



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

Evidence. Engagement. Impact.

Media Advisory

New Name: The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse is now the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

Ottawa, Ontario, May 18 – Effective today, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) will be known as the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction and, in French, the Centre canadien sur les dépendances et l’usage de substances. Our English acronym will remain CCSA and the French acronym will change to CCDUS.

The rationale for the change to our name is simple: words matter.

The term “substance abuse” implies a person with substance use issues is acting intentionally and purposely, and that responsibility lies solely on the choices of the individual. No other health issue is described this way.

In recent years, the word **abuse**, always pejorative, has given way to words like **use** and **misuse** – words intended to counter stigma and shift the focus from the problem to the solution. Changing our name signals our commitment to changing the way the world views substance use and addiction.

Please refer to our new name in related reporting and media coverage of our organization.

For more information, please contact:

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The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction changes lives by bringing people and knowledge together to reduce the harm of alcohol and other drugs on society. We partner with public, private and non-governmental organizations to improve the health and safety of Canadians.

CCSA activities and products are made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views of CCSA do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Canada.