

**First Nation and Inuit Health – Public Health Agency of Canada**  
**APHA Forum Final Report**  
**Fiscal 2010/2011**

The APHA Forum, hosted by Renewing Our Response, was held on March 27 – 29 in Vancouver and was a huge success. A copy of the agenda is attached to this report for review. The forum was organized by an APHA Coordinator, who was supported by an APHA Planning Committee and the Provincial Coordinator. The forum was very well received by the delegates. 90 participants registered and about 65 participants attended. Of those who attended, 34 completed an evaluation of the two days. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being *Very Poor* and 5 being *Excellent*, participants felt that the forum was a 4.9. Below is a simple table showing the average sentiment of participants:

<b>How would you rate the Open Space workshop on Day 1?</b>	4.4
<b>How would you rate the Leadership Training workshop on Day 2?</b>	4.5
<b>How would you rate the Leadership Panel on Day 2?</b>	4.6
<b>How would you rate the Treatment Options/Drug Adherence Panel on Day 2?</b>	4.5
<b>How would you rate the Literacy Lives workshop on Day 2?</b>	4.6
<b>How would rate your accommodations?</b>	4.7
<b>How would you rate the food?</b>	4.6
<b>How would you rate the meeting space?</b>	4.7
<b>Overall, how would you rate your experience during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual APHA Forum?</b>	4.9

All participants would like this forum to be an annual event. Of the comments made the most common was the appreciation for the learning and the increase in level of understanding. Participants also enjoyed the networking and the conversations that were had between participants. During the forum participants created a banner with anecdotes, sentiments, and even some declarations of love! The banner will be displayed at the Red Road office and used at other APHA events.

The Open Space segment of the forum provided an opportunity for APHAs and those affected by HIV/AIDS to have an opportunity to discuss what issues are important to them. There is no prepared agenda, the topics are set based on what the

participants want to discuss. Open Space is an empowering process where participants engage in topics determined by them and are of interest to them. Here is the list of priorities that was established:

- **Housing and barriers to housing**
- Advocacy and Self-Advocacy
- **Addictions and violence**
- Disclosure to Family and friends
- Quality of healthcare and the second opinion of doctors
- Networking for better care
- **What can we do with the upcoming election – making noise for HIV/AIDS**
- **Staying away from the East end, relapse prevention and triggers**
- **Medication support, food security, homeless housing outreach**
- **Finding voices in the community**
- **The art of acceptance, social determinants**
- Vaccine and social stigma
- Elders drop in
- Medication – how to get support in a small town
- Discrimination
- **Education and how to get small community support**
- **Self-Education of our illness**
- **Learn to talk to youth and bring awareness**
- **Why is the government ignoring HIV in first nations?**
- Leadership training
- **Why can't you get your meds in jail**
- **How do I as a non-aboriginal reach out to aboriginals in my community?**
- **More housing on reservations**
- Abuse within our community

Those that are bolded are topics that were discussed throughout the day. A copy of those notes is attached to this report.

This forum was an event that has never been done to such a large scale in the past in BC. Participants came from as far away as Whitehorse, the Kootenays, Smithers, and Vancouver Island. While most of the participants were HIV positive, the registration was also opened up to those affected by HIV (family, friends) as well as those who work in HIV. It was an amazing opportunity for everyone to learn from each other, and especially for APHAs to have their voices heard and honoured. While lessons were learned during the planning of this forum, the forum was a success and would be an amazing event to continue every year.



*Preparing Delegates for the Open Space day ahead*



*A work in progress! Open Space at work.*



*Wrapping up the first day.*



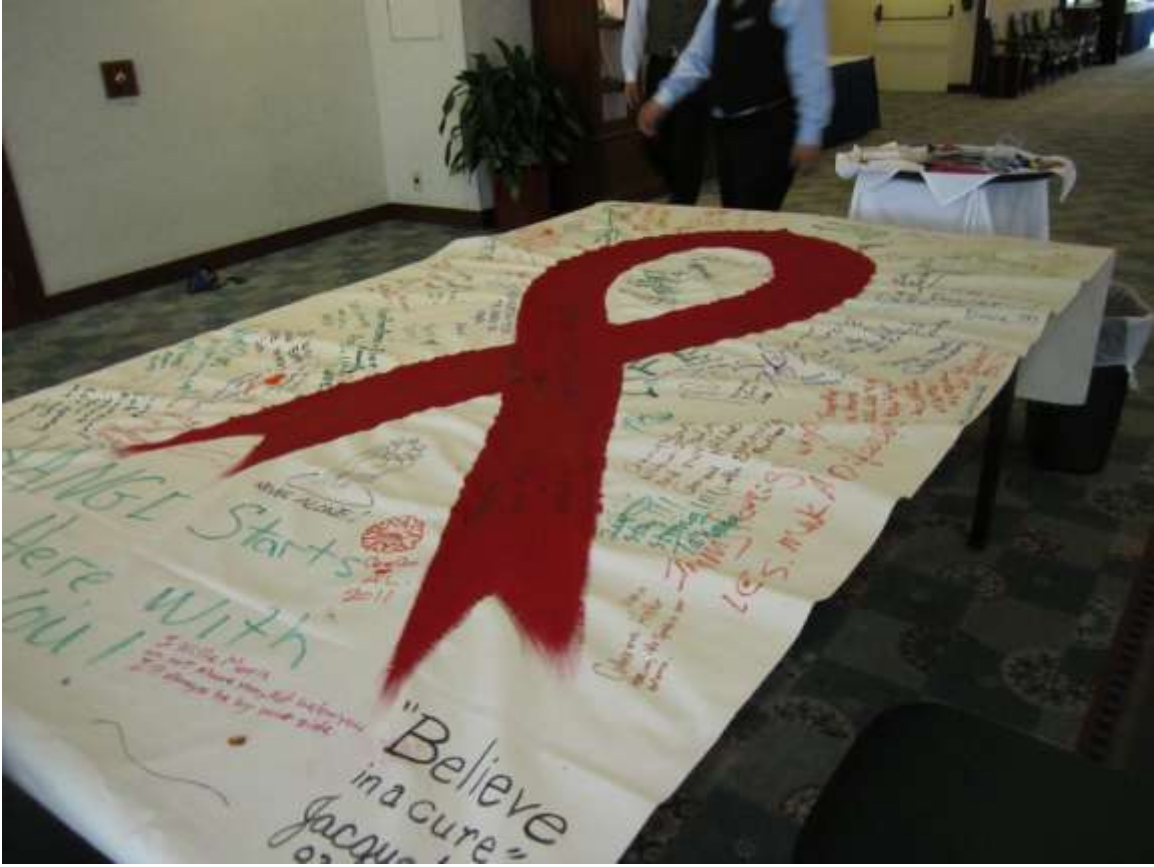
*Alex Wells, Hoop Dancer,  
performing at the Gala Night*



*YouthCO Theatre Troupe  
working their magic during the  
Gala Night*



*Positive Leadership  
Development Institute's  
Training seminar presentation  
on Day 2.*



*Words of hope, love, and strength*