



# *Environments of Nurturing Safety:* Delivering Culturally Relevant Services for PAW (Positive Aboriginal Women)

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Committee

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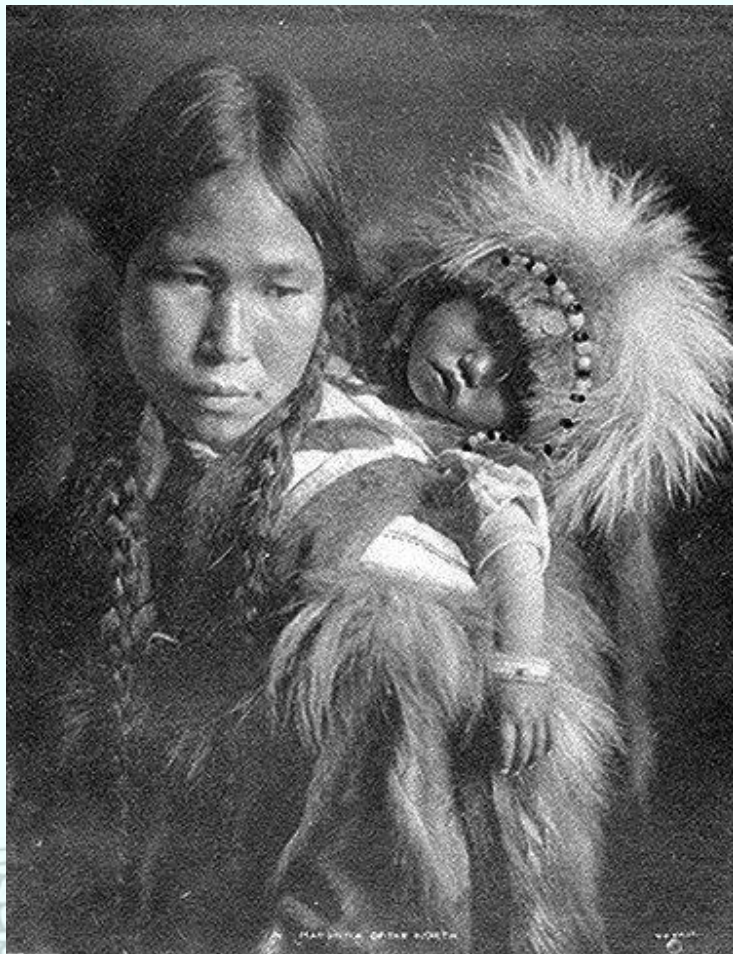
# Acknowledgements

- Mississaugas of New Credit
- Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's Voices of Women (CAAN VOW) Standing Committee
- All Aboriginal women and representatives from CAAN member Aboriginal AIDS Service Organizations and allied community members
- To all our sisters who have gone into the spirit world as a result of AIDS
- CAAN Board of Directors
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- The author of this presentation has no conflicts to declare

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# N'ginaajiwimi



‘The essence of who we are is beautiful...’

(*spirit*, *core*, *heart*, real meaning, *soul*, *quintessence*, *fundamental nature*)

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# PAW (Positive Aboriginal Women)

PAW imparts a dual meaning to being 'positive' and breaks down a first barrier by utilizing a decolonizing strengths based approach on identity.

A very special thank you is extended to VOW Co-Chair Kecia Larkin for coining the PAW acronym.

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# Background: Process leading to EONS

- CAAN VOW formed in 2006
- Forums for Aboriginal women introduced
- Priorities and actions are identified
- Overarching theme of 'nurturing safe spaces' emerges
- Aboriginal Women's gathering 2008
- Resolution urging CAAN to develop 5 year national strategy for Aboriginal women

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# The Development of EONS

- Consultation with almost 300 Aboriginal women in 11 Canadian cities
- Indigenous model of sharing circles are utilized
- Led by a PEER and supported by VOW committee members in every region

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# Vision of the Response - EONS

- Developing a framework
- VOW identifies clear vision and mission grounded in community
- Shatter the Silos – ‘silos are not an indigenous approach’
- Decolonizing methodologies and approaches need to be utilized
- EONS is released on World AIDS Day 2010

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# Safe Spaces in the Heart of Turtle Island

- National Aboriginal Women's HIV AIDS Medicine Bundle
- Pilot 'sharing circle model' in two regions
- Creating safe spaces in every region for PAW and their children
- The role of men in this vision
- The role of community

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# Sharing Circle Model

- Opportunity to be together for healing work when we come together
- Incorporating Teambuilding, Indigenous leadership into circle model
- Create opportunity for capacity building
- Women's Teachings & Grandmother Teachings

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# Meequetch!



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