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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.

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Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research



CRISM is a national network dedicated to translating substance misuse intervention research results into practice and policy.

CRISM Prairies Updates

CRISM COVID-19 National Rapid Guidance Documents Update: Webinar Library - Available Now!

UPDATE: Presentations and information sessions related to the national rapid guidance documents will be added to the [National Rapid Guidance](#) webpage as they are available. From this page you can check the ['Webinar Library'](#) for presentations and recordings, or sign up for a [specific webinar topic](#) aligned with your interests!

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 Prairies Website: Listing of Substance Use and Mental Health Agency Sites Now Available!

The CRISM Prairies website now provides an online listing of substance use and mental health agency websites. We hope this resource allows for members to easily access information and materials from multiple organizations to address these important areas of care. For an alphabetical listing please visit: <https://crismprairies.ca/2018/12/20/addiction-mental-health-agency-sites/>

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Listing of CRISM Affiliated or Supported Publications Now Available!

The CRISM Prairies website now provides an online listing of research publications that are supported through the CRISM network or authored by CRISM affiliated researchers. We hope this resource allows for members to showcase, access, and engage materials across the network. To access publications by topic, author, or date of publication please visit: <https://crismprairies.ca/links/crism-prairie-member-publications/>

Recent highlights:

- People with Lived Expertise of Drug Use National Working Group et al. (2021). [Having a voice and saving lives: a qualitative survey on employment impacts of people with lived experience of drug use working in harm reduction](#). *Harm Reduct J.* 18:1.
- Williamson, L., Dell, C., Osgood, N., Chalmers, D., Lohnes, C., Carleton, R., Asmundson, G. (2021). [Examining changes in posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and substance use among a sample of Canadian veterans working with service dogs: An exploratory longitudinal study](#). *Journal of Veteran Studies.* 7(1), pp. 1–13.
- Wild, T.C., Hammal, F., Hancock, M., Bartlett, N.B., Kaiser Gladwin, K., Adams, D., Loverock, A., Hodgins, D.C. (2021). [Forty-eight years of research on psychosocial interventions in the treatment of opioid use disorder: A scoping review](#). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence.* 218.
- Loverock A, Yakovenko I, Wild TC. (2021). [Cannabis norm perceptions among Canadian university students](#). *Addict Behav.* 112:106567.
- Currie, S.R., Hodgins, D.C., Williams, R.J., Fiest, K. (2021). [Predicting future harm from gambling over a five-year period in a general population sample: a survival analysis](#). *BMC Psychiatry.* 7;21(1):15.
- Williams RJ, Leonard CA, Belanger YD, Christensen DR, El-Guebaly N, Hodgins DC, McGrath DS, Nicoll F, Smith GJ, Stevens RMG. (2021). [Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada in 2018: Prevalence and Changes Since 2002: Le Jeu et le Jeu Problématique au Canada en 2018 : Prévalence et Changements Depuis 2002.](#) (2021). *Can J Public Health.* 13.
- Flores-Pajot MC, Atif S, Dufour M, Brunelle N, Currie SR, Hodgins DC, Nadeau L, Young MM. (2021). [Gambling Self-Control Strategies: A Qualitative Analysis](#). *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 12;18(2):586.

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!

Employment Opportunity: CRISM Quebec-Atlantic Node Research Coordinator

Le poste à combler se trouve au sein du laboratoire de recherche de [Dre Julie Bruneau](#), qui étudie l'épidémiologie de la consommation de substances et l'effet des interventions visant à réduire les

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interventions d'essais de modèle de soins intégrés, méthodes qualitatives, méthodes mixtes).

Statut:

- Temps complet, 35 heures par semaine
- Contrat de minimum 12 mois—renouvelable. Note: toute prolongation de contrat est soumise à l'évaluation positive du candidat et à la disponibilité de fonds budgétaires.
- Salaire et avantages sociaux selon les normes du CRCHUM
- Emplacement : Centre de recherche du CHUM, Montréal Québec-Canada
- Horaire de travail: Télétravail ET présentiel
- Entrée en fonction: dès que possible (date d'affichage 9 février 2021)

Pour plus d'information visiter: <https://www.crismquebecatlantic.ca/>

This position is in the research laboratory of [Dr. Julie Bruneau](#), who studies the epidemiology of substance use and the effect of interventions aimed at reducing the related harms/risks, with the aim of improving the health of people who use drugs. The lab employs a variety of research and analysis methods (longitudinal studies, randomized clinical trials, integrated care model trial interventions, qualitative methods, mixed methods).

Status:

- Full time, 35 hours per week
- Minimum 12-month contract - renewable. Note: any contract extension is subject to the candidate's positive evaluation and the availability funding.
- Salary and benefits according to CRCHUM standards
- Location: CHUM Research Center, Montreal Quebec-Canada
- Work schedule: Telework AND in-person
- Starting date: as soon as possible (original posting date February 9, 2021)

For more information please visit: <https://www.crismquebecatlantic.ca/>

Events & Activities

**Conference: 10th Annual E-Mental Health Conference
Virtual Care in Times of Crisis and Beyond
March 3 & 4 2021**



Web-based resources, E-Mental Health, and virtual care, in general, is getting more attention given the physical distancing rules and closure of in-person services. What are the experiences with this way of providing support? How effective are all these apps promising to organize triage and inform patients about risks? This conference will present as much experience as possible to make this crisis also a learning opportunity! Attendees and presenters will reflect on the experiences in different countries, current Canadian solutions, and discuss the future of mental healthcare from different perspectives.

The conference will be hosted on the Whova event platform **March 3 & 4 2021** and is supported by the [Mental Health Commission of Canada](#), [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#), [University Health Network](#), and [UBC Addictions and Concurrent Disorders Research Group](#).

To register for this event please visit the conference website: https://whova.com/web/aeHVC_202103/

Note: Registration is FREE for persons with lived/living experience and students/trainees. General admission and faculty registration is only \$65 CAD.

**Conference: 14th European Congress on
Heroin Addiction & Related Clinical Problems
November 19-21 2021**



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EUROPAD exists to improve the lives of non-medical users and their families and to reduce the impact of illicit drug use on society as a whole. The Association works to develop opioid addiction treatment in Europe but also aims to make a major contribution to the knowledge of, and attitudes to, addiction treatment worldwide.

To download the program and learn more about the conference, please visit their website:

<https://www.europad.org/europad20.php>

Virtual Learning Series: ICHOM 2021 - Webinars, Virtual Workshops, Virtual Conference Multiple Dates



The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) Virtual Learning Series 2021 is designed to explain and promote value-based healthcare by highlighting the value of ICHOM Standard Sets adoption for delivering the outcomes that matter most to patients.

The series of insightful and interactive webinars and practical workshops will serve as a perfect opportunity to better understand how to adopt the ICHOM Standard Sets, measure and apply the outcomes that matter most to patients as well as benefits of benchmarking both locally and globally. The patient voice will be a central component of the conversation. Patients will share their role and experiences of partnering with care providers to co-produce the outcomes most meaningful to them.

The Virtual Learning Series will end with the Annual November Congress highlighting the impact of COVID on delivering patient-centric care, provide update on ICHOM's benchmarking platform and machine-readable Standard Sets and most importantly deliver practical sessions and case studies highlighting organizations delivering patient-centric care and discuss key value-based healthcare enablers (data, digitalization and IT).

To learn more about the series and review the agenda please visit the ICHOM 2021 Series website:

<https://conference.ichom.org/series-2021/>

*Early bird [registration fees](#) are available until **March 21** 2021.

Symposium: Time's Up! 3rd Annual Virtual Harm Reduction Symposium



A large spike in overdose deaths has been observed as the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved and an increase in deaths among People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) has been felt across the country. In general,

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supply. It is time to encourage community capacity building to address these complex issues. The Harm Reduction Symposium will provide a platform to discuss innovative and sustainable approaches.

On **February 24** 2021 the 3rd annual Harm Reduction Symposium will bring together many stakeholders to raise awareness, educate, and enhance harm reduction collaboration. To download the symposium agenda please [click here](#). To register for this **FREE event** please visit: www.eventbrite.ca/e/virtual-harm-reduction-symposium-tickets-137767832295

Resources & Funding Opportunities

Call for Experts: Common Measures in Mental Health Science Advisory Group

Apply to be part of the Common Measures
in Mental Health Science Advisory Group

A lack of common measures in mental health research has hampered progress for a long time. Today, there are so many mental health measures used by different researchers that they limit opportunities for synthesis of findings, collaborations, and adoption of new knowledge.

The International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders (IAMHRF) unites funders on a shared mental health research agenda to save lives and improve treatments and care for patients and families worldwide. One of the network's key efforts is to drive adoption of shared data collection instruments that are relevant and transferable to a variety of locations and areas of mental health research.

If you support this agenda of advancing common measures in mental health research, please consider applying to become a member of the Common Measures in Mental Health Science Advisory Group (CMA).

For a brief introduction and to reach the application form please follow [this link](#). The call will be active throughout the month of February and is anticipated to close at midnight EST on **February 28 2021**. Questions can be sent by email: iamhrf@grahamboeckhofoundation.org

Fellowship: The Data Incubator - Data Science Fellowship Program Opens March 22 2021



The Data Science Fellowship Program from [The Data Incubator](#) is one of the most rigorous, intensive programs available today. Designed to create the data scientists of tomorrow from qualified STEM academics, this program provides the skills needed to succeed.

Apply today to learn the most in-demand tools and programs from leading data scientists with years of experience at some of the world's most innovative companies and universities. Become an expert in Python, Spark, and TensorFlow while refining your coding and deployment abilities. By the end of the program, you'll have the skills and tools you need to become one of the leading data scientists of the future.

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on March 22, 2021.

To [apply](#) or learn more about this opportunity please visit The Data Incubator Fellowship website:
<https://www.thedataincubator.com/fellowship.html#program>

Survey: CCSA Substance Use in Canada 2021

The impact of the overdose crisis on harm reduction service providers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

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The survey "Substance Use in Canada 2021: The impact of the overdose crisis on harm reduction service providers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic" is being conducted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA). The purpose of this survey is to gather information on the experiences and needs of individuals who provide harm reduction services in the context of the ongoing overdose crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic across Canada.

The intent is to better understand the benefits and challenges being experienced by individuals providing harm reduction services during the dual overdose and COVID-19 crises. Additionally, we would like to understand the services and supports that could be put in place to ensure the well-being of the individuals performing this work. The survey findings will be used to educate health system planners, and policy and decision makers about the experiences of individuals providing harm reduction services and how they can facilitate these services as one component of the response to opioid harms.

The survey is open to individuals of legal age (18 years for Quebec, Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba; 19 years for all other provinces and territories) to provide informed consent for research, and who reside in Canada and who provide harm reduction services to others in some capacity. We expect to enroll 700 participants in this study.

To participate in the study please visit: <https://ccsa.limequery.com/928929> The survey will close on approximately **March 24, 2021**. If you have any concerns about the survey or how it is being conducted, please email suic@ccsa.ca

Resource:

INMHA Strategic Plan 2020-2022 Available



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) [Strategic Plan 2020-2022](#) is now available.

INMHA was in the final stages of publication when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. In addition to delaying publication of the plan, it also quickly became clear that Canadians were collectively experiencing a traumatic event and that there would be substantial mental health implications that required attention.

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This proactive response to provide urgent knowledge and evidence to support decision-making throughout the mental health responses to the pandemic is a collaboration with Health Canada (HC), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and five additional CIHR Institutes.

More information can be found at: [COVID-19 and Mental Health \(CMH\) Initiative](#).

Resource:

Drug Rehab Services - Directory of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services



Drug Rehab Services (DRS) is a substance abuse resource that's completely free, with the goal to educate people about addiction and connect them to treatment resources. DRS has compiled one of the largest and most complete directories of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in Canada. The database is regularly updated and includes 70+ types of service. All services can be searched by province or city! To learn more about this resource please visit the website directly: <https://www.drugrehab.ca/>

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

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 Crisis](#) project will involve 18 community dialogues that will unfold over two years. They will acknowledge the urgent need to change the way we approach illegal drugs in Canada and explore a new approach 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://gettingtotomorrow.ca/>

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



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.

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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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