

network news...

connecting canada's substance abuse and allied professionals

September 2008

Welcome to *network news*, an electronic quarterly newsletter designed to connect substance abuse and allied professionals to the latest workforce development initiatives, newly released evidence-informed resources, upcoming events, and much more!

National Summer Institute (NSI)

The [National Summer Institute](#) (NSI), a premier knowledge-sharing and networking event, hosted jointly by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the Addictions Research Centre of the Correctional Service Canada (CSC), has had a successful run of five consecutive years since 2003. In 2008, CCSA and the Addictions Research Centre decided to take some time to evaluate options for broadening the reach of the NSI, exploring complementary partnerships and locations, and determining the most effective frequency for the event. This resulted in the temporary suspension of the event for 2008.

CCSA and CSC have recently reached out to the field through a national survey to determine the level of interest and support for future National Summer Institutes, gathering input on future themes, size, and learning approach. We are exploring the possibility of locating the National Summer Institute outside of Atlantic Canada, perhaps in Central or Western Canada. The preliminary feedback from the survey shows there is a high level of ongoing interest in the delivery of a National Summer Institute in 2009.

Stay tuned this fall for upcoming announcements on a future National Summer Institute!

Second Forum on the National Framework for Action

In 2005, 100 stakeholders from across Canada came together in Montreal to participate in the first Forum on the [National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada](#). This group identified 13 key priority areas for action to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances.

A second forum recently took place in Toronto to review the progress made over the past three years in the 13 priority areas, identify next steps for existing priorities, identify new and emerging priorities, and seek input and commitment on moving all priority areas forward.

Participants acknowledged the many accomplishments achieved to date in the priority areas of workforce development, the National Alcohol Strategy, treatment and youth. Strong linkages among priorities were also identified, next steps for each of the existing and emerging priorities were determined, and the participants agreed that CCSA would continue to provide Secretariat support for National Framework activities and facilitate partners' uptake of Framework priorities. The participants reaffirmed their collective support for this uniquely Canadian approach to collaboration, partnership and commitment to reducing the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances in Canada.

While partners are actively leading and participating in eight Framework priorities, five still need leadership. If you are interested in learning more about the National Framework for Action, and how you can get involved, contact Rhowena Martin at rmartin@ccsa.ca or visit the website at www.nationalframework-cadrenational.ca.

New on the Canadian Network

New professional toolkit on Pharmacology

This [new professional toolkit](#) provides information and resources on the science involved in the nature, effects and uses of drugs and medications. Focusing primarily on psychoactive drugs (those that affect the brain), the toolkit will help readers learn about the classification of these drugs, how the body reacts to such drugs, and about pharmacological interventions.

The Canadian Network website has been upgraded

While our website address (www.cnsaap.ca) remains unchanged, you will need to update your bookmarks to ensure continued access to the kind of high-quality resources and information for which CNSAAP is quickly becoming known.

Coming soon:

- Professional toolkit on Ethics and Professionalism
- New section on Recruitment and Retention—Basic Principles for Treatment Centres and Community-Based Workers

Education Spotlight

The University of Toronto offers graduate-level students a unique opportunity to take part in their [Collaborative Program in Addiction Studies](#) (CoPAS). Sponsored by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU), this program aims to provide students with integrated graduate-level training in the multidisciplinary field of addictions.

Students must first be registered in one of the following collaborating graduate departments before applying for admission to the CoPAS:

- Adult Education and Counselling Psychology
- Anthropology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Criminology
- Information Studies
- Medical Science
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Pharmacology
- Psychology
- Public Health Sciences
- Social Work
- Sociology

[Click here](#) to learn more about what the University of Toronto has to offer.

[Click here](#) to search for other post-secondary addiction education programs.

Upcoming Events

[Third Annual Other Voices Forum](#)

October 17, 2008

Winnipeg, Manitoba

[3rd Annual Pacific Psychopharmacology Conference](#)

February 13–14, 2009

Vancouver, BC

[6th Annual Forensic Psychiatric Conference](#)

April 1–3, 2009

Vancouver, BC

[Re-Storying Eating Disorders: Children, Families and Communities of Hope 2009](#)

May 21–23, 2009

New Brunswick

[Click here](#) to view all events listed on the Canadian Network.

Voices from the Field

Karen in Ontario

The opportunity to take part in an Aboriginal story-weaving circle helped me to heal from the impact of my brother's drug abuse. This circle encourages people to tell their story and then someone else tells it back to you as they heard it. At first I felt ashamed that my story would take time away from other people who had suffered worse than me...[click here](#) to read on and see what others are saying about their experiences with substance abuse.

Want to share your experience with us? [Click here](#) to submit a message.

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Questions or comments? Email us at CanadianNetwork@ccsa.ca or call 613-235-4048, ext. 249



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