

## CCENDU national report underlines need for attention to gender issues

Data gathered by the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU) for its 2002 national report reveal some disquieting differences between men and women in at least one of six data categories used by the monitoring group. While prevalence data indicating higher levels of licit drug use by women (e.g., antidepressants, sleeping pills and tranquilizers) were expected, enforcement data linking women with higher rates for certain offence categories were not anticipated.

According to the 2001 Uniform Crime Reporting Survey – one of a dozen national data sources analyzed by CCENDU – adult men are more likely to be charged with a drug offence in Canada (87% of all drug offences) than women (13% of all drug offences). A closer look at the data reveals that women and men tend to be distributed differently within certain categories of drug offences. For example, in the case of cannabis-related offences, men are more likely to be charged with a crime due to their consumption, whereas women are more likely to be

charged with crime for profit. Of all charges against men, 63% were for possession compared with 44% of women's charges, but women were more likely than men to be charged with trafficking (33% vs. 25%), and produc-



The 2002 CCENDU national report is being prepared by Colleen Dell (left) with the help of CCENDU research officer Karen Garabedian.

tion (22% vs. 12%). The charge rate for importation was the same for both (1%).

Youth charge rates for all drug offences combined are identical to rates for adults. However, unlike adult cannabis charge rates, females and males were distributed similarly within each offence

category (74% vs. 72% for male and female possession charges respectively), 24% vs. 25% for trafficking, and 1% vs. 3% for production.

"I think this report makes it very clear why we need to collect data by sex," said

Colleen Dell, national CCENDU coordinator and author of the report, to be published in June. Besides national data, the 2002 report looks at drug abuse patterns from six CCENDU urban surveillance sites across Canada, including Ottawa, Winnipeg, Fredericton, Vancouver, Toronto and Regina. These reports are available at [www.ccsa.ca/ccendu/index.htm](http://www.ccsa.ca/ccendu/index.htm). CCENDU was established in 1995 as a Canada-wide monitoring system on substance abuse. The group is chaired by CCSA and guided by a steering committee of federal, provincial and community representatives with intersecting interests in drug use, health and legal consequences of use, treatment and law enforcement. ▶ Dr. Dell works with CCSA and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University and can be contacted at [cdell@ccsa.ca](mailto:cdell@ccsa.ca) □

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## MPs welcome research and policy input on drug issues

**C**CSA is engaged in a number of initiatives aimed at raising the level of awareness on Parliament Hill of substance abuse issues.

Several MPs who sat on

the Parliamentary Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs, including its chair Paddy Torsney, have expressed an interest in forming a drug caucus on the Hill with CCSA's support.

The idea was discussed at a recent CCSA Board event where Ms. Torsney was keynote speaker. The caucus is expected to provide an open forum for discussion of various policy options and relevant research. It is scheduled to hold its first meeting in late Spring.

CCSA is also distributing background information on drug issues to all MPs and Senators. The first document circulated was a CCSA fact sheet entitled "Cannabis FAQs", which provides up-to-date, objective information to guide the debate on marijuana decriminalization.

► The FAQs are online at [www.ccsa.ca/docs/cannabis/cannabisFAQe.pdf](http://www.ccsa.ca/docs/cannabis/cannabisFAQe.pdf) □

► MP Paddy Torsney, who chaired the Parliamentary Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs, chats with CCSA Board member Dr. Chris Loock and special guest Dan Reist of BC's Kaiser Foundation at a CCSA Board gathering in February. Ms Torsney was keynote speaker at the event and talked about the extensive work that went into her Committee's report, tabled in December 2002. Health Canada must respond to the report by May 2003. The report can be found online at [www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca) under



### Let us know what you think about training

For CCSA, the National Summer Institute on Addictions is part of a new focus on training and workforce development. In coming months, CCSA will consult with various parties to determine how best to support the development of the addictions workforce in Canada. If you have thoughts on any aspect of this issue, please contact **Gary Roberts** at 613 235-4048, ext. 225, or [groberts@ccsa.ca](mailto:groberts@ccsa.ca).

## CCSA and CSC research centre planning summer institute

**C**CSA is partnering with the Addictions Research Centre, Correctional Service Canada (CSC), to launch a new addictions training institute, Aug. 18-21, at the CSC research facility in Montague, PEI. In its first year, the National Summer Institute on Addictions will focus on the challenges of working with less motivated clients. The goal is to present an advanced, evidence-based learning experience for senior addictions clinicians working mainly in the health, social and criminal justice sectors.

"Traditional notions of denial and confrontation are

no longer seen as the most effective basis for promoting behaviour change," says Gary Roberts, CCSA's director of best practices and training. "This Institute will examine the role of motivation and identify strategies for working effectively with ambivalence and resistance."

Organizers have assembled a strong faculty, including Dr. Alan Marlatt, a pre-eminent researcher on motivational issues. Using case studies, participants will learn to apply new approaches in a variety of settings. There will also be a unique opportunity during the closing session to contribute to national research,

best practice development and training agendas.

The Institute's national scope will allow for a rich exchange of information across sectors and geographic regions. All Institute sessions and materials will be available in French and English.

Registration is limited to the first 50 applicants. For details, visit the Institute Web site at <http://ccsa.ca/training>. You can also contact Gary Roberts at 613-235-4048, ext. 225, or at [groberts@ccsa.ca](mailto:groberts@ccsa.ca); or Lucy Hume, Addictions Research Centre at 902-838-5900, or at [addictions.research@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:addictions.research@csc-scc.gc.ca) □

## Rideau Hall hosts CCSA for substance abuse discussion

CCSA's Board and senior staff recently enjoyed a rare opportunity to exchange ideas on substance abuse issues with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, and His Excellency John Ralston Saul. Joining CCSA as guests in the far-reaching discussion were MP Paddy Torsney and Paul Genest, Director of Policy in the Office of Prime Minister Chrétien.

The 90-minute forum on Feb. 25 touched on topics as diverse as injection drug use in Vancouver and gasoline sniffing in Labrador. The Governor General spoke movingly about the Innu children of Davis Inlet and Sheshatshiu, and about her involvement with the Innu Healing Foundation, which is trying to raise \$10 million to build recreation centres in these remote communities. These children need healthy alternatives to boredom and the "thrill-seeking" that sniffing represents – alternatives they can say "yes" to, she said. "Life is not about saying 'no' to things."

Mr. Saul, CCSA Board chair Barry King and others shared perspectives on the horrific drug scene in Vancouver's Downtown East Side, and on the regrettable marginalization of drug users. Mr. Saul said society sometimes closes its eyes and takes an "ethical raincheck" rather than try to help such people. However, he expressed optimism about the



"important social movement" initiated by activists on Vancouver's city council who

are championing measures such as supervised injection sites. □

► CCSA Board members, senior staff and special guests exchanged ideas on substance abuse issues with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, and His Excellency John Ralston Saul (top). Following the wide-ranging discussion (middle photos, left to right), Their Excellencies chatted with CCSA Chair Barry King, and Board members Dr. Christine Loock, Bert Liston and Dr. André Aubry. Finally, the group assembled for an official photograph (bottom).

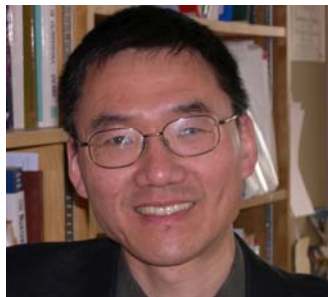
— Pictures courtesy of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

## Carleton-CCSA partnership flourishes

**D**r. Zhiqiu Lin, associate professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, is working a half-day a month as a statistical consultant to the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU) under a Memorandum of Agreement signed by Carleton and CCSA in 2001. Dr. Lin will work with **Dr. Colleen Dell**, who holds a cross-appointment with CCSA as national CCENDU coordinator and Carleton, where she is an assistant professor of Sociology and Anthropology.

"Although it isn't a lot of time, it will be great to have Zhiqiu as a resource when those difficult data set questions arise," said Dr. Dell.

In a related Carleton-CCSA initiative, two of Dr. Dell's fourth year honours students are collecting baseline data for a three-year project involving CCENDU and the Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) network, also



Dr. Zhiqiu Lin of Carleton University: Helping with data set questions.

coordinated by CCSA. The project is funded under the National Crime Prevention Strategy. Two other fourth year honours students did research last year into the feasibility of establishing an addictions journal in Canada.

CCSA staff who have addressed Dr. Dell's students include Chief Executive Officer **Michel Perron** and Information and Reference Services Director **Nina Frey**. As well, Policy and Research Director **Patricia Begin** and Communications Director **Richard Garlick** were asked to judge second-year students' year-end research projects (see below). □



Dr. Dell's second year Sociology and Anthropology students presented their final projects in a mini-conference before a panel of judges (including two from CCSA). The winning team compared student attitudes to substance use on two different campuses. **Left to right:** Jordan Fairbairn, Dr. Dell, Casey Cunningham, Mirna Absi, Jason McNulty.

## Events

► For more details on these and other events, please visit [www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca) and follow the links for Resources and Calendar of Events.

**May 21-23** – New Initiatives in the Prevention and Intervention of FAS/FAE for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, 3rd National Conference. Vancouver, BC. E-mail: [wzarchik@direct.ca](mailto:wzarchik@direct.ca). Additional Contact Info: Tel: (604) 530-3840; Toll Free: 1-888-683-7711

**May 26-29** – 17th Pacific Institute on Addiction Studies *Integrating the Four Pillars: Searching for Common Ground*, UBC. Web site: <http://www.ades.bc.ca> Contact: e-mail: [l7pias@telus.net](mailto:l7pias@telus.net); fax: (604) 874-0903

**May 26-28** – 4th International Conference on Drugs & Young People *Focusing on solutions – the way forward*. Wellington, New Zealand. Web site: <http://www.adf.org.au> Contact: e-mail: [events@adf.org.au](mailto:events@adf.org.au); tel.: +61 3 9278 8101 or +61 3 9278 8137

**July 13-16** – International Conference on Special Needs Offenders Toronto, ON. Web site: <http://www.specialneedsoffenders.org> Contact: e-mail: [info@specialneedsoffenders.org](mailto:info@specialneedsoffenders.org); Town Events Management, 209 Scarboro Crescent Toronto, ON M1M 2J6 Tel: (416) 694-9713

**Sept. 25-27** – Youth Addictions Conference Saskatoon, SK. Web site: <http://www.sdh.sk.ca/calder/ppsu/ppsu.htm> Contact: e-mail: [madillg@sdh.sk.ca](mailto:madillg@sdh.sk.ca); Provincial Program Support Unit, Calder Centre, 2003 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H6

**Sept 25-26** – Women's Substance Use Treatment: Celebrating and Moving Forth. Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1763 Comcox Street, Vancouver, BC. Contact: e-mail: [interprof@cehs.ubc.ca](mailto:interprof@cehs.ubc.ca); tel.: (604) 822-4965 Fax: (604) 822-4835

**Oct 19-24** – 46th International Conference on the Prevention and Treatment of Dependancies. Westin Prince, 900 York Mills Road, Toronto, ON. Web site: <http://www.icaa.ch> Contact: e-mail: [secretariat@icaa.ch](mailto:secretariat@icaa.ch); [reservations@torontoprince.com](mailto:reservations@torontoprince.com); tel.: +4121 320 9865

**Nov 16-18** – 15th Canadian Biennial Symposium on Employee & Family Assistance Programs In the Workplace. Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, ON. Web site: <http://www.humberc.on.ca/~input> Contact: e-mail: [teresa.sottile@humber.ca](mailto:teresa.sottile@humber.ca); Teresa Sottile Tel: (416) 675-6622 x4559

**Dec 4-6** – 5th Methadone and Other Substitutive Therapies, Pietrasanta, Italy. Web site: <http://www.europad.org/conf2003.asp> Contact: e-mail: [aucns.onlus@inwind.it](mailto:aucns.onlus@inwind.it)

**Dec 10-12** – National Conference on Tobacco or Health. *Call for Abstracts*. Boston, Massachusetts. Web site: <http://www.tobaccocontrolconference.org> Contact: e-mail: [conferen-info@northropgrumman.com](mailto:conferen-info@northropgrumman.com); tel.: (301) 294-5664



The National Database of FAS and Substance Use During Pregnancy Resources is now available.

Are you looking for a pamphlet, a poster, a research report or a curriculum resource?

To search for these and other Canadian resources, go to:

[www.ccsa.ca/fas](http://www.ccsa.ca/fas)