



Microbicide Advocacy Group Network (MAG-net)

The MAG-Net is a broad based national effort, to increase access to and awareness about Microbicides. MAG-Net is comprised of national, local and regional organizations, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Canadian AIDS Society

- The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) is a national coalition of 110 community-based AIDS organizations across Canada. We are dedicated to strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS across all sectors of society, and to enriching the lives of people and communities living with HIV/AIDS.
 - We advocate on behalf of people and communities affected by HIV/AIDS, facilitate the development of programs, services and resources for our member groups, and provide a national framework for community-based participation in Canada's response to AIDS.
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MAG-Net Mandate

- To educate the public about microbicides and to promote microbicide research and development taking place in Canada and internationally.
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Community Mobilization Kit

The mobilization kit is intended to provide education and awareness-raising to help local organizations and policy makers understand the need for prevention alternatives, by providing information and advocacy tools.

Community Mobilization Kit (cont)

Activities could include any of the following:

educational workshops; dissemination of information through Internet; media, and print; and information exchange among local organizations.

Recommendations from the National Conference on Women and HIV/AIDS

(Toronto 2000)

- More research should be conducted on women-controlled HIV prevention methods such as the female condom and microbicides
- Strategies should be developed to encourage multisectoral funding for microbicides research (public, private, philanthropic)

Recommendations (cont)

- Women-controlled HIV prevention methods, such as the female condom and microbicides, should be developed and made more accessible
 - Organizations in Canada should participate in the global campaign to develop women-controlled methods of STD/HIV prevention
 - Educational programs for women on the use of microbicides should be developed
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Canadian Public Health Association – 2001 Resolution

- Recognize the need for research on topical microbicides as a priority;
 - Work with researchers to ensure that, one approved, topical microbicides are affordable and accessible to communities around the world.
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Next Steps

- The MAG-Net will continue in their education efforts within their communities, nationally and internationally.
 - The MAG-Net will continue to pressure the government of Canada to take a leading role in the global development of microbicides through investment of funding and advocacy activities to ensure that microbicides when ready for marketing are both accessible and affordable to those persons around the world most in need.
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