



Canadian Centre
on Substance Abuse

Centre canadien de lutte contre
l'alcoolisme et les toxicomanies

CCSA's Board of Directors meets with MPs and senior government officials to discuss substance abuse trends in Canada and potential solutions to growing problems

OTTAWA, Oct. 17, 2006— Members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency, will meet today with a group of MPs, Senators and senior federal government officials to discuss new trends in substance abuse in Canada, and to look at opportunities for refocusing efforts to treat and prevent problematic alcohol and other drug use.

CCSA's Board will present recent substance abuse data at an all-party breakfast briefing hosted by CCSA and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health. This event coincides with a regular meeting of the Board and is part of its continuing effort to engage with parliamentarians on alcohol and other drug issues. The presentation, entitled *Alcohol and Drugs in Canada: Current knowledge – Future Implications* can be downloaded from CCSA's [website](#).

“As the stewards of Canada's national addictions agency, the Board takes seriously our responsibility to bring all key stakeholders to the table,” said Board Chair Chief Barry V. King O.O.M. “One of our ongoing priorities is to maintain a dialogue and foster strong partnerships among senior government officials and elected representatives of all political parties, industry, NGOs and not-for-profit organizations. The federal government has outlined some clear priorities with respect to addressing substance abuse issues and this kind of open dialogue enables us to marshal resources and expose unique perspectives from across the substance abuse field.”

Canada has successfully reduced substance-related problems in the past—falling rates of tobacco use and impaired driving are two examples—by implementing a range of responses and involving a wide spectrum of interveners. CCSA, in partnership with Health Canada, is working with all orders of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, HEP (Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership) and others to apply a similar approach—the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada—to a broader list of alcohol and other drug concerns. A key outcome of the National Framework, which has now been endorsed by 34 organizations across Canada, will be a national alcohol strategy, to be unveiled later this fall.

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About CCSA

CCSA is Canada's national addictions agency and is supported by Health Canada through Canada's Drug Strategy. Established by an Act of Parliament in 1988, CCSA provides objective, evidence-based information and advice aimed at reducing the health, social and economic harm associated with substance abuse and addictions.

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