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
- Responsibility, ownership, and accountability are understood and agreed upon by all
- Strong partnerships are the foundation for success
- 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 legislative, 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