



CCSA'S BOARD BRIEFS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTTAWA, Feb. 7, 2005 – A number of Members of Parliament and senior federal government officials today will hear about a range of alcohol and drug issues in Canada, including information from the recent Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS), when they meet with members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency.

Representatives of the 15-member volunteer board will share with government officials some of the results of the CAS—the first major study of alcohol and drug use in Canada in 10 years—as part of CCSA's annual government relations day. The purpose of the meetings is to update federal officials on a range of emerging issues in the addictions field, to highlight significant CCSA accomplishments, and to determine ways in which the Centre can best support the government's objectives in this area.

“With the renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy in May, 2003, and the commitment of new funds to this issue, the scope of CCSA's work has been reinvigorated and expanded,” said CCSA acting Board Chair David Nicholson. “We would like to demonstrate to the government that its commitment to CCSA is a valuable investment—one that has paved the way for several successful key projects, undertaken with a number of partners across Canada, that reinforce important national priorities.”

Key among CCSA activities to be discussed today is the Centre's work on the CAS, which will be published in full later this month (highlights were released in November). Other activities that federal officials will hear about include CCSA's co-hosting with Health Canada of a series of regional consultations designed to build consensus for a National Framework for Action on Substance Use and Abuse. As well, CCSA board representatives will provide officials with a heads-up on *Substance Abuse in Canada: Current Challenges and Choices*, a policy-oriented report to be published by the Centre in March.

“The Board's government relations day provides us with an important opportunity to inform our stakeholders about what we've been able to accomplish and to discuss emerging issues,” said CCSA's CEO Michel Perron. “As Canada's national addictions agency, it is part of our legislated mandate to ensure that senior officials are well informed about our progress and that we use this regular dialogue to refine and agree on priorities for future activities.”

Later today, prior to an all-day board meeting tomorrow, a number of guests from government and the local community will join CCSA Board members at a dinner where the guest speaker will be federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh. ([Minister's speech](#))

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

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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.

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