

Canada's Drug Strategy An Update on Progress



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Purpose

- To briefly describe the renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy (CDS), as announced by the Government of Canada in May 2003; and
- To provide an update on implementation and progress.

- **Contents:**
 - History of Canada's Drug Strategy
 - Key Federal Department's in CDS
 - The Renewed CDS
 - Overview
 - New Investments
 - Implementation: Leadership; Knowledge Generation; Partnerships and Interventions; and Modernizing Legislation and Drug Policy



History of Canada's Drug Strategy

- **1987-92: Strategy Launched**
 - \$210 Million over 5 years
 - Focus on public education, treatment and rehabilitation, enforcement, actions against driving while impaired

- **1992-97: Phase II Launched**
 - \$270 Million over 5 years
 - Less than half applied due to Program Review
 - Focus on targeted populations, including driving while impaired offenders.

- **1997: End of Phase II**
 - Strategy renewed but demand reduction activities unfunded
 - Enforcement activities funded at 65% of previous amounts



History of Canada's Drug Strategy (cont'd)

- **2002: Calls for Action**

House Special Committee, Office of Auditor General, and Senate Committee called for:

- Strengthened leadership, coordination and accountability with dedicated resources
- Enhanced data collection to set measurable objectives, evaluate programs and report on progress
- Balance of supply & demand activities across government
- Increased emphasis on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

- **2003 (May 27): Renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy**

- Government of Canada announced investment of \$245 Million over 5 years

Key Federal Departments in CDS

Health Canada

- National Coordination
- Administer Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
 - Funding for treatment
 - Analysis of seized drugs
 - UN Conventions
- Promotion and Prevention
- Research and Surveillance

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Portfolio

- Portfolio Coordination and Integration (PSEP)
 - Drug enforcement (RCMP)
 - Drug Awareness Programs (RCMP)
 - Treatment of offenders (CSC)
 - Border Control (CBSA)

Foreign Affairs and Int'l Trade

- Support to international anti-drug related Organizations
 - UN Conventions
- International Relationships

Department of Justice

- Federal prosecution services
 - Drug Treatment Courts
- Legislative drafting and advice



The Renewed CDS - Overview

- Aim is to have Canadians living in a society increasingly free of the harms associated with substance abuse
 - Includes the use of narcotics and controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol and prescription drugs
 - Uses a « balanced » approach to address both the demand for and supply of drugs
 - Four Pillars: prevention, treatment, harm reduction, enforcement



The Renewed CDS - Overview (cont'd)

- Key objectives are to:
 - Increase the age of initiation / first time use
 - Decrease the prevalence of harmful drug use
 - Decrease the incidence of communicable diseases related to substance abuse
 - Increase the use of alternative criminal justice measures
 - Decrease the illicit drug supply and address new and emerging drug trends
 - Decrease avoidable health, social and economic costs

The Renewed CDS - New Investments

- **By Department over 5 years (approx.)***
 - Health Canada: \$121.5 M**
 - Department of Justice: \$47 M
 - Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness: \$62 M
 - Foreign Affairs and Int'l Trade: \$3 M

- **By Strategic Area over 5 years (approx.)**
 - Leadership: \$16.4 M
 - Knowledge Generation: \$28 M
 - Partnerships and Interventions: \$187.8 M
 - Modernizing Legislation and Drug Policy: \$1.4 M

* \$60M Permanent ongoing funding thereafter

** Includes CCSA



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Leadership

Leadership - governance, accountability and reporting

- **Establishing and Defining Governance Structures**
 - Drug Strategy Secretariat established and its roles and responsibilities being defined
 - ADM Level Steering Committee enhanced
 - DM Council to be formed
 - FPT Working Group formed (Health)
 - Interdepartmental Emerging Issues Working Group formed


- **Developing an Overarching Communications Plan to address internal, external and international communication activities.**

The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Leadership (cont'd)

- **Developing an Accountability and Evaluation Framework Focused on Results**
 - Framework development underway to be completed by March 31, 2004
 - Involves 7 federal departments and agencies
 - Emphasizes shared objectives and measures of performance, and establishes formal mechanisms for ongoing reporting on results
 - Includes evaluation plan based on high risk areas
 - First report to Parliament and Canadians next fiscal year


The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Leadership (cont'd)

- **Leading the Development of a National Framework for Action to Address Substance Use & Abuse in Canada**
 - Health Canada & CCSA leading a process to involve federal, provincial and NGO partners
 - This Framework will be a call for coordinated action and will include:
 - Agreed upon priorities and activities
 - Guiding principles
 - Roles of all partners, including the federal level
 - Agreement to report on a national picture
 - National agendas for research, prevention and policy will be generated
 - Consultation through National, Regional and Provincial Roundtables to begin this Spring
 - Proposed Framework to be discussed at Biennial Forum - November 2004



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Leadership (cont'd)

- **Increasing Participation with International Bodies**
 - Canada elected Chair of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (Nov. 2003)
 - This enables Canada to influence the work of the CICAD in a way consistent with Canadian policy.
 - Additional resources (through DFAIT) to be given to international bodies for projects.
 - Emphasis on funding projects with prevention and demand reduction focus
 - Canada's expertise, in particular around evaluation, has been sought by other countries.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Knowledge Generation and Management

Knowledge Generation and Management - research, monitoring, evidence-based decision making

■ Developing a National Research Agenda

- Forum on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Research in Canada (held in Fall 2003)
- National consultation to take place and feed into National framework

■ Collecting Data

This Year and Next...

- Canadian Addiction Survey will provide first series of prevalence data since 1994
- Survey to obtain prevalence data in the Territories
- Environmental Scanning (fed/prov/mun levels)
- Study on the number and cost of IDUs in Canada
- Survey on youth attitudes regarding marijuana use
- Survey on Street Youth



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Knowledge Generation and Management (cont'd)

■ Conducting Research

This Year and Next...

- Mainstream Smoke - Marijuana vs Tobacco
 - Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis
 - Cost of Substance Abuse
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- Future surveys and research to be conducted based on needs identified through National Framework development.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions

Partnerships and Interventions - innovative community programs, enhanced targeted enforcement

■ Prevention

This Year and Next...

- Developing a Prevention Agenda
- Launch of Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund (DSCIF) (April 2004)
 - Initial funding (\$3M) for strategic initiatives identified in collaboration with provinces/territories for 2004-05
 - Ramped up to \$9M per year as of 2005-06
 - Broad Call for Proposals to be issued by Dec /Jan for projects to be funded April 2005.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Focusing on Youth

- Development of a youth-focussed website on substance use and abuse
 - an interactive information source for youth on substance use and abuse issues
 - intent to support healthy decision-making
 - Based on research, surveys and consultation
 - initial focus will be on marihuana and will include information on the harms of marihuana, legislation/ regulations and current issues
- Forging education sector partnerships to implement school-based initiatives such as lesson plans and web quests
- Launching publication targeted at youth and parents
- Evaluating RCMP's DARE Program
- Creating a Youth Advisory Council
- Prevention messaging via mass media and bus posters



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Other

- Best Practices on Treatment and Rehabilitation for Driving While Impaired Offenders
- Enhancing coordination and uniform delivery across the country of the RCMP's Drug Awareness Activities.
- Gathering information regarding prescription drug use and establishing partnerships with provincial licensing authorities (Atlantic Canada).
- Development of a Guide for Health Professionals on the abuse and misuse and diversion of controlled substances.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Enforcement

This Year and Next...

Targeting Clandestine Laboratories (Synthetic Drug Operations)

- 3 new teams and a National Coordinator to target organized crime groups producing synthetic drugs


Targeting Marihuana Grow Operations

- 3 new teams to target organized crime groups involved in grow operations
- A national action plan developed to address Marihuana Grow Operations.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

- **Enhancing Drug Analysis Service**
 - Increased capacity for law enforcement to deal with clandestine laboratory investigations.
- **Increasing the Federal Prosecution Service (FPS)**
 - Additional resources to allow FPS to deal with increase in drug prosecution as a result of increased enforcement.
- **Drug Recognition Expertise (DRE)**
 - Additional resources to provide DRE training to RCMP members across Canada.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Harm Reduction

This Year and Next...

- Regulatory framework for the establishment of the Supervised Injection Site in Vancouver as a pilot research project and funding for evaluation.
- Regulatory support to the North American Opiate Medications Initiative (NAOMI) for the research trial.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Treatment

This Year and Next...

- **Renewing the Addiction Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program terms and conditions.**
 - A cost-shared contribution program with provinces/territories to expand alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation services, in particular for women and youth.
- **Expanding the Drug Treatment Court Funding Program.**
 - A minimum of three new courts to be established



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Partnerships and Interventions (cont'd)

■ Treatment

- Correctional Service Canada to continue its Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) Program.
- Capacity building among workers with the National Native Alcohol And Drug Abuse Program.



The Renewed CDS - Implementation: Modernizing Legislation and Drug Policy

Modernizing Legislation and Drug Policy - responding to new trends

- Cannabis reform being considered
- Amendments to the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR) in consultation, to be in force Summer 2004
- Precursor Control Regulations implemented in January 2003 - January 2004
- Policy and regulatory framework for prescribing authority to groups other than physicians, veterinarians and dentists
- Policy & regulatory framework for e-transactions between wholesalers\manufacturers and retailers\hospitals