



CCSA welcomes federal budget provisions aimed at addressing substance abuse issues

OTTAWA, March 20, 2007—The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), a national organization working to reduce alcohol- and drug-related harm, welcomes provisions in the new federal budget that will contribute to Canada's overall efforts to address the problems associated with substance abuse. CCSA is particularly pleased with the government's focus on prevention, treatment and awareness, and with the identification of youth as the prime focus of new measures.

"We see this as a signal that the government understands the complexity of substance abuse problems and that these problems must be addressed through a sustained commitment across a range of areas," said CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. "In terms of investing in solutions, we are encouraged to see that fully two-thirds of new spending will be devoted to mounting a national prevention strategy and to filling treatment gaps."

Mr. Perron said this new federal investment will complement the work already underway by other orders of government and the not-for-profit and private sectors to develop recommendations for action in the areas of treatment, alcohol, prevention and youth. For the last three years, CCSA and Health Canada have worked together in a strategic and systematic way to build bridges between the many groups working in the substance abuse field, including health specialists, educators and law enforcement professionals.

"CCSA is committed to working with all partners to maximize the impact of these new measures," said Mr. Perron. "We have made excellent progress so far and the federal government's announcement of further action will be a strong stimulus for ongoing collaboration on this challenging file."

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About CCSA

CCSA is Canada's national addictions organization and is supported by Health Canada through Canada's Drug Strategy. CCSA has a legislated mandate to provide national leadership and evidence-informed analysis and advice to mobilize collaborative efforts to reduce alcohol- and drug-related harms.

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