



## CALL FOR REPRESENTATIVES

The Canadian HIV Stigma Index CBR Project is looking for committed, enthusiastic individuals to potentially be a part of the **Canadian PLHIV Stigma Index Steering Committee** (Steering Committee) to help assist in and guide the project through its development and implementation.

“The People Living with HIV Stigma Index is a tool used by, as well as for, people living with HIV. The Index supports the GIPA (Greater Involvement of People living with HIV and AIDS) principle through being driven by PLHIV and their networks. By acting on this principle the People Living with HIV Stigma Index empowers both individuals and communities most affected by the epidemic.

The benefits of the People Living with HIV Stigma Index for those conducting it go further than collecting much-needed evidence. The process of empowering people living with HIV, their networks and communities is crucial. The People Living with HIV Stigma Index will therefore be both a catalyst for creating and foster change in the communities in which it is used.”<sup>1</sup> Please consult the Stigma Index website for more information at [stigmaindex.org](http://stigmaindex.org).

This Steering Committee will be comprised of up to twenty (20) individuals representing a wide range of perspectives on HIV that are necessary for successful implementation of the project. The Steering Committee hopes to include members of key populations, networks and generations of people living with HIV, academics, people from private and community-based sectors, and when available, government. This group will be comprised of 100% of its members being people living with HIV.

The goals and outcomes for those interested in participating are:

- To document experiences of stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations of people living with HIV in Canada and strategies for combatting these violations.
- To create multiple opportunities for people living with HIV to build skills and work together in solidarity across our diverse communities.
- To create a model implementation plan for the Stigma Index that is broadly inclusive of the voices of all key populations of people living with HIV in Canada.
- To create a rich, scientifically rigorous and reliable evidence-base of information about HIV-related stigma and discrimination for influencing programmatic interventions and policy change.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stigmaindex.org/125/aims-of-the-index/the-process.html>



This Steering Committee will be a decision making body which guides the study team in all areas relating to The Canadian HIV Stigma Index CBR Project. The Committee will work collaboratively with the CIHR CBR Collaborative: A Program of REACH in the following implementation areas:

- Provide guidance and support to the implementation teams on how to best include the voices of all key populations in the implementation of the Stigma Index.
- Develop guidelines for provincial and/or local Steering Committee membership and assist in their creation.
- Support the CBR Collaborative's efforts in reaching potential funders
- Help identify additional key questions for the survey questionnaire.
- Assist in recruitment of both potential interviewers and interviewees
- Lead strategic use of the resulting study data to influence Canadian programs, policies and laws to better fit the needs of people living with HIV.

At all stages of the project, the Steering Committee will be expected to advise and guide the research team in orienting the project always toward greater inclusion and capacity building for individuals and networks of people living with HIV Canada. All decisions made by the research team must have the support of this advisory body, represented by a minimum two-thirds majority.

The anticipated average time commitment will be 3-4 hours per month, with the exception of the face-to-face meetings, for the duration of the project. Face-to-face meetings are expected approximately once per year. All travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the face-to-face meetings.

**Steering committee members will receive an honorarium for their hard work and continued commitment to the project.**

Final selection of committee members will be made by a subcommittee of the Canadian PLHIV Stigma Index Project Steering Committee Working Group, which is also comprised of 100% people living with HIV.

Those individuals who successfully become representatives and are asked to sit on the Steering Committee will be expected to involve themselves first and foremost as people living with HIV from those populations most affected by the epidemic, who have vast amounts of expertise and lived experience when combating stigma. Organizational affiliations and agendas, while important, are expected to take secondary priority.

Please fill out all of the following fields as best as you can. All information collected will go towards ensuring the most, regionally and demographically, diverse and inclusive group as possible, so as to be truly representative of the HIV epidemic in Canada.



**Name:**

**Age:**

**City, Province:**

**Gender:**

**Race:**

**Affiliation (if any):**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**How long have you been diagnosed HIV-positive?**

**Please provide a short bio (100 words) outlining your contribution(s) to the HIV field, if possible, focusing primarily on stigma-related issues:**

**Why do you think you would be a good candidate to serve as a member of the Steering Committee?**



**What skills do you would you bring to the Steering Committee? (i.e. Community engagement, community organizing, research skills, organizational skills):**

**Please select any of the groups listed below with which you identify:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous/Aboriginal/Metis                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men who have sex with men (MSM)          | <input type="checkbox"/> People who have been incarcerated                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant and/or from an endemic Country | <input type="checkbox"/> Person who uses drugs                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex worker                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young person (18-30)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethno-racial community member                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From a rural area                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Intersectoral leader (Healthcare/Religious/Academic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term survivor                       | Please specify:   |

Only those selected for a position on the Steering Committee will be contacted upon successful appointment. If you are not selected for the Canadian Steering Committee but still wish to participate in The Canadian HIV Stigma Index CBR Project and would like to be contacted with possible regional involvement, including those hoping to be potential interviewers, please let us know by selecting one of the following:

- Yes  
 No

**Please fill out and return this form by Monday, September 29, 2014.**

**Successful candidates will be notified via email.**

**Please save and send your submission as Last\_First name. All responses must be sent via email to [stigmaprojectsc@ohtn.on.ca](mailto:stigmaprojectsc@ohtn.on.ca).**

**Thank You for Your Interest in this Exciting Endeavour!**