

## Programming Connection Development Policies

CATIE

CATIE is Canada's source for up-to-date, unbiased information about HIV and hepatitis C. We connect people living with HIV or hepatitis C, at-risk communities, healthcare providers and community organizations with knowledge, resources and expertise to reduce transmission and improve quality of life.

In 2009, CATIE initiated the development of the *Programming Connection* an online toolkit that highlights promising approaches to frontline programs in HIV and hepatitis C prevention, testing, treatment and support. Frontline service providers are the target audience for the *Programming Connection*.

### Program selection policy

Programs are selected if they are considered to be a promising approach, one that moves forward HIV and/or hepatitis C prevention, testing, treatment and/or support responses in Canadian communities.

Promising approaches are determined based on practice-based evidence, and when available, research-based evidence. Programs that can demonstrate that they are monitoring and evaluating their programs are prioritized for inclusion.

The inclusion of a program in the *Programming Connection* is not meant to suggest that the program is better or more successful than those that have not been included. Rather, it is an indication that the program may serve as an inspiration to other service providers looking for solutions to similar challenges.

Once identified as a promising approach, a program must meet the following criteria to be included as a case study in the *Programming Connection*:

- A frontline HIV or hepatitis C prevention, testing, treatment or support program based in Canada
- Housed within a not-for-profit organization, clinic, government organization or research institution
- Available for consultation in English or French

It is more likely that a program will be included in the *Programming Connection* if it has:

- A good reputation among the target community and other service providers;
- Evidence of an integrated approach to service delivery as defined as: HIV and hepatitis C responses; prevention, testing, treatment and/or support responses; HIV and/or hepatitis C with other sexually transmitted or blood-borne infections; or new biomedical knowledge in programming.
- Clearly defined design, objectives and target audience

## **Case study development policy**

Case studies will be developed by CATIE using various sources of information including key informants, analysis of program materials, evaluation documents, and other research as required. Research will be analyzed and the case study will be written by CATIE staff, in close partnership with the host organization.

All information related to the selected program will be used to develop a case study that describes:

- General program information
- Key characteristics
- Identification of the community need
- Program design
- Method of program delivery
- Resources required to implement the program
- Evaluation history and plans
- Barriers to implementation/lessons learned

Each case study will go through an extensive review process before publication, including:

- Internal review by CATIE staff
- External review by key informants and host organization (if different)
- Sign-off by key informants and host organization (if different)
- Sign-off by CATIE's Executive Director