

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED
PURSUANT TO ITEM 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR
PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network]

ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR REGISTRATION BY CANADIAN HIV/AIDS LEGAL NETWORK TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network*.

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by the *Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is a nonprofit nongovernmental organization created on November 18, 1993, in Toronto, Canada. Its mission is to promote and protect the human rights of people vulnerable to and living with HIV/AIDS, through research and analysis, defense and litigation, public education and community mobilization.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network defends gender equality and the rights of women, girls, and the LGBTI community. It also works for an end to the criminalization of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network conducts research which has been used to support the work of organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS, both in Canada and at the hemispheric level, and it provides technical assistance, recommendations, and analyses of human rights topics in individual countries’ laws.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network undertakes educational efforts to expand access to HIV/AIDS-related resources and information at workshops and public events with the aim of empowering the community and conveying the knowledge needed to promote the defense of human rights. In 2013, the organization published a series of eight pamphlets titled *Know Your Rights*, available in seven languages, to explain the rights of privacy and disclosure of people living with HIV.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network works at the international level with the Secretary of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights by helping organize meetings and preparing reports and recommendations. The organization also has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC).

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network carries out its projects with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the provincial government, the Open Society Foundation, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, the Law Foundation of Ontario, the MAC AIDS Fund, the Levi Strauss Foundation, its membership dues, and other sources.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network submitted its application for registration with the OAS on February 24, 2015.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment:

Name: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Address: 1240 Bay Street, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5R 2A7

Telephone: (+1) 416 595-1666

Fax: (+1) 416 595-0094

E-mail address: info@aidslaw.ca

Web site: <http://www.aidslaw.ca>

Executive Director: Richard Elliott

Date of establishment: November 18, 1993

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network works in the areas of human rights, gender equality, health, and HIV/AIDS. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promoting and defending the human, social, economic, and political rights of people living with HIV/AIDS through programs for information access and education;
- Publishing and disseminating research reports on HIV/AIDS and informing the design and implementation of public policies to ensure nondiscrimination and equal access to health and justice;
- Preventing the criminalization and social stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS by participating in strategic litigation in Canadian and international courts of law and offering training tools for judges, lawyers, police officers, health practitioners, and other key stakeholders;
- Disseminating information about HIV/AIDS to raise awareness and empower people regarding their rights through public events, workshops, talks, and meetings with lawmakers.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- To support the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in the follow-up and promotion of resolution AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of People Vulnerable to, Living with, or Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas”;
- To provide the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) with assistance through exchanges of information, inputs, and experiences with topics related to human rights and health in the Hemisphere;
- To work with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in its efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, teenagers, and girls under the aegis of the Declaration of San Salvador: Gender, Violence, and HIV [CIM/DEC. 4/07 (VII-E/07)];
- To participate in hemispheric debates on the topic that are open to civil society and to send the OAS member states recommendations to be used as inputs for events such as the OAS General Assembly, meetings of the Permanent Council, periods of sessions of the IACHR, etc.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, March 30, 2015
- Institutional mission statement
- By-laws and articles of incorporation
- Annual Report 2013-2014
- Financial statements for 2014