



Commitment to address substance abuse issues in First Nations communities unites Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation

OTTAWA, March 10, 2005 – The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada’s national addictions agency, will today sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF), committing both organizations to work together to address the challenges of addiction and substance abuse in First Nations communities.

The MOA formalizes a working partnership between CCSA and NNAPF and paves the way for further sharing of information and research on substance abuse through workshops, training sessions and conferences. The goal of the agreement is to provide a foundation for effective and culturally-sensitive prevention and intervention programs in First Nations communities. The MOA will be signed this evening during NNAPF’s third annual training gathering in Ottawa.

“CCSA is very pleased to be working with NNAPF and to have the opportunity to collaborate on training and research initiatives,” said CCSA’s Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. “Our partnership with NNAPF will extend our reach within First Nations communities in Canada and deepen our understanding of their complex and unique substance abuse and addiction challenges.”

“By affirming our common goals and interests with respect to addiction and substance abuse, CCSA and NNAPF have a valuable opportunity to positively effect change in the First Nations communities in which we serve,” said Sharon Clarke, NNAPF’s Executive Director. “We look forward to working together and leveraging CCSA’s expertise as part of an integrated national, provincial, and local network.”

About CCSA – <http://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 NNAPF - <http://www.nnapf.org/>

NNAPF is a non-governmental organization funded by Health Canada with a mandate to renew the quality, effectiveness and efficiencies of substance abuse and addictions programming in First Nations and Inuit communities.

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