



**Attention: News and Assignment Editors**

**CCSA and the Department of Health and Social Services formalize partnership in the Northwest Territories**

**YELLOWKNIFE, NWT, JUNE 22, 2007** – The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), an organization working to reduce alcohol- and drug-related harm, will today sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services (GNWT DHSS), committing both organizations to sharing information, creating opportunities for ongoing partnerships and implementing practical means to enhance the development of priorities relating to substance abuse in the Northwest Territories.

"Addictions and substance abuse is a critical issue in the Northwest Territories. Any opportunities to leverage GNWT efforts to prevent or reduce the effects of addictions on our residents are welcome. We look forward to partnering with CCSA in these efforts," said Honourable Floyd K. Roland, Minister of Health and Social Services.

CCSA's Chief Executive Officer, Michel Perron said: "CCSA is dedicated to working with GNWT to reduce the harms related to substance abuse in the NWT. CCSA acknowledges the commitment already demonstrated by the Department of Health and Social Services and applauds the efforts of the Department in making addiction services a priority as identified through the *Integrated Service Delivery Model*. This partnership agreement will support both organizations in their efforts to address the complex issues of substance abuse in the Territory and will lead to greater consensus-building and community investment opportunities across the region."

The three-year MOA formalizes a working partnership between CCSA and DHSS and addresses three specific activities that will flow from the agreement:

- CCSA's Senior Advisor on Northern Canada, with the support of DHSS, will collaborate with key stakeholders on a pan-territorial strategy to address substance abuse issues in Canada's Territories, as part of "Reaching out to Canada's North", which was one of 13 priorities identified in the [National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada](#) (endorsed by DHSS in February 2007).
- CCSA and DHSS will work together to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with local industry, toward a goal of enhancing community wellness in NWT.
- CCSA and DHSS will work together to establish and support a [HEP \(Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership\)](#) initiative to facilitate community capacity-building and collaborative action on issues related to substance abuse.

The MOA will be signed on June 22 at 4:30 pm following the [NWT Addictions Community World Café](#), which is being hosted by the NGO community of Yellowknife and representatives of key GNWT Departments at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre (Boardroom), 5011 51st Street, Yellowknife. Media are invited to attend this event as observers and to speak with CCSA and DHSS representatives.

**About CCSA ([www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca)):**

With a legislated mandate to reduce alcohol- and other drug-related harms, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse provides leadership on national priorities, fosters knowledge-translation within the field, and creates sustainable partnerships that maximize collective efforts. CCSA is supported by Health Canada through Canada's Drug Strategy. For more information, contact Enid Harrison, CCSA at 867-445-7313