



## AFRICAN HIV & AIDS ACTIVISTS IN CANADA FOR WORLD AIDS DAY 'ASK HER TALKS'

**The *Ask Her Talks* give Canadians a chance to hear directly from the experts.**

**November 3, 2015** – This World AIDS Day, Canadians have a unique opportunity to hear directly from five African women experts who are among those most intimately involved in the global fight against HIV and AIDS. Speaking at the second installment of the *Ask Her Talks* speaker series, these grassroots experts and activists from Ethiopia, Kenya, South African, Uganda and Zimbabwe will address everything from preventing the burn-out of frontline workers to the critical role of philanthropy in bringing the AIDS epidemic to an end.

In an era when AIDS has fallen off the public's radar, the testimony of these speakers – including that of two HIV-positive activists – will challenge Canadians' beliefs about the epidemic, and about the role of the women at its epicentre. We continue to witness 2 million new infections and 1.2 million deaths from AIDS each year. And while the death rate from AIDS has decreased globally, it has increased dramatically for adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa—where young women and girls account for almost 62% of new infections. Indeed the world risks a resurgence of the global AIDS epidemic unless it responds with the conviction and commitment which the *Ask Her Talks* speakers inspire.

Together, these women possess invaluable insights about the interventions and investments that are most effective in helping communities foster resilience and resurrect lives. And their expertise is deeply personal: based on their own lived experiences of HIV and AIDS and their tireless work to combat the interrelated ravages of poverty, gender inequality, and sexual violence. Canadians have clearly demonstrated their desire to hear from these experts, turning up in sold-out crowds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's inaugural *Ask Her Talks* in May 2015.

Hosted by gospel and jazz luminary Jackie Richardson – and featuring a performance by spoken word artist “Britta B” Badour – the second installment the of *Ask Her Talks* will once again amplify the powerful voices of African women whose expertise is too often marginalized.

The *Ask Her Talks* speakers are available for interviews. Visit [askhertalks.com](http://askhertalks.com) for bios and more.

**WHO:** **Peres Abeka**, *Chairperson of Young Women Campaign Against AIDS in Kenya*  
**Kidist Belete**, *Founding Executive Director of Developing Families Together in Ethiopia*  
**Hope Chigudu**, *Co-founder of the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network*  
**Vuyiseka Dubula**, *Past General Secretary of the Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa*  
**Dorothy Onyango**, *Founding Executive Director of Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya*

**WHEN:** Nov 23rd, The Royal Alberta Museum (Edmonton)  
 Nov 25th, The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre (Winnipeg)  
 Dec 1st (World AIDS Day), TIFF Bell Lightbox (Toronto)

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