



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

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Request for Proposals

Closing the Gaps in Cannabis Research

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Submission Date: September 4, 2020

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Since the legalization and regulation of cannabis for non-medical purposes in October 2018, the ways in which Canadians use cannabis have increased and diversified. While some data are being collected to measure the impact of the legalization of non-medical cannabis on public health and safety, knowledge gaps remain. The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) is seeking to fill these gaps as well as help to inform the legislative review of the [Cannabis Act](#).

1.2 About CCSA

CCSA is Canada's only agency with a legislated national mandate to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drugs on Canadians. CCSA was created by an Act of Parliament to provide national leadership to address substance use in Canada. A trusted counsel, CCSA provides guidance to decision makers by harnessing the power of research, curating knowledge and bringing together diverse perspectives. CCSA's strategic core functions include providing leadership, building strategic partnerships, advancing research and mobilizing knowledge. Together with our partners, we help mobilize individual and collective efforts to achieve impact on the major health and social issue of problematic substance use.

1.3 Project Objectives

CCSA is issuing this request for proposals (RFP) to address the gaps in data about cannabis use in Canada and to gather knowledge in areas that are lacking research in order to support study of the impact and effectiveness of cannabis policies, regulations and programs. The evidence generated from this research is intended to inform the development of policies, programs and practices that will optimize a public health approach to non-medical cannabis use.

A major objective of this RFP is to inform the legislated three-year review of the *Cannabis Act* mandated in Section 151.1 (1) of the act. **The project timelines have therefore been established to ensure that the interim report and preliminary findings will be available to Health Canada during its data collection process for the review.** The review of the act will consider its impact on public health as a whole and focus in particular on the impact of the act on:

1. The health and consumption habits of young persons in respect of cannabis use;
2. Cannabis use by Indigenous persons and communities, and
3. The cultivation of cannabis plants in home dwellings.

The purpose of this RFP is to support evidence-based research in any of the priority areas listed below. However, proposals are not restricted to these areas and can address other cannabis-related research questions as long as the broader objectives stated above are met. CCSA requires all proposals to consider the impact of sex, gender, age, equity and diversity in their research.

Priority areas for cannabis research:

- Youth cannabis consumption
- Problematic cannabis use and cannabis use disorder
- Impact of different variables on patterns of cannabis use



- Higher-risk patterns of cannabis use (e.g., frequency and potency)
- Methods of cannabis consumption such as smoking, vaping, ingestion, etc.
- Consumption of other substances and polysubstance use
- Cannabis use by Indigenous people and in Indigenous communities
- Cannabis use during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Illegal cannabis activities (e.g., changes in organized crime, burden on the justice system)
- Impact of cannabis legalization on illegal cannabis purchase and supply
- Health and economic impacts of different cannabis retail models and regulations
- Healthcare service impacts of cannabis use, including hospitalizations and poison control
- Treatment admissions associated with cannabis use
- Injuries and fatalities related to cannabis use
- Inducements to use cannabis with an emphasis on those targeting youth, including counter-measures to protect people from being influenced by social media, advertisement, etc.
- Impact of legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes on medical cannabis use, including on attitudes toward medical cannabis use and on the medical cannabis industry
- Impact of cannabis packaging and labelling requirements, such as for warning labels
- Impact of cannabis branding, marketing and promotion regulations
- Drug-impaired driving statistics
- Home cultivation of cannabis

Since legalization, the ways in which cannabis is being used have been evolving and concerns have been raised about how these evolving patterns could impact the safety and well-being of Canadians. This RFP is for additional research to fill knowledge gaps and this research will be critical to the public and relevant stakeholders for informing and evaluating the impacts of cannabis regulation.

2.0 Guidelines

2.1 Eligibility

This RFP is an open call to Canadian academics, researchers, health practitioners, universities and other stakeholders in the field of substance use and addiction to provide a comprehensive proposal to address any of the priority areas for cannabis research identified above. Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of cannabis policy and have experience in research methodologies using relevant data sources to conduct evidence-based work.

2.2 Funding

Each contract will provide up to \$100,000 in funding. Depending on the project scope, budget and area of focus, and to avoid duplication of effort, applicants may be asked to collaborate with other applicants if their proposals are aligned in scope and mandate.



2.3 Proposal Requirements

Proposals should use the structure outlined below.

Cover page (maximum 1 page)

- Project title
- Team member names, titles, affiliations and contact information

Project proposal (maximum 5 pages)

- Background
- Objectives
- Methods
- Timelines
- Key deliverables
- Project impact and significance (maximum 500 words)

Appendices:

- Proposal references (APA format)
- Budget and justification
- Résumés for each member of the project team, indicating relevant experience in cannabis and policy-related research
- A paragraph (maximum 200 words) on how the project will consider sex, gender, age, equity and diversity. CCSA requires all proposals to consider sex, gender, age, equity and diversity as part of their research in order to create more useful and specific evidence, guidance and perspectives for different groups of Canadians. For more information on how to integrate this kind of analysis in research, see [Sex, Gender and Equity Analysis](#).

2.4 Timelines and Responsibilities

- Deadline for submission of proposals: September 4, 2020
- Selection of proposals: October 2, 2020
- Projects start week of Oct 5, 2020
- **Interim report including preliminary findings: March 1, 2021**
- **Final report deadline: March 18, 2022**



3.0 Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Intended impact and significance of the proposed research project
2. Experience, qualifications, relevant subject-matter expertise and research capability of the bidder and the proposed team, if applicable
3. Understanding by the bidder of the project requirements (the research question must align with priority areas and contribute to the objectives outlined in this RFP)
4. Reasonable budget request and justification
5. Proposed methodology, including feasibility and comprehensiveness
6. Adherence to timelines, including ability to produce the interim report by the deadline
7. Considerations of sex, gender, age, equity and diversity are included in the research plan
8. Overall clarity and presentation of proposal and adherence to the outlined proposal structure

4.0 Submission Process

Application deadline: September 4, 2020

All proposals must be submitted as attachments in digital format through email and received on or before 3:00 p.m. (EST), Friday, September 4, 2020, by:

Karen Pacheco, Research Analyst and Coordinator
Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
E-mail: kpacheco@ccsa.ca

Bidders are encouraged to indicate to Karen Pacheco their intention to apply prior to submitting their proposals. Bidders are responsible for costs related to developing and submitting proposals, which will not be covered by CCSA.

Please address any questions about this RFP to Karen Pacheco (kpacheco@ccsa.ca). CCSA will respond to questions within two business days of receipt. All submitted questions and answers will be circulated to all bidders who have submitted notification of their intention to apply.



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