

ACTION

NEWS — NOUVELLES

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CCSA creates new online resource for substance abuse professionals

In 2005, CCSA published the results of a survey of executive directors, agency heads, and staff of specialized substance abuse treatment agencies and services. The report recommended a number of actions aimed at optimizing Canada's substance abuse treatment workforce, including the formation of a Canadian treatment network and the creation of an interactive Web-based resource.

CCSA recently launched the Canadian Network of Substance Abuse and Allied Professionals—the first national website designed specifically for Canada's substance abuse workforce. The site is intended not only for substance abuse specialists, but also for primary care physicians, public health nurses, correctional officers and other professionals who work with those whose lives are affected by substance abuse.

Voices from the Field invites professionals and clients to share their treatment experiences.

Available at www.cnsaap.ca, the Canadian Network promotes evidence-based practice and ongoing learning with an emphasis on emerging trends, quality assurance and cross-disciplinary collaboration. The Network also serves as a virtual gathering place where workers can learn about upcoming events, education and career opportunities, and new developments from across Canada and around the world.

An area of the site devoted to Professional Toolkits examines key topics such as screening, treatment planning, cognitive behavioural treatment and motivational interviewing. An Education and Training area provides a list of relevant college, university and organizational training opportunities. A feature called Voices from the Field invites professionals and clients to share their treatment experiences. >

The Canadian Network was put together by CCSA's Workforce Development Division in consultation with the National Advisory Group on Workforce Development. The resource responds to one of 13 priority areas (Developing the Workforce) of the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada. Visit this new online resource at www.cnsaap.ca

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Action News is published by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 75 Albert Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7 www.ccsa.ca

Editor: Richard Garlick
Production Coordinator: Jennifer Lee

Contact the Editor if you wish to receive Action News electronically: tel.: 613-235-4048, ext. 230; fax: 613-235-8101; email: rgarlick@ccsa.ca

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Keynote speakers picked for *Issues of Substance 2007*

The organizers of CCSA's national conference, *Issues of Substance 2007*, have scored a major success with the booking of two top-flight speakers for the November 25–28 event in Edmonton. Dr. Mark Kleiman will deliver the opening keynote address, and Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon will give the closing keynote.

Dr. Kleiman is Professor of Public Policy in the UCLA School of Public Affairs, where he directs the Drug Policy Analysis Program. His primary research interests are drug abuse and crime control, with special attention to illicit markets and the design of deterrent regimes. He has held senior policy and management positions with the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Boston, and has been a Special Assistant to Edwin H. Land at the Polaroid Corporation, and Legislative



Mark Kleiman

Assistant to Congressman Les Aspin.

Dr. Kleiman directed a study of the Drug Enforcement Administration for the Clinton transition team, and in the fall of 2006 he served as the inaugural Thomas C. Schelling Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland. Dr. Kleiman is the author of two books, *Marijuana: Costs of Abuse, Costs of Control*, and *Against Excess: Drug Policy for Results*. He is currently at work on *When Brute Force Fails: Strategies for Crime Control*. He also serves as editor of the *Drug Policy Analysis Bulletin*.

Dr. Homer-Dixon is Director of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto, where he is also Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from MIT in Cambridge, Massachu-



Thomas Homer-Dixon

setts, where he studied international relations, defence and arms control policy, and conflict theory. He has led several international research projects examining the links between environmental stress and violence in developing countries. Recently, his research has focused on threats to global security and on how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological and technological change.

Dr. Homer-Dixon is the author of the #1 best-seller, *The Ingenuity Gap*, which won the 2001 Governor General's award for non-fiction, as well as *Environment, Scarcity and Violence*. He also co-edited *Ecoviolence: Links among Environment, Population and Security*. He twice briefed Al Gore during his tenure as Vice-President of the United States. Dr. Homer-Dixon's presentations provide a wake-up call that is pertinent for any type of organization.

For more details on *Issues of Substance*, visit www.ccsa.ca >

NNAPF and CCSA extend partnership for three more years

A formal agreement committing CCSA and the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) to work together on issues of substance abuse in First Nations and Inuit communities has been renewed for another three years. A previous two-year agreement paved the way for sharing of information and research by the two organizations through workshops, training sessions and conferences.

Among several joint projects, NNAPF is a lead collaborator with CCSA and Carleton University in a three-year project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to study the role of self-identity in healing among Aboriginal women drug users in conflict with the law. NNAPF is also a member of the CCSA-led National Advisory Group on Workforce Development. As well, CCSA has provided training at annual NNAPF training conferences for a number of years, most recently in 2006 in Edmonton.

NNAPF is a non-governmental organization funded by Health Canada with a mandate to renew the quality, effectiveness and efficiencies of substance abuse and addictions programming in First Nations and Inuit communities. >



> NNAPF and CCSA renewed their memorandum of agreement at a signing ceremony during a NNAPF board meeting in Ottawa on Feb. 28. Seated left to right: Rita Notarandrea, CCSA's Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Research and Policy; Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the NNAPF Board; and Elder Joyce Paul, Executive Director of the Rising Sun Rehabilitation Centre in Eel Ground, NB.

CCSA to work with Inuit Elder to record traditional teachings

CCSA has entered into a partnership with Meeka Arnaqaq, an Inuit Elder from Pangnirtung, Nunavut, and the Mamisarvik Healing Centre, an Inuit addiction treatment facility in Ottawa, to help record the teachings of the traditional Inuit society of yesterday and today. Meeka's teaching manuals, written exclusively in Inuktitut syllabics, will be published in the main dialects of the Inuit of Canada as well as in English.

CCSA will also work with Meeka to develop best practices for working with Inuit populations in Canada, and to better understand the links between inter-generational trauma and substance abuse. Partnerships are also being negotiated for this long-term project with other key stakeholders, including national Inuit organizations, Health Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Corporation and the Nunavut Territorial Government.

Meeka, who works with Nunavut Arctic College and other Inuit groups, recently shared details of her life and work with CCSA staff. She was born and raised traditionally "on the land" in what is now Nunavut, and has since raised her own family with her husband, Abraham. Meeka has worked for years with staff at Mamisarvik, whose unique treatment program is based on Inuit traditions and culture and employs mostly Inuit staff to serve Inuit clients from around Canada.

Meeka, and Inuit of her generation, were subjected to harsh federal government policies that required Inuit children to attend missionary schools where many were systematically abused. Inuit were also forced off their traditional land and their igloos and sod houses were destroyed. The infamous Inuit dog



> Meeka Arnaqaq (centre) recently visited CCSA to talk about her life and work. Reepa Evic-Carleton (left), an addictions therapist from the Mamisarvik Healing Centre, acted as interpreter for Meeka who speaks only Inuktitut. The meeting was arranged by Rachel Dutton-Gowryluk (right), CCSA's Senior Advisor on Northern Canada.

slaughters of the 1950s and '60s also cut off the Inuk male from his hunting traditions and role in Inuit society.

Meeka speaks passionately about the devastating impact these events have had and continue to have on the Inuit family unit. She says that understanding this inter-generational trauma helps addiction therapists to understand the origins of addiction, family violence and poverty among the Inuit.

For more information on the North, visit www.ccsa.ca and look for Territorial Resource under CCSA Partnerships. >

2007 National Summer Institute on Addictions set for July 9-12

The National Summer Institute (NSI) on Addictions will mark its fifth anniversary on July 9-12 with a four-day learning event dedicated to "Supporting Success". Jointly sponsored by CCSA and the Addictions Research Centre of the Correctional Service of Canada, NSI 2007 will take place once again at Stanhope Beach Resort, Prince Edward Island. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas McLellan, Director, Treatment Research Institute; and Professor, University of Pennsylvania.

For the first time, NSI participants will be able to qualify for an academic credit towards the elective portion of McMaster University's Addiction Studies certificate or the Addiction Careworker diploma. Certain conditions apply and those who are planning to attend and are interested in academic credit should contact Christie McGaghran at 905-525-9140, ext. 23329, or email mcgagh@mcmaster.ca. Also this year, a variety of partnership opportunities are available for organizations wishing to connect with Canada's substance abuse workforce.

Contact Karine Plouffe for details at 613-235-4048, ext. 249, or email kplouffe@ccsa.ca. For more information on NSI 2007, visit the CCSA website at www.ccsa.ca >



> Stanhope Beach Resort, Prince Edward Island, will once again host the National Summer Institute on Addictions in July.

NGOs seek a greater role in global drug policy

CCSA's CEO Michel Perron says work is progressing well on the "Beyond 2008" International NGO Forum planned for next year to coincide with a review of 10 years of progress by United Nations member states on controlling the production and use of drugs. Mr. Perron is organizing the Forum on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, which is seeking a greater role for civil society in global drug policy.

Representatives of 18 leading international NGOs gathered in Vienna in March as part of the 50th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to formally announce plans for the Forum

and a series of six regional consultations scheduled to begin in September. The process will also use data on NGOs and civil society from a questionnaire that has been posted online in all six official UN languages at www.vngoc.org.

The achievement of "significant and measurable results" in global drug control by 2008 was a goal set at a special session of the UN General Assembly in June 1998. Mr. Perron sees the upcoming target date as a unique opportunity for NGOs to highlight the valuable role of civil society in the drug field.

For more details, please go to the Newsroom at www.ccsa.ca and look for the March 12, 2007 news release. >

New Publications from CCSA



Drug Treatment Courts FAQ by John Weekes, Rebecca Mugford, Guy Bourgon and Shelley Price

> Drug treatment courts (DTCs) started in the U.S. in 1989 as a way of coping with a growing number of drug offenders in the prison population. Since people with underlying substance abuse problems seemed most likely to re-offend, it was thought that providing treatment services through the criminal justice system might help eliminate the "revolving-door" effect.

The first Canadian DTC was established in Toronto in 1998 and a second DTC opened in Vancouver in 2001. In 2003, the federal government dedicated \$23 million over a period of five years to support the continued operation of the two existing DTCs and to fund four additional sites in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton.

A new CCSA publication addresses frequently asked questions about DTCs and provides a well-documented account of their effectiveness and some of the issues and challenges they face. To download a PDF version of the *Drug Treatment Courts FAQ*, please go to www.ccsa.ca

Comparing the Perceived Seriousness and Actual Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada by Gerald Thomas and Christopher G. Davis

> According to a new CCSA research report, Canadians have an exaggerated view of the harms associated with illegal drug use, but consistently underestimate the serious negative impact of alcohol on society and the economy.

The authors analyzed data from the 2004 *Canadian Addiction Survey* (CAS) and *The Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada* (2002) and found that direct social and economic costs associated with alcohol (\$7.4 billion) were more than twice the costs associated with illicit drugs (\$3.6 billion). However, when Canadians were asked in the CAS to rate problems at the national level, 25% identified alcohol abuse as "very serious" while 45% put illicit drug abuse in the same category.

The research report points out that institutional, social and cultural factors (including the media) play a significant role in amplifying or downplaying perceived levels of risk.

To access the full report or for more information, visit www.ccsa.ca

EVENTS

MAY 3-4

14th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury "ABI & Addictions: Barriers to Recovery"

Hamilton, ON. www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca;
Tel.: 1-905-522-1155, ext. 5454

MAY 13-17

18th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

Warsaw, Poland. www.harmreduction2007.org

MAY 28-30

15th Annual David Berman Memorial Concurrent Disorders Conference

Vancouver, B.C. www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/;
Tel.: 1-604-822-7524

MAY 30

The Subject of Addiction: Thinking Through Pain, Pleasure and Danger

Saskatoon, SK. www.csa.ca/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting2007/2007MainPage.htm;
Tel.: 1-902-494-6282

JUNE 5-7

Striking a Balance: Third National Aboriginal Gambling Awareness Conference

Winnipeg, MB. www.afm.mb.ca/Partnerships/NAGAC.htm; Tel.: 1-204-944-6392

JUNE 11-13

2007 Annual Addictions Conference

Mississauga, ON. www.addictionsontario.ca/portal/; Email: info@addictionsontario.ca
Tel.: 1-800-965-3307

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