



RENÉE'S SUCCESS STORY

(She/Her) from Cole Harbour, NS

Renée and members of the CanCURE Team at the Canada Pavilion

With nearly three decades of experience in HIV health, sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, and Indigenous research, Renée is a dedicated consultant in the HIV movement. Known for her mentorship and historical perspective at the national level, Renée brought a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the Canada Pavilion at the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024).

With a theme of “Empowering Communities: Leaving No One Behind”, the Canada Pavilion at the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024) 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. The project was funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Reflecting on her experience, Renée described the conference as a precious opportunity for networking

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— Renée, Canada Pavilion consultant

and sharing information. Being part of the Canada Pavilion gave her the perfect platform to showcase her research, connect with like-minded professionals, and engage in community-building. New to the consulting world, Renée found the event incredibly affirming. Each conversation, presentation, and interaction boosted her confidence, as she grew from sharing her knowledge and learning from others.

“The conference broadened my perspectives,” Renée recalls. “I left with fresh insights and updates from global experts.”

One highlight for Renée was the diversity of people who visited the Canada Pavilion. This vibrant mix created a rich environment for meaningful dialogue, allowing her to identify common barriers in HIV health and work collaboratively with others to brainstorm solutions. She appreciated how each conversation offered a unique perspective on issues faced by communities around the world. These interactions opened doors to new ideas and strategies that she hopes to bring into her work with Indigenous communities.

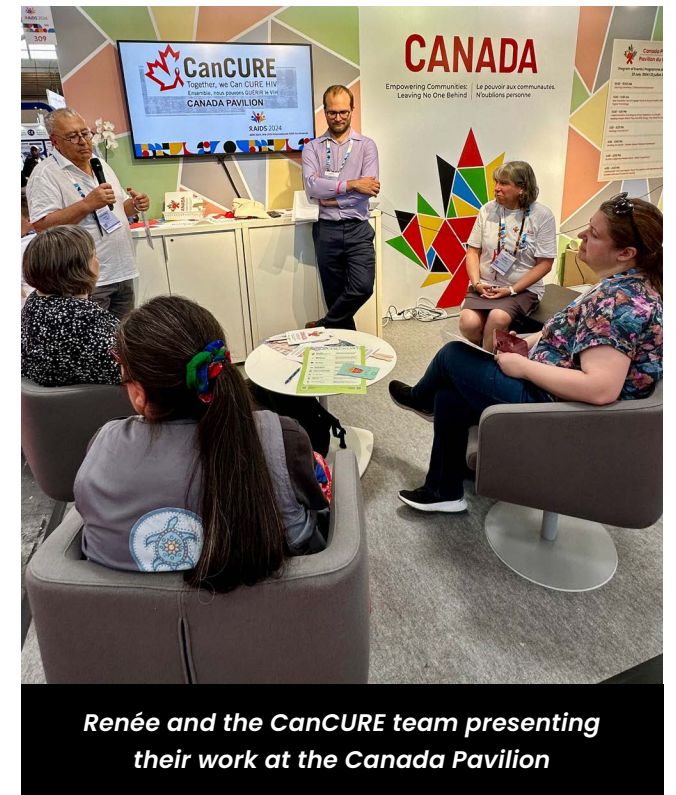
Eager to make the most of this experience, Renée took every opportunity to absorb information and share her own research. She was thrilled to present several of her research projects, which allowed her to showcase her work and spark discussions that could inspire new initiatives.

“I’ll be able to share information that can inform current projects and inspire new ones, as well as disseminate knowledge,” she said enthusiastically. “I’ve built so many new connections.”

Renée is passionate about Canada’s ongoing role in the International AIDS Conference, believing it’s crucial for Canada to demonstrate its commitment to the HIV movement on a global stage. For her, Canada’s presence is a statement—one that shows the country’s dedication to supporting and funding HIV research and response efforts.

“The International AIDS Conference is an excellent way for smaller organizations to share their information globally,” Renée explained, adding that Canada’s participation can inspire other nations to improve their own HIV responses.

The conference also offered an invaluable moment for Renée to reflect on the Canadian government’s leadership in HIV support. She sees



Renée and the CanCURE team presenting their work at the Canada Pavilion

it as a testament to Canada’s commitment to the movement and hopes this leadership will continue to grow.

Renée expressed deep gratitude for the dedication from the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) in organizing the Pavilion.

“The participants and planners clearly had a lot of heart,” Renée shared, crediting them for fostering a space that welcomed collaboration and new ideas. “Their hard work and thoughtful planning made the experience both informative and enjoyable.”

For Renée, this conference was not just an event but an inspiring milestone in her journey with the HIV movement—a chance to contribute, connect, and learn in ways that will enrich her work for years to come.

