online**
- ❖ **Teachers** ranked the lowest
- ❖ **Nearly 50%** prefer **online articles**, with **1/3 or more** preferring **videos/in-person**

KEY LEARNING

- ✓ **Changing landscape** of how youth wish to receive sexual health information
- ✓ Important to combine both **online and in-person** access



YOUTH CARE ABOUT THEIR HEALTH!

- ❖ **70% or more** agreed that their **overall, mental and sexual health** are important
- ❖ **2/3 or more** agreed that they felt **knowledgeable** about and **confident** in their sexual health & decision-making

KEY LEARNING

- ✓ Youth place a **strong value** on their sexual health, mental health, and overall health
- ✓ Youth are **receptive** to learning about sexual and mental health

Statement	Strongly Disagree + Disagree	Neutral	
My overall health is important to me.	6.6%	18.1%	75.4%
My mental health is important to me.	9.6%	16.8%	73.7%
My sexual health is important to me.	4.7%	19.1%	76.2%
I feel knowledgeable about my sexual health.	11.5%	22.1%	66.5%
I feel confident making healthy sexual decisions.	10.6%	16.8%	72.6%
I feel comfortable talking about my sexual health.	13.6%	23.4%	63.1%
I feel comfortable talking about my mental health.	11.7%	26.1%	62.2%
I know where to get support for my mental health.	14.7%	16.6%	68.8%
I know what to do when I need help with my mental health issues.	11.9%	18.5%	69.9%
I know where to get tested for HIV and other STIs.	16.8%	15.7%	67.5%

STIGMA IS ALIVE & WELL

... HIV Education is needed!

NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

An overwhelming majority of youth (**6 out of 10**) **strongly disagreed or disagreed** with the statements, "I would date, share utensils, or kiss/make out with someone living with HIV."

Only **1 in 3** youth **agreed or strongly agreed** that they would be friends with someone living with HIV.

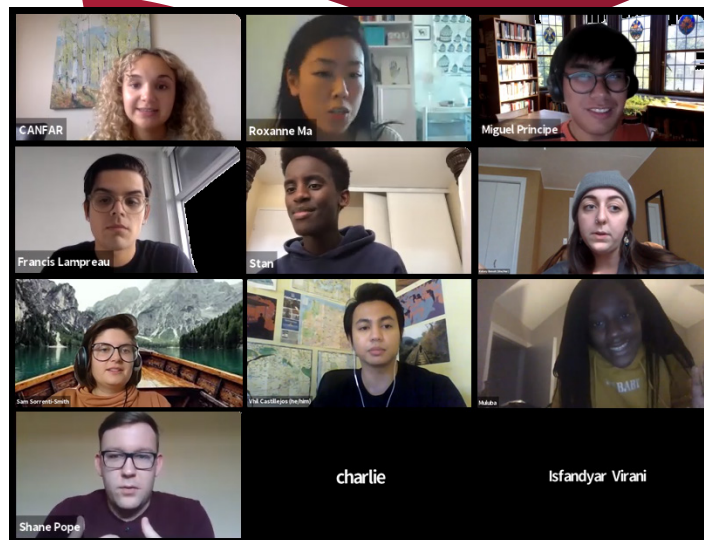
KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Half or more of youth **disagreed** with statements relating to advancements in HIV treatment.

Statement	Strongly Disagree + Disagree	Neither	Agree
I would share utensils with someone who has HIV.	63.7%	19.5%	16.8%
I would date someone who has HIV.	64.3%	15.7%	20.0%
I would kiss/make out with someone who has HIV.	59.0%	17.6%	23.4%
I would be friends with someone who has HIV.	44.6%	21.4%	34.0%
Ppl living with HIV can have sex and not pass the virus.	61.8%	16.8%	21.4%
Ppl living with HIV can live just as long as someone who does not have HIV.	50.1%	21.4%	28.5%

NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In Fall of 2020, CANFAR assembled a **National Youth Advisory Committee** made up of eleven youth from across Canada, representing diverse backgrounds, communities, and ages, to **consult on the development of a new digital resource** for CANFAR's updated and expanded national youth awareness program. The Committee conducted an audit of CANFAR's community-based educational resources to provide valuable direction on content and program improvement. The youth also consulted on the new program brand and name and advised on effective youth engagement and outreach strategies.



INTRODUCING: SEXFLUENT

In June of 2021, CANFAR launched its brand-new digital resource, **Sexfluent**. Grounded in **evidence-based approaches**, Sexfluent aims to **empower youth** to feel confident in their identities, sexualities, bodies, and relationships to make more informed decisions around their sexual health, mental health, and substance use, and prevent HIV through a harm reduction framework.

Inclusive at its core, Sexfluent uses a non-judgmental, affirmative, and sex-positive approach to HIV by addressing a range of topics, including **Modern Sex, Sexual Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use**.

Sexfluent.ca was published in 2021 as a partial launch, featuring updated and engaging content on modern sex and relationships, sexual health, and HIV. New mental health and harm reduction content will be launched in 2022.





**I'M FEELIN'
THE LOVE.**



**I'D LOVE TO
KNOW MORE
ABOUT SEX
AND MY BODY.**



**I'M FEELING
STRESSED
AND DOWN.**



**I COULD USE
SOME HELP
WITH MY
DRUG USE.**



NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

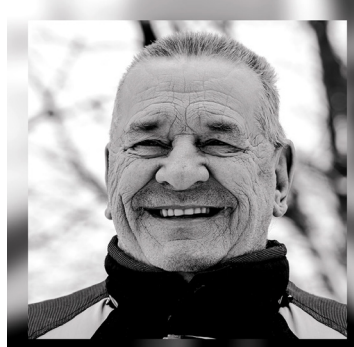
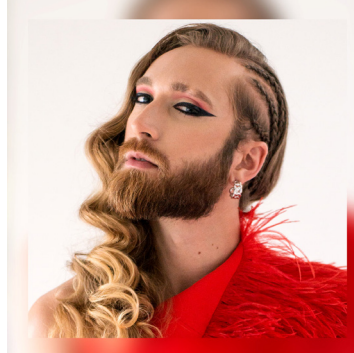
VOICES FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

On December 1st, people around the world united in solidarity for World AIDS Day.

Voices for World AIDS Day is CANFAR's annual national, bilingual campaign to unite voices across Canada in support of World AIDS Day. The theme of World AIDS Day 2020 was "Global solidarity, shared responsibility." This year's campaign focused on highlighting the personal stories of people living with, and affected by, HIV to increase awareness about the importance of community and solidarity, and to challenge HIV stigma.

The campaign featured **over 20 stories of people living with HIV across Canada**. CANFAR engaged a network of 40 community partners, including **15 new partnering organizations**. These organizations spanned communities across Canada and represented regions and territories where CANFAR was previously unable to reach.

CANFAR also contacted over **100 government leaders** and received responses and endorsements from key public officials from coast to coast, including the Mayors of Toronto and Winnipeg; the Premiers of BC and Saskatchewan; and the Minister of Health and Community Services in Newfoundland and Labrador (Hon. John Haggie).



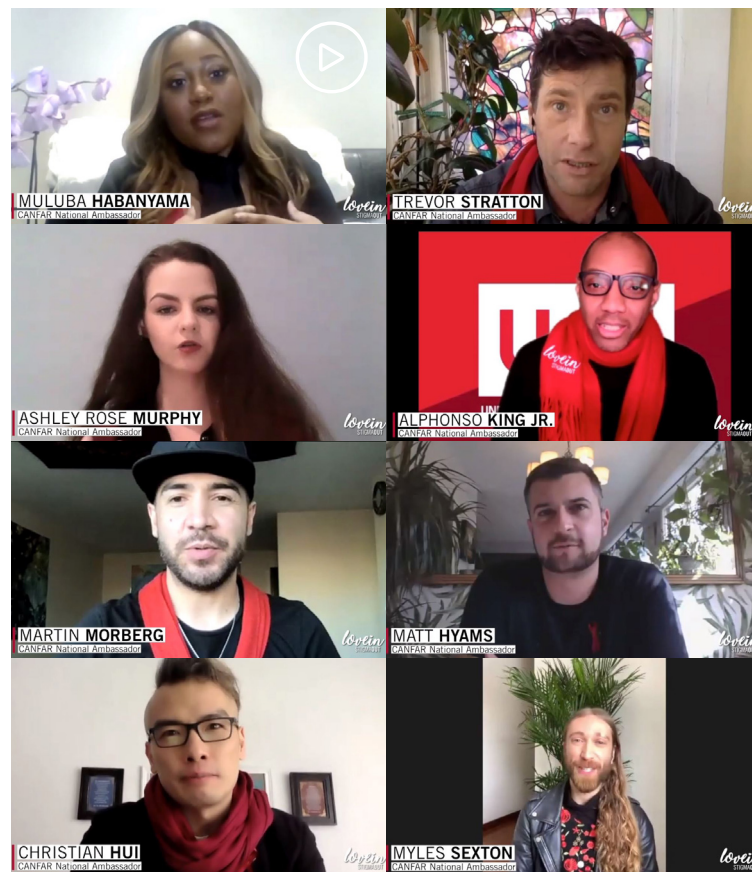


LOVE IN STIGMA OUT

On Valentine's Day 2021, CANFAR called on Canadians to spread messages of love in the time of COVID-19.

CANFAR's annual *Love In, Stigma Out* campaign featured videos of CANFAR's National Ambassadors sharing the importance of love and connection in the time of COVID-19. **For many Canadians, the practice of love has monumentally changed.** This past year brought challenges to connecting with our loved ones.

CANFAR's National Ambassadors came together to remind Canadians that **connecting with our (chosen) family, friends, loved ones, and communities is essential to everyone's well-being and survival.**



SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BLOOR STREET ENTERTAINS

The CANFAR community celebrated the magic of *Bloor Street Entertains* on November 25th, 2021...at home!

Date: Wednesday, November 25th, 2020

Location: Virtual

Attendance: Over 4 generous sponsors, and over 70 In-Kind donors attended BSE virtually.

Honorary Chair: Salah Bachir

Social Media Coverage: Over 2,266,044 impressions

Gross: \$542,000 **Net:** \$506,000

The CANFAR Community celebrated the magic of BSE at home, featuring a fabulous online silent auction raising **over \$78,000**. The night of BSE featured performances by amazing Canadian talent, including Molly Johnson, Jackie Richardson and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, led by Alexander Shelley, Music Director. We were also joined by personalities including Salah Bachir, Honorary Chair, Valerie Pringle, CANFAR National Spokesperson, Andy Pringle, CANFAR Chairman, Dr. Sean Rourke and CANFAR National Ambassadors Trevor Stratton, Muluba Habanyama and Myles Sexton.



Salah Bachir

CANFAR.COM

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²Annual Donors are individuals or corporations that have made a philanthropic contribution of CANFAR between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

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OUR FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
CASH	\$ 1,921,675	\$ 1,465,342
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	113,035	78,762
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	14,337	20,000
HST RECOVERABLE	51,712	62,224
PREPAID EXPENSES	42,957	136,118
	2,143,716	1,762,446
CAPITAL ASSETS	88,150	69,968
INVESTMENTS	586,914	586,914
	\$ 2,818,780	\$ 2,419,328
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	\$ 77,506	\$ 63,245
GRANTS PAYABLE	100,001	350,001
	177,507	413,246
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS	1,296,861	734,284
LOAN PAYABLE	60,000	40,000
	1,534,368	1,187,530
FUND BALANCES		
GENERAL	697,498	644,884
ENDOWMENT	586,914	586,914
	1,284,412	1,231,798
	\$ 2,818,780	\$ 2,419,328

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	GENERAL FUND		ENDOWMENT FUND		TOTAL	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
REVENUE						
DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS	\$ 1,422,709	\$ 1,224,161	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 1,422,709	\$1,224,161
FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS EVENTS	553,695	1,058,879	–	–	553,695	1,058,879
GOVERNMENT WAGE SUBSIDY	202,218	86,153	–	–	202,218	86,153
INVESTMENT INCOME	63,210	(2,985)	–	–	63,210	(2,985)
	212,411,832	2,366,208	–	–	2,241,832	2,366,208
EXPENSES						
FUNDRAISING	225,777	545,580	–	–	225,777	545,580
GENERAL	661,117	743,409	–	–	661,117	743,409
GRANTS AWARDED	357,500	450,000	–	–	357,500	450,000
PROGRAM AND AWARENESS	944,824	307,306	–	–	944,824	307,306
RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION		–	–	–		–
	2,189,218	2,046,295	–	–	2,189,218	2,046,295
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	52,614	319,913	–	–	52,614	319,913
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	644,884	324,971	586,914	586,914	1,231,798	911,885
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	\$ 697,498	\$ 644,884	\$ 586,914	\$ 586,914	\$ 1,284,412	\$ 1,231,798

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2021	2020
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)		
OPERATIONS		
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 52,614	\$ 319,913
ITEMS NOT AFFECTING CASH		
AMORTIZATION	65,906	48,224
LOSS (GAIN) ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENT	(55,472)	5,323
RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS (NOTE 5)	(947,404)	(672,154)
	(884,356)	(298,694)
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF EXPENDITURE (NOTE 5)	1,509,981	241,770
GRANTS PAID	(375,000)	(230,000)
NET CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL		
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	5,663	19,175
HST RECOVERABLE	10,512	(2,560)
GRANT APPROVED	125,000	150,000
PREPAID EXPENSES	93,161	(72,873)
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	14,260	208,716
	499,221	15,534
INVESTING		
PROCEEDS ON SALE OF SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	139,529	124,869
PURCHASE OF SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	(118,330)	(106,789)
PURCHASE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	(84,087)	(87,681)
	(62,888)	(69,601)
INCREASE IN LOANS PAYABLE	20,000	40,000
NET CHANGE IN CASH	456,333	(14,067)
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,465,342	1,479,409
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$ 1,921,675	\$ 1,465,342





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