

The Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign National Projects and Activities Underway May 2007

1. The Great Canadian Quilt Tour

The Great Canadian Quilt, a project of the Kamloops CanGo Grannies, is a 7, x 6.5, red and white quilt, flag-like in design and shape, with each of the 200 white, 3-inch squares displaying the personal signature of a great Canadian.

The Kamloops group created this quilt to raise money to support the Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). The quilt will be travelling to every province and territory, to be exhibited in a gallery, airport, university or museum.

Ottawa will host this amazing quilt for Canada Day on July 1st and for one week after. It will be displayed at the National Art Centre in the main foyer. Please encourage friends and group members to view the quilt and to promote it via media contacts you may have.

For more information, visit www.greatcanadianquilt.com

2. The Grannies African Cookbook

A group of grandmothers from across the country are creating a collection of recipes, stories and pictures that celebrate and support the grandmothers of Sub-Saharan Africa who are raising their HIV/AIDS affected grandchildren. The primary goal of this national initiative is to raise awareness and money for the SLF Grandmothers Campaign, in support of its community-based initiatives addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. A national "More-than-an-African-Cookbook" Steering Committee has been formed to coordinate the publication. An extended network of Grandmother Groups, friends and contacts across Canada and in Africa are supporting this project through the submission of recipes, stories, anecdotes, photos, artwork and/or information as well as the testing of recipes. If you would like to make a donation or submission please contact Brenda Rooney at brenda@rooneyproductions.com or Liz Rose at erose34@rogers.com.

3. National Advocacy Steering Committee

The Greater Vancouver area Go-Gos have initiated an effort to form a national advocacy steering committee to take some leadership and enhance collaboration in advocacy efforts—identifying key issues, liaising with other agencies and groups who are involved, reporting to the groups across Canada and providing

advice and templates for letter-writing campaigns and other advocacy activities. SLF will be involved in an "ex officio" manner only since they are limited in the amount of advocacy they can do by their charitable status. They have offered to build a special area on their web site for communications related to advocacy.

Mary Anna Beer has developed a list of names and groups in clusters across Canada who will be invited to join a call on May 23rd to develop this further. The Ottawa area network will have one representative who will then network with the other groups. Currently the rep is Peggy Edwards. We need an alternate rep. Please contact Peggy if you are interested (613-730-0378). It is also proposed that the Wakefield Grannies have a rep for Quebec. To facilitate communication, each group is asked to nominate one or two people to serve as the advocacy rep for their group. These reps will provide input to the national committee and deliver information back to their members.

4. Grandparents Day Solidarity March

On September 9, 2007 we will hold a solidarity march on Parliament Hill. Groups from Toronto and other areas will join us and it is expected that others will stage similar marches in their cities. The Ottawa area network will lead this national activity. There will be a meeting for the steering group on May 26 at 28 Osborne Street, Ottawa (10:00-1:00). We hope that one or two reps from each group will attend. Contact Patti Koeslag (613-253-3099) or Peggy Edwards (613-730-0378).

5. Access to Medicines Campaign

Many of the groups across Canada have participated in an advocacy campaign to get the Canadian government to amend Canada's legislation (CAMR) enabling the delivery of generic drugs (including HIV/AIDS drugs) to Africa and other developing countries. Because of flaws in the legislation and political pressure from the pharmaceutical industry not one dose of medication has left Canada since an all-party agreement to do so made in 2004. Group members signed "The Pledge", wrote letters to MPS and visited elected officials.

In April Stephen Lewis and several organizations that are members of the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG) testified before a parliamentary committee that is reviewing the legislation.

The battle is not over. Continuing support for this effort in collaboration with GTAG will be one of the first activities taken by the national advocacy steering group.

To learn more, please visit GTAG at www.aidslaw.ca/EN/issues/GTAG.htm