

Tlicho communities mobilize to prevent HIV and STIs

Community-based research in the Northwest Territories

Community-based research

In the Tlicho region of the Northwest Territories of Canada, a long-running partnership between communities and researchers is propelling a sustainable effort for the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Researchers from the communities carried out a survey on sexual health attitudes and behaviours in the four Tlicho communities in 2006-2007. The research process and outcomes fed into a strategic plan and a community-based intervention that included focus groups with youth and training of community health workers to communicate about STIs with high risk groups.



The STI community-based researchers with the data

CART Interventions



CART interventions in the Tlicho communities

Community Action Research Team

A Community Action Research Team (CART), four young Tlicho community based researchers, was born during this project. CART members, working for the Tlicho Government, are well equipped to carry out health research and communication initiatives based on community needs, values, and priorities.

CART activities include on-going research training, youth conferences, evidence-based films made with local actors and crew, workshops, a weekend outreach van, and more. Activities are promoted through the CART's website and social media.



Members of the CART team with the weekend outreach van

Project impacts

Follow-up survey in 2010:

- Increased condom use among all age groups, among those who participated in any CART activity
- Bullying confirmed as a serious problem.

Broader impacts:

Integration of services, interdepartmental collaboration, culturally relevant resources, consistency & sustainability of staff, leadership commitment.

Ongoing research & evaluation:

New Tlicho Research & Training Institute.



Participatory Research at McGill

CIET Building the community voice into planning

For more information:

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<http://www.tlicho.ca/> re Tlicho Government

<http://tlichocart.com> re CART activities

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