



CCSA Board meeting in Iqaluit is a first for Canada's national addictions agency

OTTAWA, JUNE 10, 2005 —The Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency, will hold its first-ever meeting in the North during a four-day visit to Iqaluit starting today. Board members will meet with Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik and other key government and community representatives—as well as with a group of local high school students—to talk about the unique challenges posed by substance abuse in the North.

Travelling to the North for the first time in CCSA's 17-year history will give the Board and staff of the Centre an opportunity to explore areas of potential collaboration with local government officials, health authorities and substance abuse workers. CCSA will also update local stakeholders on a year-long consultation, which was co-hosted by Health Canada, leading to a proposed National Framework for Action on Substance Use and Abuse—which included a roundtable in Iqaluit in 2004. CCSA will also seek feedback on its new [Northern website](#), which it created in response to a demand from the North.

While in Iqaluit, CCSA Board members will visit the offices of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., where they will view a presentation delivered by Glenn Williams, Deputy Minister of the Environment. Board members will also visit an Elder Centre, the Nunavut legislative buildings and will hold a dinner reception with Premier Okalik as keynote speaker. The Board will also host a pizza lunch with local high school students, giving Board members an opportunity to hear first-hand about the substance abuse issues faced by youth in the North.

“This visit to Iqaluit is a very important first for CCSA and for the Board of Directors, providing us with an opportunity to connect with our stakeholders in the North and to discuss emerging issues and trends with respect to substance abuse,” said CCSA's Board Chair, Chief Barry King. “Our commitment to fostering new partnerships and facilitating knowledge transfer is especially important in view of the unique and complex cultural and geographic issues in the North.”

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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.

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