

# THE LAIDSIES MAN

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PAUKTUUTIT  
Inuit Women's Association



THE CANADIAN INUIT HIV/AIDS NETWORK

# THE LAIDSIES MAN



A SHORT, YOUTH GENERATED CLAYMATION ON AIDS AND SEXUALITY  
INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AMONG INUIT YOUTH



## INTRODUCTION

Each year Arctic community schools are invited to participate in the Arctic Youth HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Fair project coordinated by the Canadian Inuit HIV/AIDS Network. The theme of the fair is **Youth Educating Youth and Their Community**. Much like science fairs, students research then create projects, but in this case the focus is on HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis C issues relevant to Arctic communities.

This two minute claymation CD Rom is the winning entry of Stephen Rigby and Devon Taaffee, two high school participants of the 2002 Fair held in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Through claymation they have highlighted the risks of unprotected sex and also issues related to negotiating sex, barriers to self-protection, misconceptions about birth control and attitudes toward young women. Da LAIDSies Man is an extraordinary example of youth developing educational material. This project is able to stimulate discussion on important topics, and because of this it has been provided for wider use among Arctic youth.

## USING THE GUIDE

This discussion guide contains key questions to ask youth once they have viewed the CD Rom. Following these questions are suggestions of concepts you may want to encourage them to discuss. They are designed to help group leaders and others move the discussions beyond the characters in the CD Rom and relate them to issues Arctic youth face. Generally, youth value the chance to discuss issues in ways that relate to their life experiences.

Meaningful conversations about sex, sexuality, mutual respect, HIV/AIDS and birth control provide youth with some of the information they need to make positive choices for themselves. Group leaders play an important role in ensuring open discussions take place in a safe environment, where issues and feelings are handled in a non-judgmental way.

If one youth makes a good choice as a result of viewing this claymation and participating in the discussion that follows, it has been successful. Perhaps that youth will be in your discussion group?

## KEEP IN MIND...

Allow viewers to express a wide range of opinions and emotions during and after viewing. You may find it helpful to make notes of any comments or reactions participants make. Candid reactions and comments may be used to further stimulate conversation.

- Keep in mind that talking about topics like sex and sexuality can make people feel uncomfortable. Arrange to have your discussion in a safe place and stress the importance of treating each other with respect. This includes not gossiping about information shared during the discussion.
- Be prepared to link youth with people in the community they can talk with later if they feel they need to.
- If you have other information sources you think might be helpful, make them available to the participants at the end of the discussion. These may provide answers to questions that come up after the discussion is finished.

## BREAKING THE ICE:

Here are a few general questions to get the discussion started:

- What do you think this claymation is about?
- How do you feel about "Da Laidies man"?
- What does the term "ladies" man mean?
- How did you feel as you watched this claymation?



# GETTING FOCUSED:

These questions will now focus on specific themes in the claymation.

## LAIDSIES MAN WAS INTERESTED IN "GETTING IT ON" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

### TALK ABOUT:

- Other ways people say they want to have sex
- How people react to the language we choose to use
- The value of using respectful language in relationships including sexual relationships

## LAIDSIES MAN SAID, "I'M CLEAN, YOU'RE CLEAN"

If someone looks clean or attractive does that mean it's okay to have unprotected sex?

### TALK ABOUT:

- The myth that you can tell if someone has AIDS by looking at them
- Ask: how would you know if someone had HIV or AIDS?
- People may say a lot of things to get sex
- The desire for sex can cloud an individual's judgment

## LAIDSIES MAN SAID, "HEY BABY, YOU'RE ON THE PILL"

Does the pill protect against STD's?

### TALK ABOUT:

- What the pill does and what it does not do
- Other forms of birth control
- The importance of talking honestly about birth control before having sex
- Ask: whose job is birth control?
- The role condoms can play in birth control and disease prevention



HONESTY

WHEN ASKED TO HAVE SEX, THE WOMAN SAID, "I DON'T KNOW, WE DON'T HAVE A CONDOM." EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW ABOUT CONDOMS SHE DIDN'T USE ONE.

Why not?

Why didn't they have a condom with them?

### TALK ABOUT:

- The barriers to making safe sex choices: are they different for young men and women?
- The importance of understanding the facts about safer sex AND practicing safe sex behaviors
- The idea that protecting ourselves from HIV, AIDS or other STDs may require us to be assertive with our partners. Being assertive is a sign of self-respect
- The importance of being prepared for safer sex
- The special role young men have in making sure a couple practices safer sex



THE LAIDSIES MAN TOLD THE WOMAN TO "GET OUT?"

How did she feel when he spoke to her like that?

### TALK ABOUT:

- The fact that respect includes actions and words

Some ways to show respect:

- Allowing others a chance to say what they need to
- Listening to what others say
- Giving others time and space to make their own choices
- Accepting others may make different choices than we think they should or want them to
- Insist on safer sex by using a condom
- Making our sexual partners feel cared for
- The results of spreading rumors



## WHAT DO YOU THINK THE WOMAN SHOULD LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?



### TALK ABOUT:

- The need to be assertive:
  - being assertive helps women protect themselves and their partners
  - the difference between being assertive and aggressive
  - women have the right to be treated with respect and must learn to insist on it
  - If a man doesn't respect you he's not the right man to be with
- That women need to make decisions about when, how and with whom they will have sex
- Talking about sex and negotiating safe sex does not mean you are "easy" it means you are mature



## DO YOU THINK SAFE SEX IS A DIFFICULT CHOICE TO MAKE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

### TALK ABOUT:

- HIV is easy to avoid if you make healthy choices every time
- There are times when waiting or saying no is the best option
- It's important to wait to have sex if you feel uncertain
- Ways you can figure out if you are ready to have sex:
  - Learning to express yourself in order to protect yourself
  - Learning to trust your intuition
  - Practicing condom use and other safer sex behaviors
  - Realizing that if you don't have a condom handy there are other ways to feel close to someone
  - Making responsible choices that show respect for yourself and others

PROTECT



## WHAT HAPPENED TO LAIDSIES MAN'S BODY AFTER HE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE AIDS VIRUS?

### TALK ABOUT:

- How the body normally fights infections
- How HIV affects your immune system
- The difference between HIV and AIDS
- The signs and symptoms of HIV and AIDS
- Getting an HIV test

## HOW DO YOU THINK HE FELT WHEN HE WAS TOLD HE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX WITH SOMEONE INFECTED WITH HIV?

### TALK ABOUT:

- The emotional reactions to getting an HIV test
- The emotional reactions to an HIV diagnosis
- How to provide support to someone in this situation

HIV

## WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE FOR THE LAIDSIES MAN AND THE WOMAN?

### TALK ABOUT:

- How both laidsies man and the woman put themselves at risk by not using condoms
- How men and women are equally at risk for contracting AIDS
- The importance of being honest with all sexual partners about HIV infection and other STD information
- How HIV or AIDS would affect the future of both partners':
  - decisions to have children or,
  - if they already have children the effect it would have on them their families
  - their community
  - future relationships
  - future employment
  - dreams and other goals
  - future travel

AIDS



## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### MUSIC

Many youth are interested in music. Working in small groups ask youth to develop a sound track for Da LAIDSies Man. Get them to pick the style of music: be it country, funk, rap etc. Help them to focus the sound track on a positive, respectful message.

### ART

Ask group members to develop movie posters promoting this new release! Encourage them to create posters that have positive messages about respect and healthy choices. Give them some examples of themes based on the discussions you had to get them started.

### DRAMA

For youth who like drama, role-plays are fun. Role plays allow participants to develop skills in a fun setting. Ask youth to act out scenes from the movie but come up with different endings. If you suggest a different ending allow the participants to develop the plot to get there. For example: have group members act out that the girl said no to having unprotected sex with the Laidies man. Participants could switch roles and play opposite parts.

## CONDOM USER MAN



Illustrated by  
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