

**Canadian Research Initiative on Substance Misuse (CRISM)
Prairie Node Regional Coordinating Committee
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 Coordinating Committee (RCC) will set strategic direction (with respect to research priorities and opportunities for collaboration across the CRISM network), resource allocation and staffing for the Prairie Node, and will provide strategic oversight of initiatives to secure complementary funding.

Committee Composition

The RCC will include the 3 PIs (Wild, Hodgins, Dell), the Knowledge Users and the Principal Consumer Advocate.

Guidance

The RCC will be informed by the Regional Advisory Panel (RAP).

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

RCC will convene 3 times per year via teleconference to review progress. As required by CIHR, RCC members will also chair and participate in the annual CRISM meeting.

Support

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

Evaluation

Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised as necessary.