



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction


Centre canadien sur
les dépendances et
l'usage de substances



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substances



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

Evidence. Engagement. Impact.

Centre canadien sur
les dépendances et
l'usage de substances

Données. Engagement. Résultats.



Creating the Conditions to Convene Communities for Collective Impact

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Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Community Outreach

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)

Ottawa, Ontario

Land Acknowledgment



About CCSA

- Created by an Act of Parliament in 1988
- NGO for national leadership on substance use and advance solutions to address substance use health issues



Canadian Centre
on **Substance Use**
and **Addiction**

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What We Do



BRIDGING SCIENCE AND ACTION

Unbiased, non-partisan, independent contributions to policy that is rooted in science

CONVENING EXPERTS AND COMMUNITIES

Connections across sectors and communities to provide an impartial space for discussion and collaboration

ADVANCING COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

Integrated community-based approaches and priorities for meaningful solutions
Supporting implementation through partnerships



CCSA's National Priorities

Cannabis	Children & Youth	Substance Use Health & Mental Health	Indigenous Peoples
Workforce Development	National Treatment Strategy	Impaired Driving	Data Trends
Opioids	Stigma	Gambling	Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health
Prevention	Access	Digital Solutions	Evidence-based policy

Bridging Science and Action

Contributions to Policy

CCSA develops research, analyses, and solutions on substance use health. We also support care delivery and education.

Our work is:

- **Rooted in science and sound methodology**
- **Unbiased**
- **Non-partisan**
- **Independent**

Beyond Research

Policymakers know they can rely on CCSA to have a finger on the national pulse and provide objective, evidence-based recommendations on timely issues, such as Prevention, Treatment Support and Recovery.

Spotlight Initiatives

- Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health (CGAH)
- Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms (CSUCH)
- Workforce Competencies (WFC)





CONVENING EXPERTS AND COMMUNITIES

Convening Experts and Communities

A Unique Convener

We play a vital convening role in the addictions and substance use ecosystem, engaging and consulting. The communities we serve power our work.

First Nations,
Métis and Inuit
Communities

People with
Lived and Living
Experience



Partners and
Collaborators

Communities
Across Canada



Complex Issues

Divergent Voices

Tough Conversations

Impartial Space



Convening Experts and Communities

A Unique Convener

In 2023-24, we connected directly with our communities over 45 events, presentations, roundtables, summits, conferences, and more.



2023 Issues of Substance Conference by the Numbers

818 attendees
125+ presentations
15 expert keynotes
115+ research posters
92% increased knowledge of substance use and responses
86% increased capacity to respond to client and community needs



Engaging Communities

Advancing Community-Based Solutions

Timely solutions to address

Complementing our scientific and technical expertise, our community-based approach makes our work timely and representative of lived realities and current challenges in Canada.

This is essential to:

- **Advance meaningful solutions**
- **Address underlying causes of substance use**
- **Address comorbidities**

The Collective

The Collective is a group of experts with substance use experience convened by CCSA. Members have a passion for collaboration and supporting the substance use health of people living in Canada.

The Collective guides CCSA in its efforts toward achieving more meaningful engagement and actionable solutions that are informed by the people they serve.

Bringing Communities Together

- Family Physician Summit (Ottawa, ON, March 2023)
- National Family and Prevention Summit (Charlottetown, PEI, October 2023)
- Roundtable on Atlantic Canada and Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health (St. John's, NFLD, January 2024)
- THC Standard Unit Meeting (Ottawa, ON, March 2024)
- Roundtable on Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health and Ontario's Alcohol Policy (Toronto, ON, May 2024)
- British Columbia Roundtable on Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health (Richmond, BC, November 18-19, 2024)

Timmins Summit

(Municipal Summit on the Substance Use Crisis in Smaller Communities)





ISSUES of SUBSTANCE

CCSA's National Conference

November 17-19, 2025

Halifax Convention Centre

issuesofsubstance.ca

Contact Information

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