



**Acceptance and Commitment to Empowerment (ACE) Intervention:
Reducing HIV Stigma & Promoting Community Resilience through Capacity Building**
Funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)

Project ACE is a program to reduce HIV related stigma and promote collective empowerment. The goal of **Phase One** of the ACE Project is to engage 50-70 community members to learn more about: (1) the challenges faced by racialized people experiencing or affected by HIV related stigmas, (2) their psychosocial needs, and (3) existing community strategies to reduce these stigmas.

Do you self-identify as:

- a man belonging to a racialized minority or immigrant community?
- experiencing or affected by HIV related stigma?
- living in one of the six project cities (Calgary, Edmonton, Greater Toronto Area (GTA), London, Niagara, Ottawa)?
- 18 years of age or older?
- Fluent in English?

If so, we invite you to take part in our study to share your
knowledge, insights, and perspectives.

Joining this study will involve taking part in a **2-hour focus group online via zoom** with other men in the community, between 6 to 8 participants. You will be asked to complete a short demographic survey and join an online focus group via Zoom to discuss issues related to HIV related stigma and strategies to reduce that stigma. All focus group discussions will be audio-recorded which makes it impossible for you to participate if you do not want to be audio-recorded.

Taking part in this study is entirely **voluntary** and **private**.

- You may withdraw at any time.
- You do not need to provide your real name
- You will receive a small honorarium (\$40) when you attend the focus group session.
- The research team will keep the information you share private. Since a focus group involves many participants, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. We will ask all participants to honour and respect each other’s privacy.

For more information about joining this study, please contact:

Local Sites	Research Trainee / Coordinators	Principal Researchers
Calgary	Sipiwe Mapfumo (sipiwe.mapfumo@torontomu.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 6	Dr. Añiela M. dela Cruz (aniela.delacruz@ucalgary.ca)
Edmonton	Folasade Olaniyan (folaniyan1@torontomu.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 5	Drs. Carla Hilario & Josephine P. Wong (carla.hilario@ubc.ca) (jph.wong@torotomu.ca)
Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	Desmond Miller (millerde@torontomu.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 1	Dr. Josephine P. Wong (jph.wong@torotomu.ca)
London	Sulemana Ansumah Saaka (ssulem@uwo.ca) / Mercy Nleya (MNleya@hivaidconnection.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 4	Dr. Isaac Luginaah (iluginaa@uwo.ca)
Niagara	Sara Escarraga (sescarraga@brocku.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 3	Dr. Miya Narushima (mnarushima@brocku.ca)
Ottawa	Billa Hissein (billa.hissein@torontomu.ca) 1-888-789-7730, press 2	Dr. Yin Yuen Chen (yy.chen@uottawa.ca)

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Boards of: Toronto Metropolitan University (REB# 2022-267), Brock University (22-122 - WONG), University of Alberta (Pro00127653), University of British Columbia Okanagan (H23-00246), University of Calgary (Pro00127653 / pSite-23-0024), University of Ottawa (S-01-23-8683), University of Toronto (Protocol #:38217), and Western University (122170).