



## **CCSA acknowledges Manitoba's long history of national cooperation on issues of substance abuse and addictions**

WINNIPEG, Feb. 26, 2007—As the geographic centre of Canada, this city is a convenient place to hold a national meeting, but for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), whose Board of Directors meets here today and tomorrow, it means a lot more. Some of CCSA's first and most successful collaborations involved organizations working here and around the province to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drug abuse.

"Manitoba sets a high standard of accomplishment in our field," said CCSA Board Chair Chief Barry King. "I believe this is reflected in their willingness to collaborate on projects designed to teach all of us important lessons about substance abuse and addictions. With the lowest per-capita cost of substance abuse in western Canada, they are clearly doing something right."

The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM), whose Chief Executive Officer John Borody will deliver a keynote address at the CCSA board meeting, has been collaborating with CCSA on national-level information sharing since the early 1990s.

In 1994, Manitoba became one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to join the Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) network, established that year by CCSA to provide a forum for national, provincial/territorial and municipal information exchange. This effort was further strengthened in 2004 with the appointment of a Manitoba HEP coordinator, jointly funded by AFM and CCSA.

In 2002, AFM joined CCSA and several other organizations to establish the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA), a forum for developing common positions on substance use issues in Canada. Through CECA, Manitoba has contributed to a number of key Canadian initiatives, including the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS) and the 2006 Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada report. HEP Manitoba has also played an important role in the development and implementation of the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada.

Currently HEP Manitoba is involved in developing and supporting the new Manitoba Drug Framework, which is expected to be launched in 2007. The HEP committee also continues to promote and support multi-sectoral projects such as Manitoba's Crystal meth Strategy and the Winnipeg Drug Court.

CCSA's Board of Directors will take some of the lessons learned during their stay in Winnipeg—especially relating to addictions issues in remote areas of Canada—to their next meeting in Yellowknife, NWT, in June.

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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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