



Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and Youth Solvent Addiction Committee Formalize Partnership

OTTAWA, Dec. 6, 2004/CNW/ - The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency, has formalized their partnership with the Youth Solvent Addiction Committee (YSAC) by signing a Memorandum of Agreement. This agreement underscores the commitment to continued collaboration to address the issue of solvent abuse among youth.

CCSA and YSAC have worked together informally since 2002, cooperating on a number of projects aimed at sharing information, networks and resources related to substance abuse, addictions and First Nations youth. The first official activity under this new agreement will be Youth Solvent Prevention Poster Contest.

In an effort to raise awareness about solvent abuse, CCSA and YSAC are co-sponsoring a poster contest directed at Canadian children or youth. Participants are invited to submit a prevention poster design focusing on key themes such as the harms of solvent use and how to say no to solvent use. For more information on the poster contest or for entry guidelines, please visit <http://www.ccsa.ca/pdf/ccsa-rp-YSACcontest-20041206-e.pdf>.

"Signing a formal agreement with YSAC highlights the value we place on our association to date and for our future initiatives," said Michel Perron, Chief Executive Officer. "CCSA is committed to strengthening this partnership to increase focus on solvent abuse issues while providing essential prevention programming material grounded in the experiences of youth."

"YSAC and CCSA have enjoyed a strong working relationship and we are very pleased to have the opportunity to continue to benefit from the knowledge, research and ideas of our partners. Together we can continue to raise public awareness, share research and implement culturally-appropriate programs to address solvent abuse issues that affect our First Nations families," said Carol Hopkins, YSAC Chairperson.

About CCSA – 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.

About YSAC – <http://www.members.shaw.ca/ysac/>

YSAC is a network of eight solvent addiction treatment centres located throughout Canada. Formed in 1996, YSAC's mission is to provide culturally appropriate, therapeutic treatment and community intervention programming for First Nations youth who abuse solvents and other drugs.

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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

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