

ACTION NEWS

June 2011

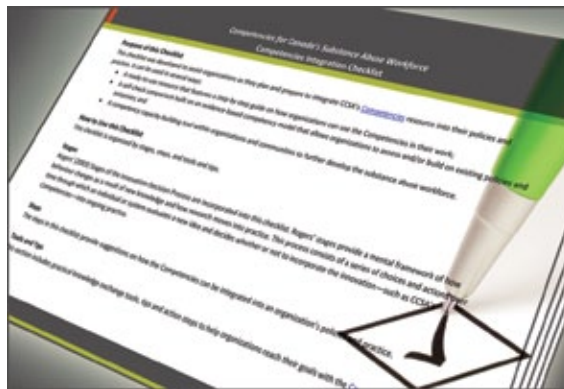
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Competencies videos and checklist now available

On June 30, CCSA released a seven-video series highlighting the overwhelming positive response to its [Competencies for Canada's Substance Abuse Workforce resource](#) and the [Competencies Implementation Checklist](#). These new resources were created to support individuals and organizations interested in putting the Competencies into practice.

The [Competencies videos](#) feature stakeholders from around the country talking about how they are using this practical and user-friendly resource to find, hire and develop people with the right skill sets for their organization. The videos were specifically created to share firsthand accounts of people using the Competencies and the significant impact the Competencies are making in organizations across Canada. Each of the seven videos gives detailed information on the Competencies in the following areas:

- Competencies – An Overview
- Improving the Hiring Process
- Interview Guide and Tools
- Performance Management and Professional Development
- Easy to Use
- Cost Savings
- Competencies in Education



The [Competencies Implementation Checklist](#) is a web-based resource specifically developed to help individuals and organizations plan and prepare to integrate CCSA's [Competencies](#) into their policies and practice. The Competencies can be used in several ways:

- As a complete, ready-to-use resource: the Competencies include a step-by-step guide on how to put them to use in your organization and work;
- As a self-check comparison tool, built on an evidence-based competency model that allows people and organizations to assess and/or build on existing policies and initiatives; and
- As a competency capacity-building tool within organizations and communities to further develop the substance abuse workforce.

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CCSA honours a dear friend and colleague

Richard Garlick was a renaissance man of communication—an excellent journalist, writer, editor and communicator.

As CCSA's first Director of Communications, he played a pivotal role in shaping CCSA into the organization that it is today. A gifted and inspired writer, he was well respected by his colleagues for his ability to translate complex concepts into easily understood content, while maintaining accuracy and enhancing quality.

Richard was instrumental in the development of many of CCSA's most significant publications, including:

- Canadian Profile: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
- Panic and Indifference: The Politics of Canada's Drug Laws
- The Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada: A Cost Estimation Study

- International Guidelines for Estimating the Costs of Substance Abuse
- It was 20 Years Ago Today... An Interview with H. David Archibald
- The First 20 Years: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse



The calibre of these publications led the World Health Organization and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to

refer to CCSA as a centre of excellence in the late 90s—no small feat for a small organization.

Early on, Richard saw the need to create Action News, CCSA's quarterly newsletter, to build awareness of both CCSA and substance abuse issues. As editor, he became the heart and soul of this publication, which continues to be read by over 5,000 subscribers. In a career spanning more than 20 years, Richard believed deeply in the mandate of CCSA, which was apparent in the integrity and passion he brought to his work.

Richard loved to share a story with anyone who came into his office, and was always ready to engage on a current topic with a question, point or anecdote. He will truly be missed by his colleagues and friends at CCSA. >



IOS 2011 program highlights

On November 6–9, 2011, CCSA will be hosting the fourth *Issues of Substance* conference in Vancouver. Planning and development are in high gear, with the IOS Program and Planning Committees shaping this year's event into a dynamic and informative program for the more than 600 participants expected to attend.

After issuing our call for abstracts, we received an overwhelming number of high-quality submissions from across the country. We are excited to announce that the [conference's program](#) will include a mixture of individual presentations, skills-based workshops and panel sessions covering topics such as:

- Best and emerging practices in health promotion, prevention and harm reduction;
- Prevention and minimization of harms to society;
- Early and brief interventions;
- Women and substance use/abuse;
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis and substance use/abuse;
- Concurrent disorders/issues;
- Community response;
- Policies aimed at reducing substance-related harms;
- Youth substance use/abuse;
- Treatment; and
- Coercion, corrections and substance use.

We will post our preliminary program in July, outlining specific presentations and workshops that will be offered throughout the conference.

Arrive early and participate in one of the [two pre-conference sessions](#). The first, *Digital Narratives: Women and Treatment*, will provide participants with a hands-on opportunity to make digital narratives to creatively share experience-based stories about their work in lasting and impactful ways.

The second session, *Drugs and Driving in Canada*, will provide an overview of the most recent research on drugs and driving, including a summary of findings from an International Symposium on Drugs and Driving co-hosted by CCSA this summer. Learn more about these sessions by visiting www.issuesofsubstance.ca.

Register today for IOS and reserve your spot. We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver this fall!

Learn more and stay connected by:

- Visiting www.issuesofsubstance.ca
- Follow us on Twitter [@CdnCtrSubstance](#) #IOS2011
- Visiting CCSA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CCSAcommunications
- Signing up for RSS feeds on the IOS website. >

Celebrating National Aboriginal Day

It's been 15 years since the proclamation that designated June 21 as National Aboriginal Day was signed. The day marks the celebration of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and history by recognizing contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada.

Coinciding with National Aboriginal Day, CCSA launched a complementary resource to the Meeka Manuals—a series of Inuit-specific wellness resources—in the form of a short video. The video highlights the project's origins, underscores the importance of culturally relevant materials, and celebrates Inuit knowledge that offers a holistic approach to healing, healthy living, child rearing and teamwork depicted through illustrations and exercises that evoke traditional stories. The original manuals were transcribed from the Inuktitut manuscripts and teachings of Inuit Elder and healer Meeka Arnakaq.

The video tells the story of Meeka's contributions to Inuit life and her quest to illustrate and share Inuktitut oral teachings in the English written word, a language that she has not mastered. The partnership created between Meeka, Tungasuvvingat Inuit and CCSA has led to the realization of Meeka's dream. Now, allied health care professionals and

those working in education and wellness fields will be better equipped to work with Inuit communities, understanding their culture and environment that is unique to Arctic Canada. Watch the video and learn more about the project at www.ccsa.ca by clicking 'Meeka Project' under the 'Priorities' tab. >



International Drugs and Driving Symposium

The use of drugs has long been considered a major social problem. However, the devastating consequences of drugged driving have only recently garnered public attention. Yet, the prevalence of drug use among drivers may rival that of alcohol. To date, evidence, research and policy initiatives on drugs and driving significantly lag behind those on alcohol and driving.

To address this growing issue, CCSA is hosting the first two-day International Drugs and Driving Symposium on July 17–18 in Montreal, in partnership with the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse, U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Leading experts and practitioners are coming together to establish an international forum to help shape current evidence-based research, legislation and policy options, enforcement, prevention and next steps. The symposium is also a call to action for a coordinated approach to build on the Drugs and Driving Resolution adopted March 25, 2011, by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Speakers include Gil Kerlikowske, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; Sandeep Chawla, Director, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs; and others. A list of speakers and the symposium agenda are available at www.ccsa.ca by clicking on 'Drugs and Driving' under the 'Priorities' tab. For more information, email dcumming@ccsa.ca. >

Addiction Research Monthly is now available online!

Addiction Research Monthly (ARM) is CCSA's monthly index of recently published peer-reviewed articles on addiction and the use or misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs. It includes review articles, meta-analyses

as well as peer-reviewed articles from CCSA staff. Formerly developed to guide the work of CCSA and its key working groups, this resource previously enjoyed a very small circulation. However, due to the growing demand for this product

in the field, CCSA has now made it widely accessible on its website. To [view](#) or [subscribe to ARM](#), [visit www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca) and click on 'CCSA News' under the 'News and Events' tab. >

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Learn more about others' experiences with the Competencies resources and how you can integrate the Competencies

into your work. Visit CCSA's website for the substance abuse workforce at www.cnsaap.ca. >

Save the date: Barry King Lecture Series

In partnership with Dalhousie University's Centre for Addiction Research, CCSA is co-hosting its inaugural Barry King lecture, entitled **Smoke and Mirrors: Youth, Cannabis and Driving** on September 28, 2011, in Halifax.

This lecture aims to raise awareness on cannabis use and perceptions related to drugs and driving among Canadian

youth, and to engage participants in a two-way discussion on harms associated with cannabis use and driving, common misconceptions, youth perspectives, and enforcement programs.

This public event will also be webcast to include participation from across Canada. Mark your calendars and don't miss this key learning event. >

Bringing addiction into the realm of health

In late May, Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and Co-chair of CCSA's Scientific Advisory Committee, presented research findings on drugs, the brain and substance use disorders to CCSA staff.

He shared that advances in neuroscience have now proven that drug addiction, like mental illness, is a brain disease—which is characterized by compulsive and, at times, uncontrollable drug craving and drug-seeking behaviour. He noted that these behaviours stem from drug-induced changes in brain structure

and function, and that these changes occur in some of the same brain areas that are disrupted in other mental disorders. This neurobiological overlap helps us understand the high rate of concurrence between drug addiction and other mental illnesses in some people.

Most importantly, Dr. Vaccarino emphasized that advances in neuroscience have cemented the notion that drug addiction belongs in the realm of health, like other health disorders—a finding that many in the field have supported for some time. >

CCSA co-recipient of CIHR grant

CCSA and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute were recently awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Knowledge Synthesis grant to examine the effectiveness of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model for reducing illicit drug use. Accumulating evidence suggests that early detection and treatment of drug use have the potential

to dramatically improve outcomes for those who use and abuse illicit drugs, particularly adolescents whose brains are still developing. This one-year research project will commence in September 2011 and will help inform evidence-based practices and assist clinicians in establishing guidelines for implementation. >

EVENTS

July 10–14, 2011

52nd Annual Institute on Addiction Studies
Kempfenfelt Conference Centre, Barrie, Ontario
W: www.addictionstudies.ca
E: info@addictionstudies.ca

July 13–15, 2011

Harm Reduction Canada 2011
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
W: cast-canada.ca/HR2011-Main.html
E: gt@cast-canada.ca

July 17–18, 2011

International Symposium on Drugs and Driving
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Quebec
W: www.ccsa.ca/Eng/Priorities/ImpairedDriving/Montreal_Symposium/Pages/default.aspx
E: dcumming@ccsa.ca

September 17–21, 2011

National Conference on Addiction Disorders
Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California
W: www.nationalconferenceonaddictiondisorders.com
E: info@vendomegrp.com

September 28, 2011 (7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)

Barry King Lecture Series
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
E: mstephens@ccsa.ca

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