



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
World AIDS Conference 2020 &  
Indigenous Pre-Conference 2020



# HEALING INNER VOICES

STIGMA  
won't live  
in my world



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REACH<sup>3.0</sup>

# HIV: HEALING INNER VOICES

It was only through my own healing that I was able to break through that intersection of stigmas that was placed on me.

~ Martin Morberg



***HIV: Healing Inner Voices*** is a peer-led indigenous collaborative film that addresses the issue of stigma through the voices and experiences of eight Indigenous people living with HIV. Not a typical health documentary, the 29 minute short documentary is made by and for Indigenous people living with HIV. The film focuses on reflecting the voices of the participants, all Indigenous people who have faced stigma in one way or another.

**“Stigma won’t live in my world”**

says Val Nicholson, one of the participants in ***HIV: Healing Inner Voices***



These days, a diagnosis of HIV is no longer an automatic death sentence. But more than the disease, stigma is the epidemic when it comes to HIV. And it’s the stigma that is the killer. And a diagnosis is still a hugely traumatizing experience, especially for those in remote communities.

**Stigma is the Issue we are tackling.**

“I want to share our truths, our realities, our struggles, but also our accomplishments, our strengths, our resilience, our hopes and dreams, and the compassion we’ve had for ourselves. I want to take this film to the heart of communities to show what HIV has taught us, how we’ve empowered ourselves, our resilience, our healing journeys, our teachers. Let’s show them a way out of the darkness. Let’s show them how we are still Healing Our Inner Voices.”

~ Martin Morberg, Project Creator, Northern Tutchone/Tlingit.

**"The longest distance I've had to travel is from my head to my heart."**

**~ Aaron Jackson**



Our film is filling a huge gap when it comes to stigma. Rural communities have very little access to Indigenous perspectives and people living with HIV/AIDS. This lack of understanding around HIV issues contributes to the fear and stigma of HIV/AIDS. It is our goal to bring ourselves, our stories, our lives and our teachings to these communities. We want to share our lived experiences to show what we've done, how we've healed, how we've been empowered, how we are moving forward, helping others and living healthy lives.

HIV stigma and discrimination cause:

- Lower testing rates amongst people who are at risk of HIV
- Lower rates of people living with HIV seeking treatment, care, and support
- Higher rates of people living with HIV feeling isolation, thus being silent about HIV and in turn creating the ideal conditions for HIV to continue to spread

Source: <http://www.catie.ca/en/hiv-canada/4/4-1/4-1-1>

**HIV: HEALING INNER VOICES is a DRAWING WISDOM Production**

**Created & produced by MARTIN MORBERG, Northern Tutchone/Tlingit • Directed by JADA-GABRIELLE PAPE, Saanich & Snuneymuxw Nations**

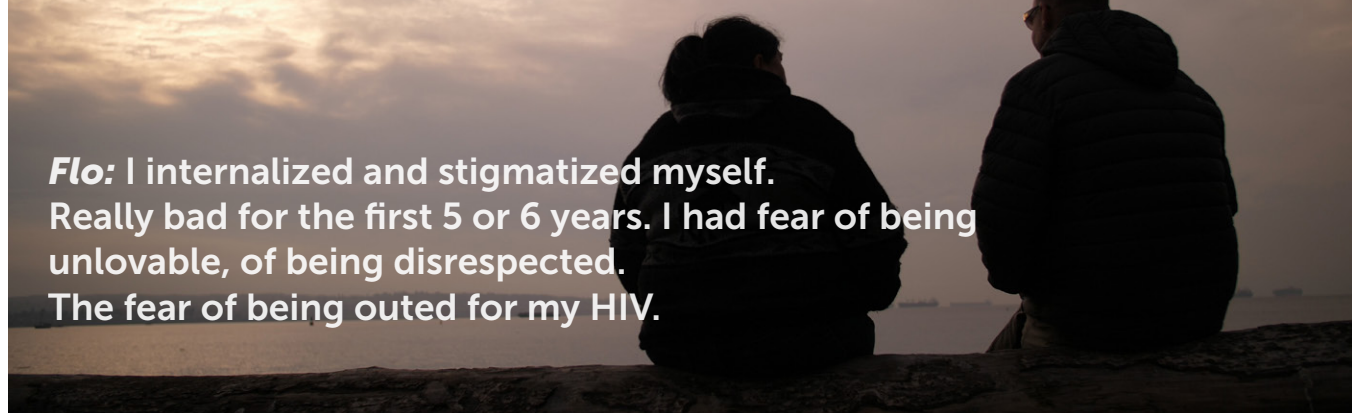
**Created in collaboration with LULU GURNEY, Nisga'a Nation, RON HORSFALL, Pasqua First Nation, Saskatchewan, AARON JACKSON, Tseil-Waututh Nation, TYLER JACOBS, AJ LOWHORN, Siksika Nation, VAL NICHOLSON, Mi'kmaq, and FLO RANVILLE, Sioux Lakota/Woodlands Cree/French/Scottish • Director of Photography D'ARCY HAMILTON Edited by KATHERINE DODDS and D'ARCY HAMILTON • Production Manager RYLAN FRIDAY, Cote First Nation**

**Supported by the VANCOUVER ISLAND PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS SOCIETY (VPWAS), COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH CENTRE (CBRC), YOUTH CO HIV & HEP C SOCIETY, and HELLO COOL WORLD • Funding from VIIV HEALTHCARE, FNHA and PHSA**

**Impact Partners: DRAWING WISDOM, INSPIRIT FOUNDATION and REACH 3.0**



**AJ:** If an individual feels that they are not worthy of medications, then they will stop using them. They are loved, no matter who they are. Love is something that's not fully understood.

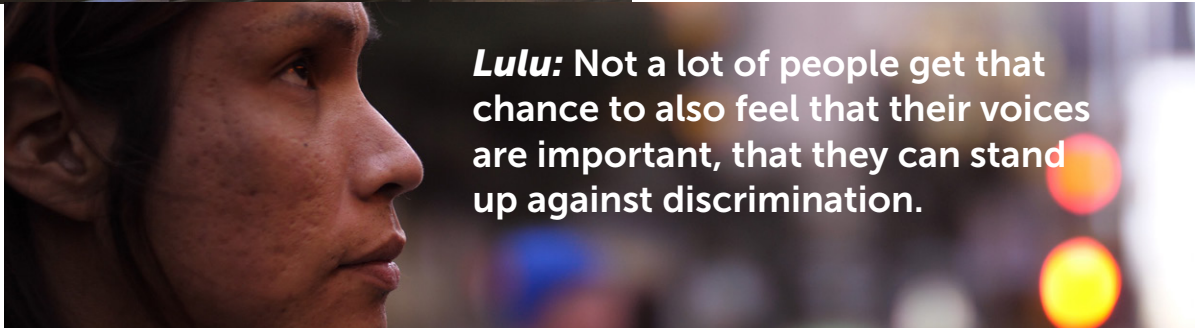


**Flo:** I internalized and stigmatized myself. Really bad for the first 5 or 6 years. I had fear of being unlovable, of being disrespected. The fear of being outed for my HIV.



**Val:** Stigma is such a big issue. And when you keep hearing stigma from others, you start self-stigmatizing yourself.

**I will help fight against it and protect others against it because stigma won't live in my world.**



**Lulu:** Not a lot of people get that chance to also feel that their voices are important, that they can stand up against discrimination.

**Aaron:** An elder from Moose Factory brought sweats into my life. And one of the greatest teachings I learnt from him was that we all slip. But do we use it as a lesson to move forward and do better next time?



**Ron:** It's just amazing when you get into that healing mode and spiritual mode and you claim your power.

You have an extraordinarily powerful choice how you're going to move into that next moment.



**Martin:** I will never forget the people that have reached their hands out to me, at a point I needed them the most.

**Tyler:** I dance for the people, and I dance for myself. I dance for my ancestors. And when I do those certain things, I feel the power of mother earth.



A group of people, including Indigenous individuals in traditional regalia, standing outdoors near a body of water. A man in a black hoodie and cap is in the foreground, looking upwards. Other people are in the background, some wearing traditional hats and clothing.

## HIV: HEALING INNER VOICES – OUR PLAN FOR IMPACT

***HIV: Healing Inner Voices*** is a multi-targeted intervention to improve engagement across the care cascade for a diverse community. As a film, what it can accomplish via authentic story-telling is what sets it apart from other interventions. As all the wise-practices dictate, HIV positive Indigenous people need to be supported in sharing their lived experiences.

There are many gaps when it comes to reaching niche segments of populations who experience an intersection of barriers and stigma, in particular Indigenous women, Indigenous men, trans people, 2 Spirit people, those living with social inequities, and those living in rural and remote locations. The project is essential because to ensure strong retention in the cascade of care education is necessary to ensure culturally safe access to care and treatment.

What we are planning will be a long term sustained outreach effort designed to ultimately reach communities, to have an impact where it is most needed, so that in project creator Martin Morberg's words: "if I had seen a film like this when I was diagnosed it would have made a world of difference. I was diagnosed while in my community, I struggled alone, and that led to years of problems before I got the help I needed to turn my life around."



This is a powerful film of very rich stories that tell a truth that has the power to reach directly into communities AND to also be a tool for health care and other HIV/AIDS service providers, both as a model of how to do this work, and as an educational tool to mitigate the stigma we still know still exists in the healthcare system. Through storytelling and empathy this film has teachings to offer healthcare providers.

In December 2020, with the support of Drawing Wisdom, the Inspirit Foundation and Reach 3.0 we are hosting a VIP screening and virtual talking circle for stakeholders. This event will be facilitated by Jada-Gabrielle Pape (director of the film) and led by Peers, will also feature Elders, entertainers, and the opportunity to find out how we can work together to end stigma and support Indigenous people living with HIV.

The film project's longer term goal in the second phase (once COVID restrictions are over) is to take the film on a community tour into remote communities, leading talking circles along with peers also living with HIV to combat stigma and discrimination within Indigenous communities.

Says Director Jada-Gabrielle Pape, Saanich & Snuneymuxw Nations "I believe that the work of decolonizing, relationship building, reciprocity and reconciliation cannot and should not be done alone. It makes me and my ancestors happy to be doing this work alongside storytellers and creative allies. The making of this film models a way of working together that ensures safety and wholeness for all those involved." We don't need to overstate at this stage that Indigenous people are overrepresented in the negative statistics about HIV.

# PEER LEADERS FOR VIRTUAL TALKING CIRCLE



**Martin Morberg**

*Indigenous HIV Activist*

*Healing Inner Voices Project Creator*

Martin is a 2 Spirit Northern Tutchone/Tlingit man. It is his goal to empower the voices of 2 Spirit and Indigenous people and those affected by HIV/AIDS.



**Flo Ranville**

Flo is Sioux Lakota/French and Woodlands Cree/Scottish, a mother of seven and four grandchildren. Flo is in her 21st year living with HIV. She has worked in HIV/AIDS Research for 15 years and her passion is to help advocate and voice against Stigma, violence, discrimination for all those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.



**Val Nicholson**

*Peer Navigator - AIDS Vancouver*

*Researcher - BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS*

Val is Mi'kmaq, Haida, Gypsy and UK Islander descent. Val is a mother of four boys, and a grandmother to one granddaughter and four grandsons.



**Aaron Jackson**

*HIV and Harm Reduction Activist*

Aaron is from the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation in North Vancouver. Aaron is passionate about peer-led initiatives and working with Indigenous people affected by HIV/AIDS and addictions.



# FULL FILM CREDITS

A DRAWING WISDOM Production

Created by Martin Morberg, Indigenous HIV Activist, Northern Tutchone/Tlingit

In collaboration with

LULU GURNEY, PRA/Interviewer, Outreach Worker, Nisga'a Nation

RON HORSEFALL, Mashkiki-waabika-inini (Medicine Circle of Stones Man), Pasqua First Nation, Saskatchewan

TYLER-ALAN JACOBS, Sxela'pchtn (chief of chiefs)

AJ LOW HORN, Siksika Nation

VALERIE NICHOLSON, The One the Eagles Watch Over, Mi'kmaq

FLO RANVILLE, Sioux Lakota/Woodlands Cree French/Scottish

AARON JACKSON, Indigenous Peer Navigator, (RAAC) Rapid Access Addiction Clinic,  
St Paul's Hospital, Tsleil-Waututh Nation

This project is dedicated to those who suffer in silence

Created and produced by MARTIN MORBERG

Directed by JADA-GABRIELLE PAPE, Saanich and Snuneymuxw Nations

Director of Photography D'ARCY HAMILTON

Edited by KATHERINE DODDS and D'ARCY HAMILTON

Location sound recording by DEVON COOKE

Production Manager RYLAN FRIDAY

Culture Saves Lives Sound Recording by DAN PONICH, Park Sound Studio

Sound Mix by JOHN SAWA, Sawa Sound

Featuring Culture Saves Lives:  
ROBERT WILLIAMS JR. "Lalakenis"  
PATRICK SMITH "4 Bears"  
CODY HUNT  
RORY DAWSON  
MARNIE SCOW

Songs performed by Culture Saves Lives used with permission from the song owners:

Yelukwala, ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Hamatsa Nakaxala, CHIEF ROBERT WILLIAMS SR.  
Tilkwala, CHIEF WILLIAM PETERS  
Amlala, MUSGAMAWK KWICKWASUTAINUEK, GILFORD ISLAND BC  
Tree of life song, ROBERT WILLIAMS & CHIEF ROBERT WILLIAMS SR.

Special thank you to GABRIEL GEORGE for granting us permission for the use of his original songs  
from the album "Cry of The Wolf":

Nature  
Eagle  
Sla Hal  
Big George  
Salish Anthem

All traditional songs performed by GABRIEL GEORGE  
Salish Anthem Performed by GABRIEL GEORGE and LEONARD GEORGE

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and dedicated to his brother ISAAC GEORGE who died of AIDS related illness in 2006  
"He taught people how to dance, and shine and love. Then he journeyed to be with all the  
grandmothers and grandfathers. He is a wolf. This is his cry."

Original compositions by MATTHEW CARDINAL

Feb 21st

May 7th

My Own

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Glida Morgan

Darren Ho

Jody Jollimore

Matthew Halse

Craig Dales-Furlani

Elena Kanigan

Native Education College

David Ng

Gavin Hamilton

Leena Minifie

Rachelle George

Mathew Fischer

Vanessa Kroeker

Brackendale Art Gallery

Urban Native Youth Association

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Vancouver Native Health Society

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Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)  
Youth Co HIV & Hep C Society

Drawing Wisdom

Hello Cool World

With Funding from

ViiV Healthcare

FNHA

PHSA

Filmed on location in the unceded Traditional Lands and Waters  
of the əsəlilwətaʔt, Xwməθkwəyəm, & Skwxwú7meshi Nations and all their ancestors



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## IMPACT PARTNERS



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