

Updating Canadian estimates of the social and economic costs of substance abuse

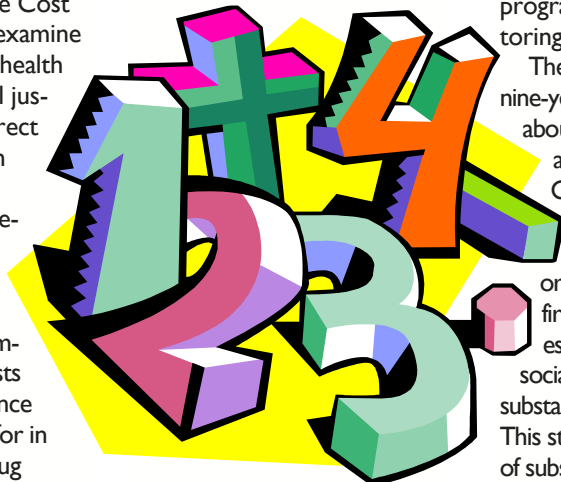
A major new study is underway to address the need for up-to-date information on the social and economic impact of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs on Canadian society. The Canadian Substance Abuse Cost Study (CSACS) will examine both direct costs to health care and the criminal justice system, and indirect costs associated with productivity losses from substance abuse-related death and ill health.

The CSACS is the start of a more systematic monitoring of costs attributable to substance use and abuse called for in Canada's renewed drug strategy, announced in May 2003. Under the strategy, CCSA's Research and Policy Division has been given lead responsibility for coordinating an updated Canadian cost study every three years.

"Substance abuse represents a significant drain on Canada's economy," said CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. "Assessing its impact is a complex task requiring a wide range of input. Since its inception, CCSA has been able to use its unique mandate to broker the kinds of partnerships that lead to a deeper understand-

ing of issues related to substance abuse."

The CSACS is being carried out over two years by a multi-disciplinary research team with funding or in-kind support from addictions organizations in Alberta, British



Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec. Partners in the study also include Health Canada, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA). A final report is expected in June 2005.

"Cost estimation studies can highlight specific problem areas where investment of public resources could be beneficial and can also help us to evaluate and compare

outcomes of various policy initiatives," said CSACS principal investigator Jürgen Rehm. "Cost studies also help us to identify information gaps, research needs and improvements to national statistical reporting, program planning and monitoring systems."

The new study addresses a nine-year gap in information about the costs of substance abuse in Canada. In 1996, CCSA, in partnership with a number of federal and provincial organizations, released the first-ever comprehensive estimate of the health,

social and economic costs of substance abuse in Canada. This study estimated the costs of substance abuse to be \$18.45 billion, representing \$649 per person in Canada or 2.7% of Gross Domestic Product. The 1996 study was based on 1992 data, which is now out of date. The CSACS will use the most recent cost data available (2001) to evaluate changes in the nature, extent and consequences of substance use and abuse in Canada since 1992.

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See page 4 for a list of organizations participating in the CSACS project ►

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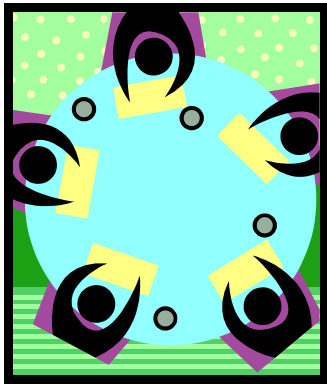
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Consultations on national framework to resume in the fall

A broad consultation process launched in May to assess support for the creation of a national framework for action on substance abuse will resume in September.

Roundtables have been co-hosted by Health Canada and CCSA in Toronto, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Many participants have welcomed

the proposed framework as a key to better coordination and targeted action on substance use and abuse. Meetings in Halifax, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Iqaluit, Montreal and Ottawa will be wrapped up by November.

The framework would, for the first time, set out priority issues and respective roles for governments, the

voluntary sector and others committed to action at the local, regional and national level. Input on the framework will feed into the first biennial forum on substance use and abuse, which has now been moved to May 2005 to allow adequate time for planning based on the consultation process and other preparatory work. □



Help us improve the FASD database

Last year CCSA and six partner organizations across Canada launched a national database of resources related to FASD and other substance use during pregnancy. If you have used the database, or think you may want to, we would like your opinion on how to make it better.

Please fill out the brief survey at www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?mode=news. We'll post a summary of the results on the CCSA Web site in September.

FASD service gets a new associate and an advisory group

CCSA has hired a new associate to help implement and evaluate its new Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Information & Consul-

tation Service. Paula Stanghetta will lead efforts to create sustainable partnerships and promote collaboration among groups and individuals working to prevent, treat and

diagnose FASD. Paula comes to CCSA after a long career in addictions health promotion, and training and facilitation. She will meet twice a year with a new Advisory Committee whose mandate is to help CCSA find ways to better serve the needs of those who use the service. □



► The Advisory Committee met for the first time in Toronto in April. *Left to right: Paula Stanghetta, Margaret Leslie (Breaking the Cycle), Susan Santiago (Motherisk), Evike Goudreault (FASD trainer), Karen Palmer (CCSA). Missing: Nancy Poole (Aurora Centre)*

CCSA personalities are among Order of Merit recipients

Barry King, Chair of the CCSA Board of Directors

and Michael Boyd, CCSA Senior Advisor, National Relations, were among 40

Canadians to receive the Order of Merit for Police Forces in an investiture ceremony presided over by the Governor General at Rideau Hall on May 10.

The Order was created in October 2000 to recognize conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members and employees of the Canadian police forces for contributions beyond protection of the community. □

► CCSA's Board Chair **Barry King** (first photo at right) and CCSA's Senior Advisor, National Relations, **Michael Boyd** (second photo) received the Order of Merit for Police Forces from Her Excellency the Right Honourable **Adrienne Clarkson**, Governor General of Canada, in a ceremony in Ottawa in May.



HEP network expands to include 11 Caribbean countries

Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) has moved beyond Canada's borders with the formation of CariHEP, a network of 11 Caribbean countries committed to multi-disciplinary collaboration on drug issues. CariHEP grew out of a two-day workshop in Martinique in March sponsored by CCSA and CICAD (the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission).

CCSA's recently named HEP "ambassador", Mike Boyd (see *Action News* Vol.

XIV No. 1), delivered a keynote address at the start of the event, which was organized by CCSA staff members Karen Cumberland and Mona Wynn. The focus on the first day was on Canadian experience with community problem-solving approaches to substance abuse, which are central to the HEP process.

On the second day, Caribbean representatives described their own collaborative approaches to regional drug problems and agreed to continue sharing experi-

ence with Canada through their membership in the HEP network.

Karen Cumberland presented a summary of the Martinique workshop to the 35th CICAD Commission in Washington, DC in April, and as a result the CICAD Secretariat has begun work on a proposal for CCSA involvement in a HEP workshop in Latin America.

HEP was established in 1994 to promote dialogue between health and enforcement. For more information: www.ccsa.ca/HEP/index.htm □



► CCSA staff members **Karen Cumberland** (left) and **Mona Wynn** (right) travelled to Martinique with CCSA's HEP "ambassador" **Mike Boyd** (centre) to deliver a two-day HEP workshop. The visit resulted in the formation of a Caribbean chapter of HEP.

CCSA explores national collaboration on drugged driving

Speculation about cannabis reform in recent years has raised the profile of drug-impaired driving in Canada and has led several organizations to intensify their involvement with the issue. In search of opportunities for collaboration on drugged driving, CCSA's Research and Policy Division recently hosted a meeting where key stakeholders working in public health, prevention, research and the law shared ideas and information.

Coincidentally, the April 26 meeting took place on the day the federal government introduced new legislation that would require drivers suspected of drug impairment to undergo a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) evaluation at a police station, and to provide a saliva, urine or blood sample if a DRE



officer suspects impairment by a specific family of drugs.

At the meeting, RCMP Constable Evan Graham described the DRE process, which is currently being used by police in Quebec, BC and Manitoba, but only when suspects agree to take part. The new legislation would make the DRE evaluation mandatory, but the future of the new law was thrown into

question with the announcement on May 23 of a general election on June 28. There are currently 73 certified DRE-trained officers in Canada, and a further 38 are becoming certified.

CCSA has prepared an FAQ on drugged driving at www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=62 and will continue to monitor national activity around the issue in months to come. □

► A dozen groups and individuals shared perspectives on the issue of drug-impaired driving at a meeting hosted by CCSA on April 26. *From left to right:* **St. Evan Graham**, RCMP; **Marie-Claude Ouimet**, M.A. doctoral candidate, McGill University; **Perpetua Quigley**, Canadian Public Health Association; **Paul Boase**, Transport Canada; **Harlie Outhwaite**, Office of Canada's Drug Strategy; **Hal Pruden**, Justice Canada; **Thomas G. Brown**, Douglas Hospital Research Centre/McGill University; **Chris George**, MADD Canada; **Nathan Lockhart**, Health Canada; **Amy Porath**, M.A. doctoral candidate, Carleton University; **Douglas J. Beirness**, Traffic Injury Research Foundation; **Michel Pelletier**, RCMP.

CCSA Research and Policy personnel missing from the photo: **Patricia Begin**, **John Weekes** and **Jacques LeCavalier**

Cont'd from page 1

Organizations participating in the CSACS project

- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission
- British Columbia Ministry of Health Services
- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA)
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Ontario)
- Health Canada
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Québec)
- New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness
- Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

CCSA updates directory of organizations

CCSA's updated **Directory of Addictions Organizations in Canada** is a one-of-a-kind resource offering you more than 2,000 listings, including:

- ▶ provincial-territorial addictions services
- ▶ provincial and federal government departments and agencies
- ▶ national non-governmental organizations involved in substance abuse and problem gambling
- ▶ Canadian addictions researchers and their affiliations



▶ **To order your copy, fill out the form below (also available in PDF at www.ccsa.ca) and mail it with a cheque or money order to CCSA Directory, Suite 300, 75 Albert St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7 For Visa orders only, you can fax the completed form to 613-235-8101.**

Please send me _____ copies of the **2004 Directory of Addictions Organizations in Canada** to the following address. I enclose \$49.95 for each copy, plus a flat-rate of \$5 for shipping, plus 7% GST on the total.

Name (please print).....
 Organization.....
 Street/Number.....
 City..... Province..... Postal Code.....
 Visa number..... Expiry date.....
 Name on card.....
 Signature.....

Events

July 12–15—National Summer Institute on Addictions. Concurrent Disorders: Best Practices and their Implementation. Montague, PEI. Web site: www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?menu=&ID=140 E-mail: groberts@ccsa.ca

July 14–15—Putting the Pieces Together: 1st National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Dependency Court. Baltimore, Maryland. Web site: http://conferences.jbs.biz/women_and_childwelfare/together/index.htm E-mail: ADixon@jbsl.com

Aug. 8–13—17th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety. Glasgow, UK. Web site: www.icadts2004.com/. E-mail: icadts2004@meetingmakers.co.uk

Aug. 25–28—International Conference on Alcohol and Harm Reduction. New Challenges in a Changing World. Warsaw, Poland. Web site: www.alcoholconference.nl

Sept. 8–10—16th International Congress on Addiction. Ethnicity and Addiction. Vienna, Austria. Web site: www.ethnicity-addiction.com/. E-mail: info@ethnicity-addiction.com

Sept. 9—International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day. Worldwide. Web site: www.fasworld.com. E-mail: fasworldcanada@rogers.com

Sept. 20–24—Gambling Awareness: Treatment & Recovery Issues. Nechi Training, Research & Health Promotions Institute. Edmonton, Alberta. Web site: www.nechi.com/images/Gamblingflyer2004.pdf. E-mail: nechi@nechi.com

Sept. 24–26—Addictions 2004. Crossing Boundaries: Implications of Advances in Basic Sciences for the Management of Addiction. Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia. Web site: www.addiction-conference.elsevier.com/. E-mail: addiction-conference@elsevier.com

Oct. 3–6—Making Gains in Mental Health and Addiction, Toronto. Web site: www.makinggains.ca E-mail: rachel@haliburtonhighlands.com

Oct. 4–6—Insight Nova Scotia problem gambling conference. Myth, Reality and Ethical Public Policy. Halifax. Web site: www.nsgamingfoundation.org/main/NSGaming.html E-mail: pdow@bristolgroup.ca

Oct. 31–Nov. 5—International Council on Alcohol and Addictions. 47th International Conference. Venice, Italy. Web site: www.icaa.de. E-mail: icaa.venice@gmx.at

New faces around the CCSA office



▶ CCSA has welcomed three new staff members in recent weeks. They are, from left to right, **Gerald Thomas**, Senior Policy Analyst; **Enid Harrison**, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; and **Greg Graves**, Coordinator of Best Practices and Training. For a complete list of CCSA staff please see the "About CCSA" menu on our homepage at <http://www.ccsa.ca>