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XVIth International
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International Indigenous Peoples' Satellite Planning Committee

An extraordinary opportunity to bring Indigenous peoples together to network and explore emerging themes, innovative methodologies, cultural resilience and success stories will take place in August 2006 in Toronto, Canada at the XVIth International AIDS Conference.

In previous years, International AIDS Conferences drew large crowds of participants. Approximately 20,000 people attended the Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2004. More than 30,000 people are expected to attend the Conference in Toronto. Indigenous HIV/AIDS issues do not receive significant agenda time at the International AIDS Conferences.

The International Indigenous Peoples' Satellite Planning Committee is going to organize an affiliated event on August 12, 2006 in conjunction with the XVIth International AIDS Conference in Toronto, 2006 (IAC 2006). By hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Satellite, there will be assurance that Indigenous issues receive attention and Indigenous groups are able to network and exchange important information and relevant ideas with each other. It is anticipated that a significant number of Aboriginal, First Nations, Metis, Inuit, Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Maori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples will attend the Conference from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

The Indigenous Peoples' Satellite will not preclude other Indigenous items on the main Conference agenda, but it will ensure that Indigenous peoples have an opportunity to meet, network and share their respective work in an Indigenous culture based environment. A main objective is to provide a forum and opportunity for Indigenous peoples to dialogue and actively participate at the IAC 2006. The Indigenous Peoples' Satellite will address barriers that have previously prevented full participation and the community based feedback and direction provided by the participants will enable the host organizations, the Planning Committee members, their partners and other organizations to further strengthen the delivery of their culturally competent programs and services.

A secondary objective is to develop strong partnerships and participation with existing governmental and non-governmental organizations whose broad mandate is to work in community development with Indigenous peoples. We are confident that the legacy of this initiative will be a comprehensive network of organizations in Canada, the United States, South America, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand, with a common goal of decreasing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and addressing homophobia. The activities which are proposed for the Indigenous Peoples' Satellite will empower Indigenous peoples and provide best practices and necessary tools for self-reliance and self-sufficiency in their local communities.

Logo: The colours of life describe the process of how life, represented by the faces, emerges into existence. They are linked to the four directions symbol and also to the rainbow, which shows how life gives meaning to knowledge. Everything is linked together by the energies of creation and it is a process of the universal family.