

g Communities:
No One Behind

Le pouvoir aux communautés
N'oublions personne



KEN'S SUCCESS STORY

(He/Him) from
Oliver Paipouge, ON

Ken (right) with other members
of the Canada Pavilion Team

Ken is the Executive Director for the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS), the first national organization to advocate for Canadians living with HIV, built at the grassroots level. CAS represents community-based HIV/AIDS organizations across Canada, and their objective is to strengthen the response to HIV/AIDS in Canada and enhance the lives of people and communities living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS. CAS also plays a key role in ensuring that Canada remains active and informed on both national and international HIV developments.

Thanks to funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ken 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

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— Ken, Canada Pavilion Representative at AIDS 2024

innovation and the community-based response to HIV and other STBBI in Canada.

This global conference provided a perfect platform for Canada to share its proactive approach, and Ken was enthusiastic about making the most of it. He seized every opportunity to expand his knowledge, connect with experts, and proudly showcase Canada's commitment to the HIV response.

"I had the opportunity to meet countless influential figures and international leaders in the HIV sector," recalls Ken. "Each conversation presented fresh opportunities for advocacy and new ways to enhance CAS's efforts to create impactful, sustainable change for Canadians living with HIV."

Ken was especially proud that Randy, Communications Manager at CAS, had the opportunity to present their work at the Canada Pavilion. Randy's presentation highlighted the meaningful initiatives that CAS is driving, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. This exposure boosted CAS's visibility and opened doors for new partnerships and potential projects. The audience's engagement emphasized the global relevance of CAS's work and underscored the value of community-led approaches.

"It's crucial for Canada to be present at international HIV conferences like this one," says Ken. "International exchanges like these allow Canada to learn from other nations' successes and challenges."

"First, it's about representation. Canada's community organizations and individuals have essential insights and practices to share on the global stage, which helps build a stronger, more united HIV movement worldwide."

"Second, while Canada isn't entirely meeting its HIV goals, we have achieved significant progress."

Ken was particularly inspired by a conversation with a physician from Nigeria, sharing insights about types of programs for different key populations. This led to a discussion on creating networks for capacity building and knowledge mobilization where CAS could leverage Canadian data to support the fight against AIDS in other areas of the world.

The conference also sparked Ken's interest in future opportunities for CAS to be involved in more research-focused AIDS conferences. This new



Ken providing remarks at the Opening Ceremonies
for the Canada Pavilion at AIDS 2024

enthusiasm marks a pivotal moment for CAS, as participating in research-driven discussions could deepen the organization's impact and create an avenue for innovation in addressing the needs of Canadians with HIV.

Ken left the conference energized, knowing that CAS's work was not only recognized but also valued on an international scale. The support and connections made will allow the organization to strengthen its outreach and advocacy for Canadians living with HIV.

"Reflecting on my experience, I am more committed than ever to advancing CAS's mission," says Ken. "I'm inspired by the ideas and new connections that lie ahead."

CANADA 
Empowering Communities:
Leaving No One Behind