



# Making a Difference Through Information



Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange

Annual Report 2000-2001

If you live with HIV/AIDS or care for a person who does...



## Mission Statement:

**Your input is invaluable in everything we do.** This annual report details how we responded to your expectations and needs. We made our materials more accessible and available to a wider variety of communities—whether you define “community” by shared interests, ethnic background, age, gender, geographic location, or in some other way. We also changed our focus to one of capacity-building—helping people and groups across the country to help others more effectively.

Since its inception in 1991, CATIE has been part of an extraordinary dialogue. As that dialogue grew in the past year, we strengthened our bonds with people—from coast to coast to coast.

The exchange of information and ideas was especially dynamic at the seven Open Mike sessions with more than 500 people from over 100 organizations in Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Canmore, AB., and Cranbrook, BC. At those sessions, at two major conferences and in other settings, we worked with many committed people and groups. The process was exhilarating. Together, we laid the groundwork for our strategic directions and operating plans.

The newly structured board of directors—with members from Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Western and Pacific regions—reflects more than our national scope. It also embodies our fundamental belief in the importance of people living with HIV/AIDS taking an active, informed role in their treatment. More than 50% of the board is HIV-positive; 100% share the conviction that trusted, reliable treatment information makes a real difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

It has been 20 years since the first case of HIV/AIDS was diagnosed, and 10 years since CATIE was founded.

With this annual report we mark another milestone—the introduction of CATIE’s visual identity. A combination of the maple leaf and the HIV/AIDS red ribbon, the new logo calls to mind the best of the Canadian spirit, admired around the world: responding to human need, first with compassion and understanding, then with information and action.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all of you—community partners, volunteers, staff, caregivers, members and other friends—who made a remarkable year possible. We look forward to our continuing dialogue and work with you.

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*Anne Swarbrick*  
Executive Director

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*Arlo Yuzicapi Fayant*  
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

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*Patrick Cupido*  
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

**... trust is more than a word. Especially when it comes to complex and changing health information.**

**CATIE is committed to improving the health and quality of life of all people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Canada. CATIE provides HIV/AIDS treatment information to PHAs, caregivers and AIDS service organizations who are encouraged to be active partners in achieving informed decision-making and optimal health care.**

As the only fully national, bilingual, non-profit HIV/AIDS treatment information service in Canada, we know the importance of trust.

We are dedicated to making sure that the information we pass on to you is accurate, reliable, accessible, easy to understand, free of charge, confidential, up-to-date, complete and unbiased.

But that's only part of the story.

Treatment information is good *only if it's used*. In 2000-2001, we not only continued to add to our knowledge but found new and better ways to share it with you.

With the help of many community partners, supporters and volunteers, we reached out to more people and more organizations in more communities—and made a real difference in their lives.

**“I think CATIE is an amazing resource for people living with HIV and people who work in the HIV field. I use your Web site all the time.”**

**—Shawn Martin, Community Developer, *Persons Living with HIV Society*, Edmonton**

**Anywhere. Any time. Day or Night.** Our award-winning bilingual website crosses boundaries. It puts the latest HIV/AIDS treatment information into the hands of thousands of people and organizations—no matter where they are in the world. Our collection of documents—now more than 10,000—is constantly updated with breaking news about treatment advances.

In 2000-2001, the site delivered 1,408,254 documents in 202,595 user sessions. Visitors to [www.catie.ca](http://www.catie.ca) have now downloaded more than 3,515,317 documents since 1996.

Professional translators consult our new on-line CATIE HIV/AIDS Treatment Thesaurus—the only one of its kind in the world. Information written specifically for the Inuit and other communities is now on-line as well.

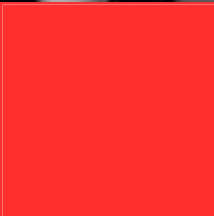
We continue to make our site easier to use and to link it to more of the best HIV/AIDS related resources around the world.

**Information leads to better decisions.** Patients and health care professionals, as well as outreach workers and clients, find that our publications help them talk with each other and stay on top of the latest medical developments.

We publish *JournalScan*, *TreatmentUpdate*, *CATIENews*, *Positive Side*, *Practical Guide Series*, supplement sheets, and fact sheets. We faxed *Innovations*, free of charge, and entirely devoted to abstracts of research papers, to health care professionals.

Our family of publications reaches a diverse group of readers—from medical experts to people with little formal education. Last year, we distributed a total of some 60,000 print copies to our target audiences.

We worked with Asian, South Asian, Inuit and other communities in Canada, helping them translate our treatment publications into culturally sensitive materials in their languages.



**“As a treatment information counsellor, I meet regularly with people living with HIV/AIDS and healthcare practitioners. We have CATIE’s publications readily available at CPAVIH. They are invaluable for use with our clients.”**

**—Chantale Perron, Treatment Information Officer, CPAVIH, Montreal, Quebec**

**Breaking down barriers.** CATIE’s bilingual treatment information representatives interpret complex information to people from all walks of life at workshops, conferences, on the phone and by e-mail. We reach out to those, too often overlooked, who struggle against prejudice and ignorance, such as Aboriginal people and people in isolated communities or in prison.

A close-up look at individual treatment information requests in 2000-2001 proves there is no “typical” CATIE user. Calls and e-mails come from every part of Canada.

### **2000-2001 Quarterly Average of Inquiries**

Male: <b>60%</b>	French: <b>18%</b>	BC: <b>7%</b>	Atlantic: <b>6%</b>
Female: <b>39%</b>	English: <b>80%</b>	Prairies: <b>6%</b>	Other (includes
N/A: <b>1%</b>	Other: <b>2%</b>	Ontario: <b>55%</b>	unidentified): <b>11%</b>
		Quebec: <b>15%</b>	

At 51 workshops, planned with the input of people living with HIV/AIDS, participants learned about the latest in allopathic drugs, side effects and complications, immune-based therapies, opportunistic illnesses and their treatments, diagnostic and therapeutic tests and procedures, treatment information research skills, as well as complementary and alternative therapies and nutrition. We plan to add workshops on overall health and wellness, taking into account gender, stage of disease, lifestyle and readiness to begin treatment.

We co-hosted the three-day 2000 National Conference on Women and HIV/AIDS in Toronto, making important inroads toward helping women better understand their treatment options.

**“We have come to rely on CATIE, as have groups and individuals across Canada and internationally. CATIE is an essential component of Canada’s fight against AIDS.”**

**—Dalton Truthwaite, Chair, AIDS Committee of Toronto, Board of Directors**

**Relied on at home and abroad.** Staff and volunteers in our National Reference Library spend countless hours researching, verifying and evaluating materials. As CATIE’s information foundation, the library is a national and international resource.

The total number of books reached 1,363. We now subscribe to more than 75 medical periodicals and manage a collection of 10,000 French and English documents filed on more than 500 subjects. Our “cyber-doors” opened even wider when we launched Web access to the library catalogue.

**Volunteers: our heart and soul.** Working as an integrated part of our organization, volunteers donated an amazing 7,407 hours of service, compared to 2,181 the previous year. The more than three-fold increase was a tremendous tribute to CATIE’s mission—especially since it came in 2001, the UN International Year of the Volunteer.

Volunteers bring to us a wealth of wisdom and expertise too valuable to be summed up in dollars. If you’d like to volunteer, visit our website, e-mail, call or write us today!



**Memberships soared.** Members play a vital role in CATIE, not just through their votes at annual meetings, but also by providing input to shape the direction of our work throughout the year.

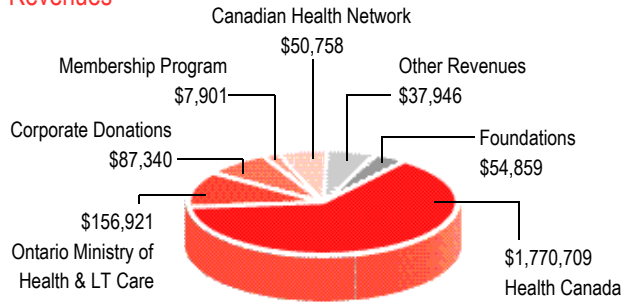
We are proud that our members include HIV positive men, women and families in every province and territory in Canada.

Last year, new memberships soared by 221%. The largest increase was in the category for people living with HIV/AIDS. Another show of approval came from organizations. There are now 58 member organizations across Canada, up from nine in the previous year.

**Partnerships built on trust.** CATIE has been a Health Canada strategic partner since 1995, dedicated to providing treatment information to other partners across Canada. We gratefully acknowledge funding from the federal government and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

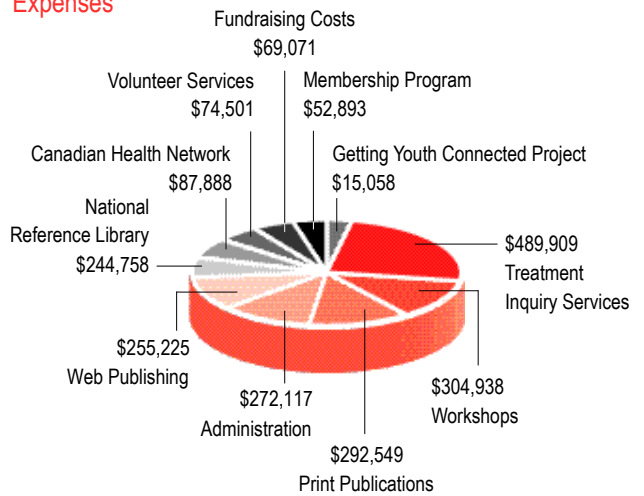
## Financials

### Revenues



**Total Revenues: – \$ 2,166,434**

### Expenses



**Total Expenses: – \$2,158,907**

Additional financial statements available upon request. Phone (416) 203-7122.



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**Anne Swarbrick**  
 Executive Director