

# ACTION

NEWS • NOUVELLES



Canadian Centre  
on Substance Abuse

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## World Forum recommendations call for “depolarization” of the addictions field

Recommendations flowing from the World Forum on Drugs and Dependencies, which took place in Montreal in late September, call for an end to polarization in the field of substance abuse and addictions, and for a renewed commitment to “balanced and integrated approaches”. The recommendations were drafted by Louise Nadeau of the University of Montreal and Sandeep Chawla of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. They are based on 107 of the 208 presentations and workshops staged during the five-day event (only half the sessions produced a formal report or summary).

The recommendations urge addictions professionals to “take responsibility” for addressing the polarization between licit and illicit drugs, prohibition and legalization, producer and consumer countries, supply and demand, and conflicting approaches to addiction. These differences must be resolved to make a balanced and integrated approach possible.

As if to underline this theme, a group of prominent addictions professionals, led by Quebec criminologist

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**Clockwise from top:** CCSA Board members visit the Centre's booth display at the World Forum on Drugs and Dependencies in Montreal. Queen Noor of Jordan, a Trustee of the Mentor Foundation, was a keynote speaker at the five-day event, which attracted about 700 delegates. CCSA's Karen Garabedian presents a paper on Canadian women and alcohol. CCSA's new Director of Policy and Research Patricia Begin and Board member Dr. André Aubry visit the Canadian Health Network (CHN) booth.



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Partner in



## CCSA co-hosts Al-Anon's 50th anniversary celebration

About 100 guests, including MPs, Senators, embassy officials, and national

association representatives, gathered for a special luncheon during National Addictions Awareness Week

(Nov. 17-23) to mark Al-Anon's 50th anniversary in Canada. Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen, is a charitable organization providing support to those affected by someone else's drinking. There are 1,400 Al-Anon and 144 Alateen groups active in Canada and Al-Anon's current chairperson, Catherine J., is from Newfoundland.

Keynote speaker Dr. Claudia Black, a noted US therapist, lecturer, author and trainer, presented some compelling insights into her work with alcohol-affected families and individuals. □



► MP Elsie Wayne is greeted by CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron and CCSA Program Coordinator Kendra Smith at a luncheon marking Al-Anon's 50th anniversary in Canada. The event was modelled on a Congressional luncheon honouring Al-Anon in Washington, DC last year. Guests in Ottawa listened to opening remarks from CCSA's Board chair Barry King and former Solicitor-General Lawrence MacAulay, honorary luncheon host, before a keynote address by therapist and author Dr. Claudia Black.

## Staff changes at CCSA reflect increased activity level

With a new Canadian drug strategy on the horizon, two recent Parliamentary drug use studies in circulation, and a public debate in progress around various drug issues, activity in the field is intensifying. Sharing an increased workload at CCSA are six eager new employees.

**Tom Axtell**, Project Manager for the substance use and addictions affiliate of

the Canadian Health Network (CHN), spent 20 years working in First Nations and Inuit communities as a broadcast trainer, consultant and high school teacher.

Tom replaces **Kendra Smith** who is now coordinator of the Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) network.

**Debbie Ayotte**, Information Specialist, is a recent graduate of the Master of

Library and Information Studies Program at Dalhousie University.

**Patricia Begin**, Director of Policy and Research, was Director of Research and Evaluation with the National Crime Prevention Centre. She will work under the guidance of **Eric Single** who becomes Scientific Advisor.

**Linda Bordeleau** assumes the newly created post of Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer after a career at Nortel.

**Anne Godbout**, Administrative Assistant, was account coordinator for a communications firm in Ottawa.

**David O'Grady**, who fills the newly created post of Information Technology Manager, has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and is a Certified Management Accountant. □



► New CCSA staff (seated, left to right): Tom Axtell, Debbie Ayotte, Patricia Begin; (standing, left to right): Linda Bordeleau, Anne Godbout, David O'Grady.



## CCSA Board welcomes new member from Saskatchewan

**A**nne Lavack, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Administration at the University of Regina, has joined CCSA's Board of Directors.

Dr. Lavack teaches courses in advertising management, marketing for non-profit organizations, and consumer behaviour. She has also taught at the Uni-

versity of Winnipeg, Concordia University in Montreal, and Bond University in Australia. She has a B.Sc. in Psychology (University of Toronto, 1984), an MBA (University of Manitoba, 1988), and a Ph.D in Marketing (University of British Columbia, 1997). Her Ph.D. thesis examined the use of fear appeals in social market-

ing campaigns directed at tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse.

She is currently researching the "denormalization" of tobacco use.

Dr. Lavack worked in advertising for more than 10 years and was involved in coordinating tobacco, alcohol, and drug campaigns for Health Canada. □



► Anne Lavack has an extensive background in marketing and advertising.

## Strengthening community responses to substance abuse

**A** grant from the National Crime Prevention Strategy, amounting to \$200,000 a year over the next three years, will be used to fund the work of the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU), and the Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) network. The grant will be used to create new CCENDU monitoring sites, assist established sites, develop Web capability, hire a full-time CCENDU coordi-

nator, and promote closer links between CCENDU and HEP. CCENDU will collect project data and HEP will turn the data into action through community response initiatives.

The three-year project, entitled *Establishing a Proactive Model for Identifying and Developing Community-Specific Responses to Substance Abuse*, falls under the Crime Prevention Partnership Program of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. The project recog-

nizes substance abuse as a root cause of crime and will establish a model for identifying, developing and implementing community-specific responses. It will build on existing community partnerships, and will document and evaluate the model so that it can be applied to other community issues.

CCENDU is currently coordinated by Dr. Colleen Dell as part of her duties as CCSA's National Research Advisor. Kendra Smith recently became Program Coordinator for HEP. □



► Dr. Colleen Dell (left) coordinates CCENDU as part of her duties as CCSA's National Research Advisor. Kendra Smith recently became HEP Program Coordinator.

## Partnerships play critical role in two new FAS projects

**C**CSA is partnering with several organizations across Canada to create and maintain a national database of resources pertaining to fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and other substance use during pregnancy. To be launched on CCSA's Web site in 2003, the database will provide a gateway to many resources available in Canada for work in FAS prevention,

education, identification and intervention. CCSA would like to hear from any organization wishing to promote and distribute its existing, upcoming or newly released FAS materials through this online service. The three-year project is one of eight funded by Health Canada's FAS Strategic Project Fund.

Health Canada is also funding Toronto's Breaking the Cycle program to work

with CCSA to conduct and evaluate live and Internet-based training on substance use and pregnancy with front-line staff in Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program for Children (CPNP) projects, and similar Canadian projects.

For details on training: Gary Roberts at [groberts@ccsa.ca](mailto:groberts@ccsa.ca) or Margaret Leslie at [mleslie@mothercraft.org](mailto:mleslie@mothercraft.org) □



### You can help build the FAS Database

If you have upcoming or newly released resources related to FAS and/or substance use during pregnancy, let us know by e-mail at [fas@ccsa.ca](mailto:fas@ccsa.ca) (please put "FAS Resource Database" in the subject field), by fax at (613) 235-8101, or by phone at 1-800-559-4514.

## House committee issues drug report

The long-awaited report of the Special House Committee on the Non-medical Use of Drugs is now available through CCSA's Web site ([www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca)) under What's New? The report, (A Policy for the New Millennium: Working Together to Redefine Canada's Drug Strategy) calls for the establishment of a national drug commissioner (reporting to Parliament), and envisions a greater role

and increased resources for CCSA. It also recommends decriminalizing possession of cannabis for personal use (30 grams or less).

At the What's New? site, you will also find a link to the report of the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs (Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy), released in September. The Senate Committee called for the outright legalization of cannabis possession. □

## Montréal2002



(Continued from page 1)

Marie-Andrée Bertrand, criticized Forum organizers in an open letter to the media for allegedly allowing advocates of abstinence and prohibition to take over the Forum agenda. Dr. Bertrand and her colleagues said that not enough room was made for discussions of harm reduction and empowerment of drug users. A top Forum official denied the charge and said no one was prevented from speaking out at the event.

According to the Forum recommendations, a balanced and integrated approach means putting supply and demand reduction strategies on an equal footing (or "continuum"), placing equal emphasis on licit and illicit drugs, and securing political commitment. These efforts require "multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research and responses, which cut across legal, social, cultural, political and economic lines".

Other recommendations:

- A "stepped-care" approach to intervention based on a continuum of services, and a role for families and support networks in the treatment process.
- Early and continuous intervention with children, and the identification of common risk factors for addiction.
- Global drug policies that take into account the social, economic and cultural contexts of all countries.
- International exchanges to promote greater sharing of clinical experience.
- Addressing addictions in the workplace through prevention, employee assistance and return-to-work protocols.
- Providing accurate drug information to the public with an equal emphasis on problem gambling.

For more information, visit the World Forum site at [www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com/startup.asp](http://www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com/startup.asp) □

## Events



**Jan. 28 - Feb. 1** – 29th Annual Winter Symposium: Addictive Disorders and Behavioral Health, Sheraton Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Sandra Della-Giustina, E-mail: [adddeduc@aol.com](mailto:adddeduc@aol.com) Additional Contact Information: 3208 N. Academy Blvd., Ste. 160, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. Tel: (719) 594-9304. Fax: (719) 597-0166.

**Feb. 20-22** – FAS and Other Drug Related Effects, *Doing What Works!* Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1763 Comox Street, Vancouver, BC. Contact: Interprofessional Continuing Education, Web site: <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Notices/AN-HTML.htm> E-mail: [interprof@cehs.ubc.ca](mailto:interprof@cehs.ubc.ca) Additional Contact Information: Tel: (604) 822-4965. Fax: (604) 822-4835.

**March 13-16** – 13th Alcohol Policy Conference – Preventing Alcohol Problems Among Youth: Policy Approaches, *Environment and Accountability: Who Is Responsible?* Boston. Contact: Tom Colthurst, Web site: <http://www2.edc.org/alcoholpolicy13/> E-mail: [tcalthurst@ucsd.edu](mailto:tcalthurst@ucsd.edu)

**March 20-23** – 15th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Student Assistance Professionals. Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans. Contact: Lynn Lonsway, Web site: [http://www.prponline.net/School/NSAC/school\\_nsac\\_nsac.htm](http://www.prponline.net/School/NSAC/school_nsac_nsac.htm) E-mail: [customerservice@prponline.net](mailto:customerservice@prponline.net) Additional Contact Information: 1-800-453-7733

**March 27-28** – Conference 2003: Prevention of Problem Gambling. University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, AB. Contact: Rhys Stevens, Web site: [http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Events/2003\\_Conference/index.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Events/2003_Conference/index.htm) E-mail: [abgaming@ualberta.ca](mailto:abgaming@ualberta.ca)

**April 6-10** – 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm "Strengthening Partnerships for a Safer Future". Chiang Mai, Thailand, Web site: <http://www.ihrcc2003.net/> E-mail: [conference@ihrcc2003.net](mailto:conference@ihrcc2003.net) Additional Contact Information: IHRC 2003 Asia Congress Co., Ltd. Level 23, CP Tower, 313 Silom Road Bangkok 10500, Thailand

**April 10-11** – Fetal Alcohol Exposure: Time to Know, Time to Act, Toronto, ON Contact: Best Start, Web site: <http://www.beststart.org> E-mail: [beststart@beststart.org](mailto:beststart@beststart.org) Additional Contact Information: Tel: 1-416-408-2249 x266 or 1-800-397-9567 x266

**April 22-26** – 25th Annual SALIS Conference *Beyond Borders: 25 Years of International Networking in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs*, Toronto, ON Contact: Sheila Lacroix, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Web site: <http://www.salis.org> E-mail: [Sheila\\_Lacroix@camh.net](mailto:Sheila_Lacroix@camh.net)

**April 27 to 30** – Discovery 2003: The Responsible Gambling Council (Ontario) presents the Discovery 2003 annual conference, Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre, Toronto, ON E-mail: [maryd@rgco.org](mailto:maryd@rgco.org) Additional Contact Information: Selection Committee, Discovery 2003. 3080 Yonge Street, Suite 4070. Toronto, ON M4N 3N1

**Sept. 25-27** – Youth Addictions Conference Saskatoon, SK. Contact: Gerri Madill, Web site: <http://www.sdh.sk.ca/calder/ppsu/ppsu.htm> E-mail: [madillg@sdh.sk.ca](mailto:madillg@sdh.sk.ca) Additional Contact Information: Provincial Program Support Unit, Calder Centre, 2003 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H6

## CCSA says goodbye to Jill Austin

Jill Austin, CCSA's Clearinghouse Manager since 1990, has left to pursue a consulting career. Jill's vision and energy helped build the Clearinghouse, develop databases and information resources, and create information networks. Her role in

launching CCSA's Web site in 1994 was pivotal and demonstrated her grasp of new information technologies. Her intelligence, tireless determination and wry wit will be greatly missed.

**Nina Frey** has become Director of Information and Reference Services. □