

## **January 2002 Feasibility/Design Workshop Press Release**

Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (MCEWH) and their collaborating partners, Commonwealth Secretariat, Dalhousie University, and IWK Health Centre, are hosting a workshop with the purpose of discussing feasibility and considerations for design of a proposed International Summer Institute for Gender Management and HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affect men and women differently, however policy and program development continue to ignore the impact of such differences. Training opportunities to prepare and provide policy makers with skills to implement gender-based analysis in public policy and programming tend to be ad hoc, irregular and are often not strategically focused. The purpose of the Summer Institute will be to develop the capacity of middle managers and professionals in government and voluntary sectors to carry out gender analysis and facilitate gender mainstreaming with regards to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programming, particularly in Commonwealth Countries.

MCEWH's collaborating partner, Commonwealth Secretariat is mandated to develop a comprehensive network of structures, mechanisms and processes for bringing a gender perspective to bear in the mainstream of all government policies, programs and projects within Commonwealth countries.

Funders and sponsors of this event include International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), The Women's Health Bureau, Health Canada, Dalhousie University and IWK Health Centre.

Approximately 30 people, half international guests from Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and the Caribbean, will convene in Halifax, Nova Scotia from January 16-18 to share their expertise in the area(s) of gender and or HIV/AIDS during discussions about the proposed International Summer Institute on Gender Management and HIV/AIDS. Among topics to be addressed are, examination of national and international needs and priorities, potential funding sources and partnerships, logistics and core curriculum for the proposed International Summer Institute for Gender Management and HIV/AIDS.