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Issues of Substance makes successful debut Second CCSA national conference planned for Edmonton in 2007

By all accounts, *Issues of Substance 2005*, CCSA's first national conference, has firmly set the standard for what organizers believe will become Canada's premier educational and networking forum in the substance abuse and addictions field for years to come. Plans are already underway for *Issues of Substance 2007*, set to take place in Edmonton in

November, 2007.

CCSA staff are still sifting through evaluation forms submitted by delegates and presenters at the IOS conference that took place in Markham, Ontario, from Nov. 13 to 16. However, anecdotal comments received so far have largely focused on the high calibre of presentations, the opportunities for dialogue, and speakers' attention to cultural diversity.

Summaries online

Brief summaries of most IOS presentations are now available at the IOS conference link at www.ccsa.ca. You will also find a copy of closing plenary remarks by CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. Check this site as well for details of IOS 2007 as they become available. Results of IOS evaluations will also be posted.

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► IOS from start to finish (top left to right): Federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh welcomes delegates. Dr. Richard Heinzl of Doctors Without Borders Canada delivers the keynote address. CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron addresses closing plenary (bottom).



► Carolyn Franklin will act as CCSA's representative at a secretariat established with Health Canada to manage implementation of the National Framework.

CCSA names advisor to National Framework secretariat

Carolyn Franklin has joined CCSA as Senior Advisor on the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada. She will represent CCSA at a National Framework secretariat that has been established with Health Canada to jointly manage implementation of the Framework.

The secretariat will promote endorsement of the

Framework by more than 100 organizations that have participated in the Framework process since May 2004. The group will also support ongoing thematic workshops on specific priority issues identified in the Framework. A thematic workshop on alcohol in 2004 led to the first-ever National Alcohol Strategy Working Group, which will deliver a national alcohol strategy by next summer.

Another thematic workshop to be hosted by the

Centre for Addictions Research of BC in January will examine how language is used in the substance abuse and addictions field.

Carolyn has significant experience in business planning, marketing and communications and has successfully developed many government/private sector partnerships.

The National Framework will soon have its own website, but information is currently available under CCSA Partnerships at www.ccsa.ca. □



► Lorraine Greaves, Executive Director, BCCCEWH, and CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron with new MOA.

Productive BCCCEWH agreement renewed for three years

A Memorandum of Agreement committing CCSA and the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (BCCCEWH) to work together on women's substance use issues has been renewed and expanded. Originally a two-year pact signed in 2003, the MOA was renewed for three years in a signing ceremony at CCSA's *Issues of Substance* conference

in Markham in November. New joint projects include:

- Working with Health Canada on a gender-specific analysis of the 2004 Canadian Addictions Survey. A report will be published in 2006.
- Developing a series of unique information resources on women's issues. The first one, *Girls, Women and Substance Use*, appeared in September and is available online.
- Collaboration with the Ca-

nadian Women's Health Network on a three-year project funded by Health Canada's Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund entitled "Coalescing on Women's Substance Use Issues: Linking Research, Practice and Policy". The project aims to build consensus on "better practice and policy".

For more information and links, see CCSA Partnerships at www.ccsa.ca. □



► Doug Beirness will join CCSA's Research and Policy Division as an Associate.

Doug Beirness brings impaired driving expertise to CCSA

Doug Beirness, former vice-president of research with the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), and an internationally recognized authority on alcohol- and drug-impaired driving, will join CCSA's Research and Policy Division as an Associate in January.

Among other duties, Dr. Beirness will provide leadership and guidance on CCSA

policy and research activities in the area of substance use, misuse and abuse, and driving.

Dr. Beirness presented a paper at CCSA's *Issues of Substance* conference in November on proposed federal legislation (Bill C-16) that would require drivers 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 im-

pairment. The bill died on the order paper when the Jan. 23 federal election was called, but may be re-introduced when Parliament resumes.

Dr. Beirness first joined TIRF in 1983 after receiving a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Waterloo. He spent 18 months as a Research Scientist with the Vermont Alcohol Research Centre in 1989 before returning to the Foundation in 1990. □

HEP loses its national “ambassador”, but gains new allies

Michael Boyd, who took on the newly created role of national “ambassador” for CCSA’s Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) project shortly after retiring as Toronto’s deputy police chief early in 2004, has left the Centre to become chief of Edmonton’s police service.

“We will miss Mike and we wish him well in his new job,” said CCSA’s Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. “However, I look forward to seeing the kind of influence his HEP perspective will no doubt bring to his new responsibilities.”

Meanwhile, HEP continues to reach out to new partners who share its vision of multi-sectoral collaboration. In November, HEP co-hosted a national school health forum in Toronto with the Joint Consortium on School Health and its new network of national school health coordina-

tors. For the first time, coordinators from several groups with an interest in school-based substance abuse prevention, including the RCMP Drug Awareness Program and Health Canada, met to discuss ways of advancing national activity in this area.

Using the National Framework (see page 2) as a reference and new school policy guidelines from the Organization of American States as a stimulus, participants arrived at a joint action plan. The plan is built around the preparation of a detailed knowledge summary of the issues and a strategy for engaging practitioners across the country on evidence-based approaches.

HEP coordinators at IOS

Five members of HEP’s national implementation team reported on activity in their respective province at CCSA’s *Issues of Substance* conference.

HEP Manitoba’s Joel Ger-

vais described his involvement with Manitoba Health in developing a provincial drug strategy by December 2006.

British Columbia’s Jannit Rabinovitch reviewed BC’s new planning framework for problematic substance use and addiction (*Every Door is the Right Door*).

Alberta’s Jill Mitchell spoke about the role of community drug coalitions in developing the province’s new drug strategy (*Stronger Together*).

Ontario’s Reggie Caverson called for greater leadership from her provincial government in developing a comprehensive drug strategy.

Finally, New Brunswick’s Annette Bourque talked about the use of developmental assets research as an underpinning for youth intervention in her province.

For more HEP news and links to provincial drug strategies, click on CCSA Partnerships at www.ccsa.ca. □



► **Mike Boyd** joined CCSA in February 2004 as Senior Advisor on National Relations with a special focus on HEP activities. He starts his new job as chief of the Edmonton police service on Jan. 1.

Assessing the need for prison-based needle exchange

A new CCSA background paper presents a situational analysis of current trends in prison drug use, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C in prisoner populations, and other information relevant to assessing the need for prison-based needle exchange programs in Canada.

The paper examines levels and patterns of injection drug use and needle sharing in Canadian prisons, evidence of disease transfer from sharing

needles in prisons, and existing harm reduction policies and programs in provincial and federal prisons.

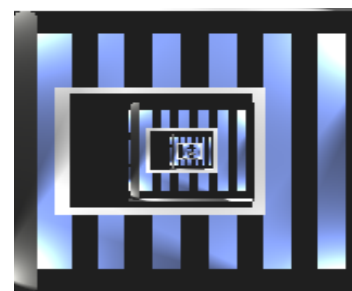
One section reviews international experience with prison-based needle exchange programs, emphasizing evaluations of their effects on behaviour and their effectiveness in reducing harms linked to IDU.

Another section examines the legal/constitutional and moral/ethical rationales for providing sterile needles to prisoners. It also briefly sum-

marizes previous calls for piloting prison-based needle exchange programs in Canada.

Finally, the paper discusses several possible courses of action open to the Canadian government as it considers prison-based needle exchange programs.

Assessing the Need for Prison-based Needle Exchange Programs in Canada: A Situational Analysis by Gerald Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst with CCSA’s Research and Policy Division, is available at www.ccsa.ca. □



► A new CCSA paper includes several possible courses of action open to the Canadian government as it considers prison-based needle exchange programs.

(Continued from page 1)

IOS by the numbers

- ▶ 435 delegates attended IOS, coming from every province and territory in Canada, and from the U.S., Scotland, Ireland and China.
- ▶ 118 speakers made a total of 125 presentations in four plenaries and 36 concurrent sessions.
- ▶ The five best-attended concurrent sessions were
 1. Media and Substance Abuse (110);
 2. Youth and Young Adults: Understanding and Influencing Their Choices in Sub-

- stance Use and Risk Behaviours (93);
- 3. Drugs and Crime: Prevention to Legalization (86);
- 4. Best Practices and Improving Client Outcomes (74);
- 5. Housing, Shelter and Women's Substance Use and Recovery (65).
- ▶ The greatest number of laughs in a 60-minute period were provided by moderator Ralph Benmergui and stand-up comics John Wing, Glen Foster and Mike MacDonald who entertained delegates with their highly personal and "seriously funny" look at addictions. □



Events

For details of these and other events or to submit an event, go to Calendar of Events at www.ccsa.ca

- Jan. 18-20—2006 National Summit on the Methamphetamine Epidemic. Las Vegas. www.performanceWeb.org/methabuse (Bentson@performanceweb.org). Tel.: 703-894-0481; fax: 703-894-0482
- Feb. 14-15—Creating a Place of Belonging: 7th Annual Alberta Harm Reduction Conference. Lethbridge. www.albertaharmreduction.ca/ (info@albertaharmreduction.ca). Tel.: 403-327-8900; fax: 403-398-1438
- Feb. 16-17—Prisons and Beyond...2006 (formerly Prison Drug Workers Conference). Leicester, UK. www.fdap.org.uk/ (office@fdap.org.uk). Tel.: 0870 763 6139; fax: 0870 763 6139
- Feb. 21-22—Moving Upstream Together: Partnering for Ontario's future health and well-being (Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse conference and 20th anniversary celebration). Toronto. www.opc.on.ca/english/about_us/upstream/index.htm (movingupstream@opc.on.ca)
- March 9-10—Alcohol, Addiction and Pregnancy Forum. Toronto. www.motherisk.org/JFAS/events.php
- March 16-17—FASD: Promising Practices, Promising Futures. Calgary. www.child.gov.ab.ca/whatwedo/fas/page.cfm?pg=2006%20Alberta%20FASD%20Conference (charmion.rebus@gov.ab.ca). Tel.: 780-422-6494; fax: 780-427-1258
- March 19-23—Population Level Studies on Alcohol Consumption and Harm: Implications of Recent & Emerging Research for Alcohol Policy (a Kettil Bruun Society Thematic Symposium). Toronto. <http://arg.org/kbs/harm-policy.html>
- April 30-May 4—17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm. Vancouver. www.harmreduction2006.ca/ (info@harmreduction2006.ca). Tel.: 1-604-688-9655, ext. 2; fax: 1-604-685-3521
- May 17-19—2006 Canada Northwest FASD Partnership Conference. Regina. www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca and www.cnfasdpartnership.ca (tcm.lcoben@sasktel.net). Tel.: 306-683-3663; fax: (306) 683-3665

Annual report focuses on knowledge

CCSA's 2004-2005 annual report was tabled in Parliament in October by federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh. The 18-page report, *Knowledge Shaping Action*, focuses on CCSA's achievements in gathering and sharing new knowledge and on the Centre's pivotal role in enhancing networks and partnerships. These activities enabled CCSA to reach important goals and milestones that contributed to the development of a National Framework for Action on Substance Use and Abuse. The

report is available at www.ccsa.ca. Printed copies are available by contacting CCSA at info@ccsa.ca. □

