



Canadian Executive Council on Addictions Conseil exécutif canadien sur les toxicomanies

A forum to influence national public policy
related to addictions





Effects of substance abuse in Canada

Impact on Canada's economy

- The estimated cost of substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs) in Canada in 1992 was conservatively estimated at \$18.45 billion.

Impact on domestic and international productivity

- Alcohol and illicit drugs alone accounted for \$4.9 billion in lost productivity (0.8% of GDP).

Impact on Health Care

- Substance abuse was responsible for one in five deaths and almost 10% of hospital admissions in Canada in 1995-96. 50% of new HIV cases and 80% of new Hepatitis C cases are attributable to injection drug use.
- Alcohol abuse accounted for over 1.1M hospital days annually.

Impact on crime

- A study released on May 1, 2002 by the CCSA reported that between 40% and 50% of crimes can be attributed to at least one psychoactive substance (either alcohol or drugs)





Addictions and the Federal government

- Red Book III committed to implementing a new national drug strategy
- Auditor General report on Illicit Drugs in 2001 criticized the Federal government for a lack of data, leadership and financial commitment to addictions.
- Senate Committee on Illicit Drugs – September 2002
- Speech from the Throne – November 2002
- Parliamentary Committee on the Non Medical Use of Drugs – December 2002





Why the need for a CECA?

- Addictions programs have experienced a great deal of change in the past five to ten years
- Rapid social and economic change, restructuring within government, provincial health care reform, budget reductions, have deeply affected both research and programming.
- In the fall of 2000, CECA came together as an informal gathering of addiction CEO's, and commissioned a discussion paper to reflect the current literature and thinking on the status of addictions within the Canadian context. The paper formed the basis for a meeting of invited stakeholders held in Winnipeg in December 2000.
- In February 2001, a report entitled, "*Towards a New National Focus and Drug Strategy: Synthesis of the December 5, 2000 Symposium,*" was prepared by the hosting agencies and circulated to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.





CECA Membership

CECA has been incorporated and is cooperatively financed by its members according to membership status.

A “full member” is limited to the senior executives of addiction agencies operating in Canada under a legislated federal or provincial mandate or recognized provincial authority.

[AADAC, AFM, CAMH, CCSA]

An “associate member” is appointed as the recognized provincial representative.

[Kaiser, PEI Provincial Health Services Authority]



Since that time...

- Hosted its first national reception at World Forum on Drugs
- Presented to the Standing Committee on Finance in 2002
- Presented to the Parliamentary Committee on the Non Medical Use of Drugs
- Developed a strategic workplan and government relations strategy
- Identified specific deliverables and activities to pursue





Projects underway

- Developed and currently implementing a national prevalence drug and alcohol survey in partnership with most provincial governments and Health Canada (completion Spring 2004)
- Development of strategy to address comparability of provincial student use surveys (due Fall 2003)
- Co-hosted national conference with CCSA and CIHR (INMHA) in Fall 2003.
- Developing Communications Strategy (2003/04)





Projects underway

- Developing Federal/Provincial/Territorial discussion paper on the Horizontal Management of Addictions (2003/04)
- On going discussions and sharing information specific to the integration of clients exhibiting addictions and substance use issues
- Introduction of CECA website: www.ccsa.ca/ceca [Nov. 2003]
- Identified slate of other national activities for CECA consideration:
 - Canadian Problem Gambling Index
 - Adolescent Problem Gambling Index
 - Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP)
 - Training





Federal Provincial Opportunities

CECA:

- Represents a dynamic, efficient and cost effective partnership
- Recommended the development and implementation of a new coordinated and integrated national (not solely federal) drug strategy.
- Recognizes the need for strong, proactive engagement at all orders of government including federal, provincial, regional and municipal.
- Supports a more substantive Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) management of the addictions issue at all levels including by Ministers of Health and Justice.

