

**ISSUES of
SUBSTANCE**
CONFERENCE

2015

CONGRÈS
**QUESTIONS de
SUBSTANCE**

Addiction matters • La dépendance, ça compte

November 16–18
Montréal QC

16 au 18 novembre
Montréal (Québec)

Why Attend Issues of Substance 2015? Making a Case to Your Manager

Why This Toolkit?

Many travel and training budgets have been reduced, which means that you might need to justify the conference expense and your time away from your office. This toolkit will help you convince your organization that the return on investment makes it worth time and money to attend this major learning event.



Canadian Centre
on **Substance Abuse**
Centre canadien de lutte
contre les toxicomanies

www.ccsa.ca





What Is Issues of Substance?

Issues of Substance (IOS) is Canada's only national conference to bring together addictions workers, healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers and knowledge brokers from across the country. In 2015, the conference is hosted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse in partnership with Mise sur toi, under the theme: "Addiction matters."

We hope you can join us in Montreal, Quebec, November 16–18, and we offer this toolkit to help you make that happen. For more information, please visit:

www.ccsa.ca/Eng/newsevents/Issues-of-Substance-Conference/registration/Pages/default.aspx

Talking Points to Bring to Your Manager

Conference Advantages

- Learn from and network with dozens of renowned national and international experts, as well as professionals in your field and complementary industries, who will provide a rich variety of shared experiences and new perspectives.
- Create your own program, choosing from a combination of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and practical workshops, featuring approximately 100 speakers in total. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all plenaries and about half of the concurrent sessions.
- Grow your knowledge with comprehensive and relevant content, including:
 - Knowledge exchange skills and strategies
 - Health promotion, substance abuse prevention and early identification
 - Drugs of evolving legal status (e.g., marijuana, novel psychoactive substances)
 - Pathways to care for concurrent disorders (e.g., mental health and substance use, gambling and substance use)
 - Roundtable on the distinct issues surrounding women and alcohol
 - Indigenous approaches to addiction and healing
 - Recovery, health and well-being
 - 70 poster presentations
 - Exhibitors, including a book seller
- Participate in a pre- or post-conference workshop. View the preliminary program to identify the workshop of your choice.
- Receive education credits from certification organizations to support your continuing education.
- Take advantage of [sponsorship and exhibit](#) opportunities.



Points to Emphasize

- The early-bird registration fee of \$695, which includes all the sessions, three breakfasts, two lunches and all breaks, plus all conference materials, represents excellent value for money.
- Save \$100 before September 14. After that date, the fee is \$795.
- Professional development is critical for preparing employees to take on greater responsibility and respond more effectively to changes in the field.
- If you are working to obtain or maintain your professional status, IOS 2015 offers valuable education credits and hours you can apply towards required continuing education.
- IOS 2015 offers a comprehensive, intensive learning environment. Your attendance will be much more cost-effective and time-efficient compared to registering for multiple seminars or webinars.
- To amplify the conference value, share the speaker handouts and deliver a short presentation on key concepts to your colleagues when you return to your office.

Sample Justification Email

Below is sample text for an email message you can send your manager to support your attendance at IOS 2015.

Dear [name],

I would like to attend the Issues of Substance Conference (IOS) 2015, hosted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse in partnership with Mise sur toi, in Montreal, Quebec, from November 16–18.

IOS 2015 is specifically tailored to enhance applied knowledge and skills for professionals working in the substance abuse and addictions fields. It features relevant plenary presentations, breakout sessions and workshops. Of particular interest to my work are [mention sessions relevant to your areas of focus and responsibilities].

The preliminary program is available for your perusal on the IOS website.

The early-bird registration fee is only \$695 (available until September 14) and includes all the sessions, three breakfasts, two lunches and all breaks, plus all conference materials. This represents excellent value for money.

Additionally, this conference will provide me with continuing education credits from [association].

I hope you will support my attendance, as I believe this conference will bring great value to both me and our organization. I have calculated the costs, attached for your convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Title]