

**Canadian Research Initiative on Substance Misuse (CRISM)
Prairie Node Regional Advisory Panel
Terms of Reference**

Background

Research in addiction occurs in a number of academic institutions and research centres across Canada. A recently commissioned bibliometric analysis covering the period from 1997 – 2011 showed that Canadian researchers and research groups working on addiction are somewhat isolated from each other and that most collaborations arise from personal relations rather than as elements of larger and more integrated consortia. Interventions not based at academic institutions are rarely linked to existing research groups, and there is a lack of communication between service providers and academic research teams. This limits the relevance of intervention research and inhibits translation and incorporation of evidence-based practices into intervention programs.

To address these gaps, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), through its Institute for Neurosciences, Mental Health, and Addiction (INMHA), has developed a national research consortium in substance misuse: the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM). CRISM was modeled, in part on the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Clinical Trials Network. In 2014, CIHR provided infrastructure funds to establish 4 regional CRISM Nodes, one each located in BC, the Prairies, Ontario, and Quebec/Atlantic. The overall objectives of the CRISM network are to:

1. Identify and/or develop the most appropriate clinical and community-based prevention or treatment interventions for substance misuse;
2. Provide evidence to support the enhancement of prevention or treatment services regarding substance misuse to decision makers and service providers; and
3. Support improvement in the quality of care and quality of life for Canadians living with substance misuse.

Mandate

The Regional Advisory Panel (RAP) will facilitate information exchange between strategic decision-making in each Province and strategic planning for Node activities and inform decisions made by the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC).

Panel Composition

The RAP will be overseen by the NPI (*Wild*) and includes senior executives occupying key strategic positions within Prairie SM service systems and a representative from the Nechi Institute.

Guidance

The RAP will be informed by the CIHR Executive Committee (3 PIs, PKU and PCA).

Term

RCC members agree to serve for the duration of the CRISM funding period (2020). In the event a member needs to step down, the RCC and RAP will identify a suitable replacement.

Meetings

RAP will convene semi-annually via teleconference to review progress and to provide advice to RCC

Support

Administrative support will be provided by the Prairie Node staff as needed.

Evaluation

Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised as necessary.