

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **World AIDS Day Conference 2008 inspiring Vanier College students**

In the early nineties AIDS in Thailand was under control. Then people grew complacent. The result: AIDS is on the rise in Thailand and 50% of those newly infected are under the age of 24. Those are just a few facts exposed in a film by Concordia student, Myriam Tremblay-Sher who will present her film at Vanier College during the World Aids Day Conference, December 1, 2008.

Under the theme of *Youth as Leaders*, the second Vanier World Aids Day Conference has invited four young people who are fighting AIDS to speak to Vanier students about their experiences and observations with a view to encouraging the students to become engaged in international problems and support Canada's efforts in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. After Myriam Tremblay-Sher's film presentation which kicks off the conference at 8:30 a.m., Frédéric Samvura, a Congolese refugee currently studying at the University of Toronto, will discuss his experiences as an AIDS educator in camps for refugees and displaced persons in Uganda and Tanzania.

After lunch, Dr. Robert Smith, a professor of biomathematics at the University of Ottawa, will discuss the impact of low efficacy HIV prevention methods on preventing or reducing HIV transmission. And at 2:30 in the afternoon, Elizabeth Sully, a recent graduate of McGill University, will draw on her current work with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network to discuss different ways youth can become involved in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

All four presentations will take place in the Vanier Auditorium (Room A-103) beginning at 8:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

The Conference is part of a two-year project entitled *Vanier Aids Action in Africa* funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), as part of its Stand Alone Public Engagement Fund (SAPEF.)

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