

## New survey instrument will measure problem gambling among adolescents

A blue-ribbon team of researchers will soon complete the first phase of development of a new instrument to assess gambling behaviour among Canadian adolescents.

The Adolescent Problem Gambling Index (APGI) is expected to lead to a better understanding of problem gambling among young people who may be especially affected by the growing popularity of gambling in Canada. Research in this area has been hampered by the lack of a reliable instrument for measuring adolescent gambling behaviour and related problems.

The APGI is being developed and tested over two years with funding from the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Québec. An additional contribution is being provided in the initial stage by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA).

The Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC) is administering the funding, and CCSA is managing the research.

In the first phase of the project, expected to end by April, a five-member research team is examining the scientific literature and consulting with a panel of 20 international experts to develop a new definition and description of adoles-



cent problem gambling.

In phase two, the new instrument will first be pilot-tested with a sample of 50 students from Ontario and Québec, and then with a larger sample of 300 students in participating provinces. The instrument will be refined through these initial steps, and then administered to approximately 4,200 adolescents from 28 schools in the six participating provinces. Reliability and validity of the new instrument will be assessed through a series of analyses

that will include comparisons with existing problem gambling measures, expert panel review, retesting a random sub-sample of respondents, and detailed questioning of respondents about their reactions to the survey questionnaire. A final report is expected by August 2005.

Adult problem gambling surveys in Canada have shown that problem gambling rates are highest in the 18–24 age group. That fact, combined with a dramatic increase in the availability and marketing of gambling across Canada, makes it important to examine the nature and

extent of gambling within the “feeder” population of adolescents under the age of 18. It is expected that a better understanding of gambling behaviour within this group will lead to more effective responses to resulting problems both in Canada and worldwide.

For more information, contact Dr. Jamie Wiebe, [jwiebe@rgco.org](mailto:jwiebe@rgco.org), or Dr. Joël Tremblay, [joel.tremblay@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:joel.tremblay@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

See page 4 for a list of organizations participating in the APGI project. ▶

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**Editor:** Richard Garlick

Contact the Editor if you wish to receive *Action News* electronically. Tel.: (613) 235-4048, ext. 230; fax: (613) 235-8101; e-mail: [rgarlick@ccsa.ca](mailto:rgarlick@ccsa.ca)

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Partner in





► **Senator Pierre Claude Nolin** (facing camera) was one of several Parliamentarians who were briefed on Canada's renewed drug strategy at the first meeting of an informal all-party drug caucus committee hosted by CCSA on Parliament Hill. Seen in the foreground are MP Paddy Torsney, chair of the former Special House Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs; and Michel Perron, CCSA's Chief Executive Officer. Senator Nolin was chair of the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs.

## CDS emerges from the shadow of marijuana reform

**T**he long-awaited renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy (CDS) was all but ignored in the media frenzy that greeted the federal government's simultaneous call for cannabis reform last May. That reform was quietly re-introduced to Parliament in February as Bill C-10 and attention is at last turning to the CDS and what it means to Canadians.

The \$245-million, five-year strategy aims to have Canadians "living in a society increasingly free of the harms associated with substance abuse". Using the Four Pillars approach (treatment, prevention, enforcement, harm reduction), the CDS has set several key objectives that include increasing the age of first-time drug use, and decreasing the prevalence of harmful use.

CCSA is working with Health Canada to develop a

"national framework for action to address substance use and abuse" involving federal, provincial and non-governmental partners. Activities to watch for in coming months include:

► Development of national agendas for research, prevention and policy. Strategic directions for a research agenda were proposed at a forum co-hosted by CCSA in October 2003.

► A consultation process involving five regional roundtables in April-June to start to identify priorities, guiding principles, and roles within the national framework.

► The first in a series of biennial forums on addictions, to be held in December 2004. The regional roundtables will feed directly into discussions of the national framework.

► Launch of a Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund

(DSCIF). First-year funding of \$3 million has been earmarked for strategic initiatives in collaboration with provinces and territories.

► Publication of a "state of substance abuse" report in November 2004 to provide parliamentarians, policy makers and the media with an annual "snapshot" of addictions in Canada.

Several other CDS-related activities are already well under way, including a national adult prevalence study that will provide the first in-depth look at Canadians' use of alcohol and drugs since 1994, a survey of the addictions treatment workforce (see page 3), and a research project to update CCSA's 1996 milestone report on the costs of substance abuse in Canada. Also in progress is a plan for working with the provinces to standardize student drug-use surveys. □



► **Judy Kay** (left, facing camera) co-presented a two-day FASD workshop in a hotel bar in Hopedale, Labrador. The bar was the only place in town that could provide food service and enough space for the workshop's 18 participants.

## Snowbound FASD workshop has unexpected benefits

**B**eing snowbound in Labrador in January was likely not what Pam Woodsworth and Judy Kay had in mind when they agreed to present a series of FASD workshops in Atlantic Canada, but they made the best of their four-day stay in the remote coastal town of Hopedale.

Pam, who works with Food for Thought in Saskatoon, and Judy, who is with the Sioux Lookout and Hudson Association for Community Living, spent two extra

days in the tiny community of 600 people networking with workshop participants, including those from around Labrador who were also stranded, and raising awareness of FASD issues. Although keen to get home, they enjoyed the adventure, which included being taxied by snowmobile from the airstrip to the local bar where the training was held.

The Hopedale workshop was one of seven training sessions sponsored by CCSA and Mothercraft/Breaking the

Cycle for community-based practitioners working with at-risk women and children affected by FASD. The two-day curriculum is based on research and experience with community agencies and Health Canada-funded projects such as the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program.

Workshops, including one in French, were also held in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI.

More information on FASD is available at [www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=17](http://www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=17) □

## Michael Boyd hits the road as CCSA's HEP "ambassador"

**R**ecently retired Toronto deputy police chief Michael Boyd has joined CCSA as part of a new initiative aimed at more effectively tackling drug problems in Canada.

Mr. Boyd, a 35-year veteran of the Toronto police service, will travel across Canada over the coming months networking with senior government and non-government officials in an effort to develop and support coordinated responses to drug problems at the national, provincial and community levels. His work will focus on identifying opportu-

nities for collaboration, and on raising awareness of the need to use credible data and best practice evidence as the basis for a problem-solving approach to reducing drug-related harm.

The new CCSA initiative builds on the successes of the Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) network, established in 1994 to promote dialogue between the health and enforcement sectors. As part of the renewal of Canada's Drug Strategy (CDS), CCSA will expand the scope and membership of HEP to promote more active and sus-

tainable partnerships.

"The HEP network provides a forum where research can come together with policy and practice," said CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. "Its role will be greatly enhanced by Mike's expertise, knowledge and deep understanding of successful community partnerships."

The new HEP initiative has received the endorsement of the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA), which met with Mr. Boyd in February and agreed to support his networking efforts. □



► **Michael Boyd** is immediate past chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Drug Abuse Committee and previously co-chaired the HEP network. He can be reached at [hep@ccsa.ca](mailto:hep@ccsa.ca)

## CCSA developing busy Education and Training agenda

**C**CSA is moving ahead on some key Education and Training initiatives, including a second summer training institute in PEI, and a national survey to assess the training needs of Canadian treatment professionals.

The survey will provide a basic profile of professional development issues within the specialized addiction treatment sector, and will serve as a primary reference for a national meeting in fall 2004 of stakeholders tasked with developing a workforce development agenda.

Survey findings, based on a random sample of more than 1,500 agency directors and staff, will also serve as a baseline against which CCSA and its partners can measure outcomes of future action

on professional development issues. As well, the results will clarify the need for further research on the issues.

The project lead is Gary Roberts, CCSA's Director of Best Practices and Training, and Dr. Alan Ogborne is principal investigator.

CCSA and the Addiction Research Centre of the Correctional Service of Canada are co-sponsoring the

second National Summer Institute on Addictions, July 12-15 in Montague, PEI. The four-day Institute will focus on concurrent substance use and mental health disorders and will be fully available in French and English.

*Details on the 2004 National Summer Institute and on the workforce development survey are at [www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=139](http://www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=139)* □



► CCSA's **Gary Roberts** (second from left) leads a small workshop at the 2003 National Summer Institute on Addictions in Montague, PEI. The 2004 Institute is scheduled for July 12-15 and will address Concurrent Disorders: Best Practices and their Implementation. More information on the 2004 Institute is available at [www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=139](http://www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=139) or by contacting Gary at [groberts@ccsa.ca](mailto:groberts@ccsa.ca), or Lucy Hume, ARC, at [humele@csc.scc.gc.ca](mailto:humele@csc.scc.gc.ca)

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### Organizations participating in the APGI project

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba  
 Alberta Gaming Research Institute  
 Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse  
 Manitoba Gaming Control Commission  
 Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Québec)  
 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, British Columbia  
 Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation  
 Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre

### CSAIN reviews CHN collection priorities

The Canadian Substance Abuse Information Network (CSAIN) met in Ottawa in mid-February for the second time in less than a year, thanks to support from the Canadian Health Network (CHN). Part of meeting focused on setting priorities for CHN's substance abuse

collection gap analysis. Also on the agenda was a discussion of shared information resources and interests. Participants reiterated their commitment to revitalizing the network through greater use of the CSAIN listserv.

For more information, please contact Karen Palmer at [kpalmer@ccsa.ca](mailto:kpalmer@ccsa.ca) □

### New faces around the CCSA office



► CCSA has welcomed several new staff members in recent weeks. Seated left to right: Chad Dubeau, Information Specialist; Karen Cumberland, National HEP (Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership) Coordinator; and Colette Rivet, Director of Strategic Operations. Standing left to right: Marcelle Saint-Arnaud, Librarian/Records Manager; Mitra Assadollahi, Library and Information Technician; and John Weekes, Senior Research Analyst. A complete list of CCSA staff and contact information is available at [www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=59](http://www.ccsa.ca/index.asp?ID=59)

## Events

**April 20–24**—15th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, Melbourne, Australia. Web site: [www.ihra.net/](http://www.ihra.net/) E-mail: [ihrc2004conference@adf.org.au](mailto:ihrc2004conference@adf.org.au)

**April 22–23**—Working with Youth with Mental Health and Substance Use Problems, Toronto. Web site: [www.ontario.cmha.ca/content/events/events.asp?fn=view&id=657](http://www.ontario.cmha.ca/content/events/events.asp?fn=view&id=657) E-mail: [ets@camh.net](mailto:ets@camh.net)

**May 21–22**—Treatment of Problem Gambling: A Vision for the Future, 3rd Annual Alberta Conference on Gambling Research, Banff. Web Site: [www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Events/2004\\_Conference/index.htm](http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/Events/2004_Conference/index.htm). E-mail: [abgaming@ualberta.ca](mailto:abgaming@ualberta.ca)

**June 2–5**—6th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference, International Society for Addiction Medicine, Helsinki, Finland. Web site: [www.paly.fi/ISAM.htm](http://www.paly.fi/ISAM.htm) E-mail: [isam@tavicom.fi](mailto:isam@tavicom.fi)

**June 3–5**—13th International Symposium on HIV and Emerging Infectious Diseases: A World in Motion. International Congress Center Toulon, France. Web site: [www.avps.org/2003/hiv.htm](http://www.avps.org/2003/hiv.htm)

**June 7–11**—Tobacco Addiction Specialist Certification Program Summer Institute, ACERRA Learning Inc., Algonquin College and Patient Support International. Tel: 613 237-6388, ext. 271; e-mail: [susanramsay@acerra.ca](mailto:susanramsay@acerra.ca)

**June 9–12**—Towards Community Action on Aboriginal Injuries: 1st National Aboriginal Injury Prevention Conference, Winnipeg. Tel: 450 632-0892, ext. 22; Web site: [www.aipc2004.ca](http://www.aipc2004.ca); e-mail: [info@aipc2004.ca](mailto:info@aipc2004.ca)

**July 9**—Human Rights at the Margins: HIV/AIDS, Prisoners, Drug Users and the Law, satellite conference at the XV International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2004), Bangkok. [www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events/bangkok2004-detailed.htm](http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/events/bangkok2004-detailed.htm); tel.: 514 397-6828, ext. 259

**Oct. 3–6**—Making Gains in Mental Health and Addiction, Toronto. Web site: [www.makinggains.ca](http://www.makinggains.ca) E-mail: [rachel@haliburtonhighlands.com](mailto:rachel@haliburtonhighlands.com)

### New resources to prevent tobacco use

The Canadian Association for School Health (CASH) has prepared some Web-based resources aimed at preventing tobacco use. These include summaries of


- evidence-based curriculum design and teaching supports
- best teaching practices
- how schools and agencies in the community can cooperate to reduce tobacco use.

Also available at the address below is a collection of lesson plans and several

student Webquests.

Teaching and learning resources are also available from Health Canada and provincial/territorial governments. Health Canada's Web site (see below) has:

- the latest research and statistics
- an Internet Youth Contest
- smoking cessation resources
- interactive pages for youth
- resources for professionals working to reduce tobacco use. □

 **Summaries and teaching resources:**  
[www.safehealthyschools.org/tobacco.htm](http://www.safehealthyschools.org/tobacco.htm)

 **Health Canada resources:**  
[www.gosmokefree.ca/prof](http://www.gosmokefree.ca/prof)