



## **Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse releases 2003-2004 Annual Report**

OTTAWA, October 6/CNW/—The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada’s national addictions agency, today released its 2003-2004 annual report, which was tabled earlier in Parliament by Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh. CCSA’s founding legislation requires the Minister to table the report and to send copies of it to the deputy premier of each province.

CCSA’s 2003-2004 annual report, *Positioned to Influence*, covers a period of change and expanded purpose at the Centre following the renewal of Canada’s Drug Strategy (CDS) in 2003. CCSA plays a pivotal role in linking federal CDS partners with other key stakeholders in the substance abuse field, including provincial, territorial and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

“CCSA has evolved into a centre of excellence with the credibility, expertise and experience to work effectively with many partners, to act as an unbiased arbiter and, as circumstances dictate, an effective prod for change,” said Chief Barry King, Chair of CCSA’s Board of Directors.

The annual report tracks developments in CCSA’s three areas of global activity—transferring knowledge, developing policy and building partnerships—and highlights initiatives that are expected to have a significant impact on progress toward reducing the harm associated with substance abuse. These include the first national survey of alcohol and drug use in Canada since 1994, scheduled for release during Drug Awareness Week (Nov. 14–20); a survey of the training needs of Canada’s addictions treatment professionals, to be released early in 2005; and the first in a series of annual reports on the state of substance abuse in Canada, to be published in November.

“Through a year of significant change, and despite the inherent challenges of an accelerated pace of work, CCSA has not lost sight of its ultimate goal, which is to reduce the health, social and economic harm associated with substance abuse,” said Michel Perron, CCSA’s Chief Executive Officer.

CCSA’s 2003-2004 annual report has been posted as a PDF to the Centre’s Web site at [www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca). Printed copies are available by contacting CCSA.

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For further information on CCSA’s 2003-2004 annual report, contact Enid Harrison, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), (613) 235-4048, ext. 237; e-mail: [eharrison@ccsa.ca](mailto:eharrison@ccsa.ca)

### **Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse**

75 Albert Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7 Tel : (613) 235-4048 Fax : (613) 235-8101 Internet : <http://www.ccsa.ca>

### **Centre canadien de lutte contre l’alcoolisme et les toxicomanies**

75, rue Albert, bureau 300, Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5E7 Tél. : (613) 235-4048 Téléc. : (613) 235-8101 Internet : <http://www.ccsa.ca>