

Latest news from CRISM

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News and Notes

News and Notes keeps you in the loop on Regional and National activities from the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM) Prairie Node.

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You can contact CRISM Prairies using the information provided at the bottom of this email.



CRISM Prairies Updates

CRISM COVID-19 National Rapid Guidance Documents

The Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM) has undertaken urgent activities related to COVID-19 mental health and substance use guidelines. With funding provided through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, the CRISM network has produced six guidance documents to support the Government of Canada's continued rapid response to address the health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collectively, the six documents address urgent needs of people who use substances, service providers, and decision makers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The documents address the following topics:

- [Supporting people who use substances in shelter settings during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Telemedicine support for addiction services](#)
- [Supporting people who use substance in acute care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Harm reduction worker safety during the COVID-19 global pandemic](#)
- [Strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in supportive recovery programs and residential addiction treatment services](#)
- [Medications and other clinical approaches to support physical distancing for people who use substances during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

You can review and download all six documents by clicking on the links above or by visiting our national website at <https://crism.ca/projects/covid/> where you can also [provide feedback](#) on the documents.

CRISM National Implementation Science Program on Opioid Interventions and Services

In 2017 CRISM proposed developing 12 thematic project areas to address the ongoing opioid crisis in Canada. Funding to support this work was provided through the Emerging Health Threats Research Fund facilitated by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Since that time the [CRISM implementation science program on opioid interventions and services](#) has been successfully developing innovative research approaches, creating evidence-based resources, and promoting advancements in service delivery and care.

The 12 project areas include:

- [Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment](#)
- [Expanding Access to Nurse-Led Models of Care](#)
- [Engaging with People with Lived Experience of Substance Use](#)
- [Opioid Agonist Treatment Guidelines for First Nations governed, community-based and residential services](#)
- [Supervised Consumption Services](#)
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We encourage Prairie Node members and the public to continue accessing these important resources.

Please be sure to share this information with your other networks!

CRISM Prairies and Alberta Health Services Analytics Partnership

The [Alberta Addiction and Mental Health Research Partnership Program](#) and the [Addictions & Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network](#) of Alberta Health Services have partnered with CRISM Prairies to address research, evaluation, quality improvement, and measurement questions related to substance use. This analytic and research collaboration is opening up administrative data on substance use and is creating a line of sight between applied knowledge generation and research activity.

The long-term goals of this partnership are to support researcher access to addiction and mental health client data from acute and specialty health care services and programs, and to promote innovation in analytics.

Projects supported to date include analysis of Amphetamines ([Report](#) & [Infographic](#)) and Cannabis ([Report](#) & [Infographic](#)). You can also access these materials on the [Advancement of Analytics in Addiction](#) page of the CRISM Prairies website.

To learn more about how this analytics partnership can benefit your research aims, or to discuss your project ideas please contact [Denise Adams](#). You can also learn more at the [Analytics Program Page](#) of the CRISM Prairies website.

CRISM Prairies Project Development Fund Open Again!

We are pleased to announce that the CRISM Prairies Project Development Fund is open again and accepting applications!

The Project Development Fund provides CRISM Prairies [members](#) the opportunity to apply for one-time funding, up to \$15,000, to support research and/or knowledge exchange projects in the area of substance use.

You can learn more about the program on our [funding page](#). We look forward to reviewing your proposal!

Events & Activities

Event: National Addictions Awareness Week Materials from CCSA

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have that important discussion about substance use and substance use disorder.



#NAAW
#CHANGEBEGINSWITHME

National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) is November 22-28 2020!

This week highlights solutions to help address the harms related to alcohol and other drug use. The Canadian Centre on Substance use and Addiction (CCSA) provides resources and materials to participate by sharing the facts or as an ambassador for change.

The theme for 2020 is **Change Begins with Me**. You can share the facts or be an ambassador for change by downloading and sharing social media graphics, facts, or slogans available on the CCSA website - <https://www.ccsa.ca/national-addictions-awareness-week>
#ChangeBeginsWithMe #NAAW

Conference: High-risk substance use and overdose among youth



Recognizing the desperate need for effective youth substance use services, this event is hosted in partnership at the University of British Columbia. This event creates an opportunity to address experiences in dealing with youth in the substance use field, the system of care, as well as the treatment paradigms from diverse perspectives. The outcome of which should drive an effective response to this public health crisis.

Registration is free and the preliminary program is available for download by visiting the conference [website](#). Please direct any questions to acdadmin@cheos.ubc.ca

Webinar: COVID-19 in Mental Health and Substance Use - Key findings from CIHR's Knowledge Synthesis Grant Recipients



HUB

COVID-19 in Mental Health and Substance Use: Key findings from CIHR's Knowledge Synthesis Grant Recipients

Join the Alberta Addiction and Mental Health research hub for their second series of presentations by Alberta recipients of CIHR's Knowledge Synthesis Grants on COVID-19 in Mental Health and Substance Use on December 10, 2020.

Learn about the latest evidence base regarding mental health and substance use issues affected by COVID-19. Presentations will be provided by:

- **Dr. Kathryn Birnie**, University of Calgary: Rapid evidence and gap map of virtual care solutions for youth and families to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pain, mental health, and substance use
- **Dr. Zahra Goodarzi**, University of Calgary: Dr. Jennifer Watt University of Toronto Depression in community Residing Elders (DIRE): A rapid review and network meta-analysis of depression telemedicine treatments for older adults living in the community
- **Dr. Salima Meherali**, University of Alberta: Mental health and substance use among children and adolescents amidst COVID-19 - A systematic review

Please register for this event by December 8 2020 by visiting: <http://survey.ahs.ca/researchhub2>
Questions can be directed to: amh.researchhub@ahs.ca

Webinar: First Nations Telehealth Network - Mental wellness during the holiday season



The [First Nations Telehealth Network](#) is hosting an education session regarding mental wellness during the holiday season on December 10 2020, from 10:30am-12:00pm as part of their Miyo-mâmitoneyihcikan / Kedih ùjón "Good Mind" Learning Series.

The learning objectives for this session are:

- Connecting with family & friends and celebrating in a COVID safe way.
- Supporting those with limited support systems during the holidays.

To register for this webinar please visit the website or register [directly here](#).

Webinar:



What are the best approaches to address adversity and trauma and support resilience among those with whom we work? Stakeholders have identified a need for a cohesive and collaborative cross-sector approach in Alberta to prevent and respond to adversity and trauma and support resilience.

On December 10 2020, from 2pm-3pm experts from [PolicyWise for Children & Families](#) will share findings from an environmental scan, preliminary stakeholder engagement, and additional rapid literature scans. Then they will present a proposed framework for collaborative action on adversity, trauma, and resilience, including:

- Key action areas and examples from Alberta
- Roles and responsibilities across sectors and professions
- Common principles
- Current state of evaluation and evidence.

To register for this free webinar please visit the [PolicyWise Eventbrite Page](#) or contact PolicyWise on their [website](#).

Resources & Funding Opportunities

Virtual Supports:

AA Regina online meeting services



Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.), Regina Intergroup would like to provide information for those seeking services during this time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most meetings are being held online through Zoom. If you visit their website you will find a list of meetings for the day, in addition to meetings throughout the week. The scheduled meetings are indicated by the name, time, whether open or closed, and ID number. Most will provide a password for further online security with in-person meetings listed as well.

To access this important resource and to find additional information please visit:

<https://www.aaregina.com/meetings/?tsml-view=list>

Resource:

**Getting to Tomorrow - Ending the Overdose Crisis
CDPC National Dialogue**



The Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC) has launched a national dialogue toward a hopeful future free from the harms of our current drug policies. The [Getting to Tomorrow: Ending the Overdose](#)

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based on principles of public health and human rights.

The project's title is significant. For people who use drugs, simply *getting to tomorrow* and surviving to see another day is an enormous feat demanding that one navigate the poisons of a toxic illegal drug market, while confronting systemic racism, oppression, stigma and often chronic homelessness. *Getting to tomorrow* also evokes a hopeful future—one in which a new approach to drugs based on public health and human rights ensures the health, dignity and safety of all Canadians.

With shared understanding and common purpose comes transformative change. To learn more please visit <https://gettingtomorrow.ca/>

Resource: Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada



Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada

A Key Partner in the Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System (CMIRPS)

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada is an independent national not-for-profit organization committed to the advancement of medication safety in all healthcare settings.

ISMP Canada has recently collaborated with partner organizations to develop opioid resources for patients based on the [5 questions to ask about your medications](#). This new resource "[Opioids for pain after surgery: Your questions answered](#)" was developed collaboratively with and endorsed by the Canadian Deprescribing Network, CPSI, Patients for Patient Safety Canada, Choosing Wisely Canada, CADTH, CSHP, CNA and CMA, and North York General Hospital in accordance with recent guidelines and preferred practices.

To review this important resource and locate additional materials please visit the ISMP website <https://www.ismp-canada.org/index.htm>

Resource: Mother's Stories of Advocacy - Project Report



In 2016 a group of university researchers and parent advocates came together to participate on the first Canadian qualitative research project about parent advocacy following substance use death. Interviews with mothers across the country began in the summer of 2017 and continued throughout the year. Since then the research team have been analyzing the data, presented emerging findings at conferences and talks, and wrote and presented papers for publication in academic journals.

The team further developed a report to share the results of this work with community partners and stakeholders, as well as research participants. The report provides the background for the study, a high-level summary of findings, and how the project team is sharing the outcomes with researchers and the

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To access *Mother's Stories of Advocacy: Following their child's substance passing (2017-2019)* please visit the [Moms Stop The Harm Website](#) or download the pdf file [directly](#).

Did you miss it? Items from our previous issues...

Thunderbird Partnership Foundation - COVID-19 support for First Nations treatment centres and communities



Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (TPF) has created a new [webpage](#) to share supports for everyone providing substance use and mental wellness supports for First Nations during COVID-19.

TPF is expanding their online presence, with more training courses being added to the website, the development of webinars, on-going weekly conference calls to support and connect with treatment centres, and continued advocacy with government partners to ensure supports for those who need it most during this pandemic.

Resources include:

- Messages from Thunderbird Partnership Foundation
- Fact Sheets (Staying Connected to Culture, Supporting Youth, Balancing Work-Life Expectations, and many more.)
- Opioid Specific Resources
- Webinars and online courses
- Workplans

If you have additional resources please contact Thunderbird Partnership Foundation by email (info@thunderbirdpf.org) or by visiting their [website](#) directly.

Canadian Drug Policy Coalition - COVID-19 harm reduction resource hub

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The Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC) is compiling resources and supports for people who use drugs and healthcare providers to create a harm reduction resource hub specifically for COVID-19 and the harm reduction community.

You can share this resource with your networks and submit your own to help build this tool in the fight during an unprecedented public health event.

This resource also contains an advocacy section on the actions you can support to help frontline workers in a time of crisis and organizations where you can provide a donation.

To review available resources please visit the [CDPC website](#) and to submit a resource please email peter_k@sfu.ca

Questions? Comments? Contributions?
Please be in touch using the information provided below!

News For the Node?

If you have news for the node please send the information that you would like included in our next issue to denise.adams@ualberta.ca or barb.fornssler@usask.ca. If something is happening in our region we are happy to share!

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News and Notes is a way to keep informed about CRISM Prairies developments. Email us anytime if you would like to discuss Node activities or for additional information. Please send to node manager denise.adams@ualberta.ca with a copy to cam.wild@ualberta.ca

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