



**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)*

ACE is a program to reduce HIV related stigma and promote collective empowerment. The goal of **Phase One** of the ACE Project is 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 trans or gender non-binary person belonging to a racialized minority or immigrant community?
- experiencing or affected by HIV related stigmas?
- 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 members in the community, between 6 to 8 participants. You will be asked to complete a short demographic survey and join a focus group 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 ( <a href="mailto:sipiwe.mapfumo@torontomu.ca">sipiwe.mapfumo@torontomu.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 6	Dr. Añiela M. dela Cruz ( <a href="mailto:aniela.delacruz@ucalgary.ca">aniela.delacruz@ucalgary.ca</a> )
Edmonton	Folasade Olaniyan ( <a href="mailto:folaniyan1@torontomu.ca">folaniyan1@torontomu.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 5	Drs. Carla Hilario & Josephine P. Wong ( <a href="mailto:carla.hilario@ubc.ca">carla.hilario@ubc.ca</a> ) ( <a href="mailto:jph.wong@torotomu.ca">jph.wong@torotomu.ca</a> )
Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	Desmond Miller ( <a href="mailto:millerde@torontomu.ca">millerde@torontomu.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 1	Dr. Josephine P. Wong ( <a href="mailto:jph.wong@torotomu.ca">jph.wong@torotomu.ca</a> )
London	Sulemana Ansumah Saaka ( <a href="mailto:ssulem@uwo.ca">ssulem@uwo.ca</a> ) / Mercy Nleya ( <a href="mailto:MNleya@hivaidconnection.ca">MNleya@hivaidconnection.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 4	Dr. Isaac Luginaah ( <a href="mailto:iluginaa@uwo.ca">iluginaa@uwo.ca</a> )
Niagara	Sara Escarraga ( <a href="mailto:sescarraga@brocku.ca">sescarraga@brocku.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 3	Dr. Miya Narushima ( <a href="mailto:mnarushima@brocku.ca">mnarushima@brocku.ca</a> )
Ottawa	Billa Hissein ( <a href="mailto:billa.hissein@torontomu.ca">billa.hissein@torontomu.ca</a> ) 1-888-789-7730, press 2	Dr. Yin Yuen Chen ( <a href="mailto:yy.chen@uottawa.ca">yy.chen@uottawa.ca</a> )

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).

