



CCSA surveys the training needs of professionals who treat drug abuse and addictions in Canada

OTTAWA, June 1/CNW/ — The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) has launched a national survey to assess training and professional development needs within Canada's specialized addictions treatment workforce. The study will ask more than 1,500 treatment agency directors, managers and front-line staff to identify key training issues, including their education needs and the factors that influence how easily they can meet those needs.

The survey, to be completed by September, is part of a larger CCSA initiative to build support for a national agenda on addictions workforce development. Survey findings will be used as a primary resource for a national stakeholder meeting to be hosted by CCSA later this year. The results will also be used to measure future progress by CCSA and its partners on addressing training issues identified in the survey, and as a means of clarifying the need for more research.

"Addictions exact a heavy toll on Canadian society and specialized treatment professionals have a key role to play in helping to reduce that impact," said Gary Roberts, CCSA's Director of Best Practices and Training. "It's critical that we find ways to support these people in their efforts to provide treatment services of the highest possible quality."

CCSA is using its national database of treatment services (available on CCSA's Web site) to identify a random sample of up to 800 agencies legally responsible for providing specialized drug abuse and addictions treatment services in Canada. The Centre has prepared a set of two questionnaires in French and English—one questionnaire to be mailed to agency directors and another to front-line workers identified by the directors. Respondents will be asked to return the completed questionnaires to the project's principal investigator, Alan Osborne, for analysis.

The research is being led by CCSA's Best Practices and Training Division under the guidance of a national advisory committee composed of representatives from the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA), Health Canada and the Addiction Research Centre of the Correctional Service of Canada. The committee is providing advice on development and administration of the survey, contributing to the interpretation of the data, and helping to identify implications for planning and further research.

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. For more information about the Centre, visit CCSA's Web site at www.ccsa.ca.

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