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DAVI'S SUCCESS STORY

(She/Her) from Surrey/Langley, BC

> Davi and the Canada Pavilion Team engaging with delegates at AIDS 2024

ith nearly a decade of professional experience in the HIV community, Davi is deeply committed to making meaningful contributions to Canada's HIV response. Currently a Community Research Associate with the British Columbia CARMA CHIWOS Collaboration, Davi works on multiple research projects focusing on women's health.

One such study - a five-year, womencentred, community- and clinic-based research project in BC connects women living with HIV, researchers, clinicians and community partners to study how to improve healthy aging for women living with HIV.

Thanks to funding from the Public Health

"Research being done in Canada needs to be shared for Canada to maintain its position as a global leader with its positive response to HIV."

Agency of Canada, Davi was chosen to be a Pavilion Representative at the Canada Pavilion at the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024) in Munich, Germany. With a theme of "Empowering Communities: Leaving No One Behind", the Canada Pavilion shared Canadian best practices, effective interventions and achievements to address HIV and other STBBI, as well as showcased community innovation and the community-based response to HIV and other STBBI in Canada.

Sharing the powerful impact of communitybased leadership as a woman in research was a highlight for Davi.

"There is a great lack of research for women living with HIV by women researchers," explains Davi. "I am grateful for the opportunity to represent both groups at the International AIDS Conference."

The Canada Pavilion also offered many opportunities for Davi to expand her professional network through conversations with Pavilion visitors.

"The opportunity to meet other delegates and make connections has brought new ideas," she says.

In her role, Davi engaged with people from around the world, as well as other Canadians. She spoke with leaders from national and global organizations to discuss women and HIV, as well as policy makers and other officials.

"I learned things from them, and they learned from me," she says.

One of Davi's biggest take aways is an increase in her self-confidence.

"Research being done in Canada needs to be shared for Canada to maintain its position as a global leader with its positive response to HIV,

- Davi, Canada Pavilion Representative at AIDS 2024



Davi (centre) poses with other Canadians in front of the selfie wall at the Canada Pavilion

she says. "We need to continue to promote the research in Canada and increase our focus on women's health."

Davi says that the information she learned at AIDS 2024 will help in all aspects of her work, and she look forward to sharing this with her team on the BCC3 study.

"I am so appreciative of the opportunity to attend and represent Canada at the International AIDS Conference. Thank you (Canadian Association for HIV Research) CAHR for making this possible."



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