



**WELLESLEY INSTITUTE**  
advancing urban health

Enabling Grant Research Report

# The Episodic Disabilities Project

## Executive Summary

Many people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Canada are living with increased disablement from HIV and its associated treatments. Income security and employment issues are key determinants of health, and these are complicated by unpredictable episodes of wellness and illness experienced by adults living with HIV. The Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (CWGHR) launched a project to review disability income and employment issues, and conducted a cost-benefit analysis of a flexible income support and employment model. Preliminary results suggest potential financial benefits of such a model; however, the overall impact of an innovative labour force and income support model on the health and social inclusion of PHAs is unknown. Through this Enabling Grant, we fostered the development of a collaborative research team including community and academic partners across Canada with expertise in the area of HIV/AIDS labour force and income support research. Additionally, with this newly developed team of researchers, we developed and submitted two proposals to determine the effect of an innovative income support and labour force participation model for PHAs in Toronto (Wellesley Institute Advanced Grants), and to build capacity and strengthen partnerships among academic, community, and policy partners in order to develop high-quality research on labour force participation and income support for PHAs in Canada (CIHR Emerging Team Grant- HIV/AIDS). Overall, the activities of this grant have fostered a multi-sectoral national research team on HIV/AIDS labour force and income support. This team will continue to work together to formulate a comprehensive body of knowledge on income support and labour force participation issues that will enhance HIV-related policies, programs and practice in Canada.

**The Wellesley Institute – Enabling Grant Final Report**

**The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Wellesley Institute.**