



“Showcasing the work going on in Canada inspires other countries, and as Canadians, we are inspired to see what advancements are being made within the country and around the world.”

— Martin, Canada Pavilion Representative at AIDS 2024

and New Zealand.

Thanks to funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Martin was selected 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.

Through conversations with Pavilion visitors, Martin expanded his professional network and learned of up-and-coming trends that he plans to incorporate in PLDI trainings.

“I was proud to share and promote PLDI’s current projects,” says Martin. “I also got a chance to initiate new partnerships, with people from Canada and across the world.”

One moment that stands out for Martin was meeting with a Māori person from PLDI’s Australian chapter and speaking with them about Indigenous issues in both Canada and Australia’s responses. Martin also connected with self-testing company representatives and discussed the idea of PLDI collaborating with people living with HIV in Haiti when the political environment calms down.

The chance to have conversations with people outside of his “silo” shone a spotlight on other amazing work going on in HIV, and Hep C, both in Canada and around the world.

“The presentations at the Canada Pavilion, and the entire conference, were really informative,” he says. “Showcasing the work going on in Canada inspires other countries, and as Canadians, we are inspired to see what



Martin (centre) and other members of the Canada Pavilion Team

advancements are being made within the country and around the world.”

Participating in the AIDS 2024 conference is a great showcase and networking opportunity for Canada, his is especially true given Canada’s unique position as a bilingual country.

“It was great to have had the opportunities to connect with other French-speaking participants and organizations,” says Martin. “I have many new ideas and inspirations, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to represent my program and my country at AIDS 2024.”

MARTIN’S SUCCESS STORY

(He/Him) from Montreal region, QC

Martin (left) presenting at the Canada Pavilion

As the National Coordinator for the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) in Canada, Martin helps to deliver national leadership training programs for people living with HIV. In this work, Martin creates opportunities for people to find their voice, to speak up, and to feel empowered as leaders within and outside of AIDS service organizations across Canada.

PLDI is a partnership program between three AIDS service organizations in Canada, which offers people living with HIV an opportunity to identify and develop their leadership and resilience skills in a safe environment by and for people living with HIV. The program was also exported across the Pacific Ocean to Australia

