



# Blueprint for Action on Women & Girls and HIV/AIDS

Report Card: Canada

August 16, 2006

Strategic Area	Grade	Comment
Legal and Ethical Issues	C-	Congratulations on the supervised injection facility. Keep it open. More work on harm reduction required. More work on prisoners' rights. Decriminalize sex trade.
Human Rights	B-	Very poor effort on the human rights of IDU, prisoners, sex trade workers. Do not test any pregnant woman in Canada without informed consent and pre and post test counselling.
Research	C-	Psycho-social research has included women but there needs to be more effort to include women in pre-clinical and clinical trials. Women should be included in the development of research protocols.
Stigma and Discrimination	D	Women with HIV continue to face stigma when accessing housing, employment, education, training, medical and social services and generally in society. Leaders from all walks of life need to speak out publicly at every occasion against discrimination of people with HIV and AIDS.
Aboriginal Women	D	Historical events and colonization have led to deplorable systemic racism and to the violation of human rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada (First Nations, Métis and Inuit). Canada must respond immediately to the specific needs of Aboriginal peoples.
Diagnosis	D	Good work Ontario for standing your ground on opt in testing for pregnant women. Generally women are still being diagnosed too late. More anonymous testing required especially in rural areas.
Treatment	C	Many Canadian women continue to choose between food, shelter and treatment. Universal access to optimal standard of care mandatory across the country.
Prevention and Education	D	Education in schools is inconsistent. Infection rates continue to rise. Must implement nationwide HIV education beginning in primary schools immediately. No targeted HIV education and awareness.
Care and Support	C-	Canada recently dedicated funding under the federal initiative for the women's population. Must follow through and provide comprehensive care and support to make gains in this area.
Funding	D	HIV dollars are spread too thin. Lack of attention to women and girls given rising infection rates and complex socioeconomic factors. Must focus efforts to make the grade.
Human Resources	F	Not enough doctors, no rural support, existing human resources burning out. Must ensure adequate human resources in all areas. Extensive remediation is required.

**A - Excellent      B - Satisfactory      C - Fair      D - Poor      F - Fail**

OVERALL GRADE: D. Women, transwomen and girls of all cultural backgrounds and life experiences form a growing and large percentage of Canada's HIV infected people. Within existing Canadian initiatives there are gaps and concerns that must be addressed. All areas of need identified above demand improvement so women & girls in Canada can live safe, healthy lives.

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