

National Framework for Action

to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada

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presentation to

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Current Knowledge: The Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada 2002 (March 2006)

National

- Costs to Canadian society rising:
 - ❖ \$40 billion per year or \$1,267 per Canadian (increase from \$18.45 billion in 1992)
 - ❖ Tobacco: \$17b or 42.7%; alcohol: \$14.6b or 36.6%; illegal drugs: \$8.2b or 20.7%
 - ❖ Costs include direct health care; direct law enforcement, prevention and research, losses associated with the workplace and administrative costs, and productivity losses due to disability and premature mortality

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Background

- Launch of new Federal drug strategy in 2003 permitted Health Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) to lead a consultative, multi-stakeholder process to gauge level of support for jointly developing a National Framework for Action
- Cross-Canada Consultations – Toronto, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Fredericton, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Iqaluit and Ottawa
 - ❖ Participants – provincial and territorial education, health and justice officials; NGOs; Aboriginal, private sector and policing/enforcement representatives
- Wide consultations on a draft national framework
- National Forum in June 2005 – general consensus reached

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION TO REDUCE THE HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES IN CANADA

Vision

All people in Canada live in a society free of the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances

Principles

Problematic Substance Use is a Health Issue	Problematic Substance Use Is Shaped by Social and Other Factors	Successful Responses to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances Reflect the Full range of Health Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, Enforcement, and Harm Reduction Approaches
Action is Knowledge-Based, Evidenced-Informed and Evaluated for Results	Human Rights are Respected	Strong Partnerships are the Foundation for Success
Responsibility, Ownership, and Accountability are Understood and Agreed Upon by All	Those Most Affected Are Meaningfully Involved	Reducing the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances Creates Healthier Safer Communities

Goals

To Create Supportive Environments that Promote Health and Resiliency of Individuals, Families and Communities in Order to Prevent Problematic Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances

To Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances to Individuals, Families, and Communities Across Canada

Priorities

- To Address Specific Issues:**
- Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Problematic Substance Use
 - Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms
 - Preventing Problematic Use of Pharmaceuticals
 - Addressing Enforcement Issues
 - Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- To Build Supportive Infrastructure:**
- Sustaining Workforce Development
 - Improving Quality, Accessibility, and Range of Options to Treat Harmful Substance Use Including Substance Use Disorders
 - Implementing a National Research Agenda and Facilitating Knowledge Transfer
 - Modernizing Legislation, Regulatory, and Policy Frameworks

- To Address the Needs of Key Populations:**
- Focusing on Children and Youth
 - Reaching Out to Canada's North
 - Supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis People in Addressing Their Needs
 - Responding to Offender-Related Issues

The National Framework in ACTION

- 43 endorsements from NGOs, provinces and industry
- Towards the development of national strategies
 - ❖ National Alcohol Strategy
 - ❖ Raising Public Awareness about Addictions
 - ❖ Sustaining Workforce Development
 - ❖ Treatment Strategy
- The National Framework continues to provide the umbrella for developing multi-partner strategies.

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National Alcohol Strategy: Status Update

- Reducing Alcohol-Related Harm in Canada: Toward a Culture of Moderation: Recommendations for a National Alcohol Strategy, April 2007
- Four strategic areas for action: health promotion, prevention and education; health impacts and treatment; availability of alcohol; and safer communities
- NAS Working Group of 30 representatives identified 41 recommendations, including national drinking guidelines, knowledge transfer, impact of alcohol on chronic disease, national minimum drinking age of 19, advertising to youth
- partners and stakeholders deciding to lead/co-lead specific recommendations, including the Brewers Association of Canada, CCSA, Health Canada and MADD Canada

National Treatment Strategy: Status Update

Mandate

- ❖ To develop a report with national recommendations for optimizing health services responses to substance use problems in Canada. The report and recommendations should be complete by April 2008

5 Priority Areas

- ❖ Articulating the core continuum of treatment services
- ❖ Implementing/sharing best practices
- ❖ Identifying facilitators and barriers and knowledge exchange activities
- ❖ Developing treatment indicators and performance monitoring
- ❖ Focusing on populations, such as Aboriginal peoples, youth, and other vulnerable populations

Secretariat for the National Framework

- The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and Health Canada continue as the informal Secretariat to
 - ❖ identify, lead and/or participate, within available resources, in thematic workshops addressing specific priority issues identified in the Framework
 - ❖ manage evolution of Framework and assist partners with endorsement process = approval and active support of vision, principles, goals and priorities of Framework
 - ❖ develop future governance options

The Path Forward

- Support of Partnerships
- Collaborate for achieving the most beneficial results for the greatest number of people
- Address the figures from the Cost Study
- Build capacity through knowledge transfer
- Achieve consensus on strategies for national priorities
- Leverage investment via joint ownership

National Framework Secretariat

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National Framework Website

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