



## **Survey of Canadian substance abuse treatment workers lays the groundwork for a coordinated national training and professional development agenda**

OTTAWA/MARCH 22, 2005 - The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency, today released the findings of the first-ever national survey of the substance abuse and addictions workforce in Canada. The report, *Optimizing Canada's Addiction Treatment Workforce: results of a national survey of service providers*, identifies opportunities for improving treatment services for clients struggling with alcohol and other drug problems through greater education and training of treatment providers.

The 40-page report provides a detailed examination of current levels and types of education among addictions directors, supervisors and front-line workers in specialized treatment agencies and services. It also identifies gaps in training and professional development, as well as other factors that influence the ability of treatment workers to deliver services of the highest quality. Survey data will serve as an important baseline against which CCSA and its partners can measure outcomes of activities undertaken to address issues arising from the survey.

The report concludes with 10 recommended actions for supporting a national agenda aimed at optimizing Canada's addiction treatment workforce through improved leadership and supportive strategies, training and education based on best practices, and continuing research on professional development needs. The full report, including the detailed recommendations, is available at: <http://www.ccsa.ca/pdf/ccsa-004022-2005.pdf>

"CCSA is well positioned to play a central role in coordinating workforce development and we are making significant strides in acting on some of the key recommendations," said CCSA's Chief Executive Officer, Michel Perron. "We are working with our partners on a number of major initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that the treatment workforce is able to deliver services of the highest quality."

Some of these initiatives include a thematic workshop on workforce development taking place March 23-24, 2005 as part of a process leading to a "National Framework for Action on Substance Use and Abuse", the third in a series of national training institutes on addictions in July, and CCSA's national "Issues of Substance" conference in November 2005.

**About CCSA** – <http://www.ccsa.ca>

CCSA is Canada's national addictions agency. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1988 to provide a national focus for efforts to reduce the health, social and economic harm associated with substance abuse and addictions.

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