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Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse

News and Notes

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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.

In Memoriam

Karen Turner

(Aug. 11, 1964 – Mar. 22, 2021)



The CRISM | Prairies community mourns the loss of one of our members, Karen Turner, who passed away March 22, 2021. Karen joined CRISM | Prairies in 2017 and served on the Node Executive Committee. Karen was instrumental in representing the voices of PWLLE to the national CRISM leadership and our regional members and stakeholders. Her wisdom steadfastly guided CRISM to never lose sight of making our Node's work relevant to people who use drugs.

Karen was an incredibly authentic and tireless advocate for both people who use drugs and those who have been incarcerated. She spent her career supporting people, mentoring others, and advocating for human rights and health, and was never afraid to speak truth to power. Karen was instrumental in efforts to establish supervised consumption services in Edmonton. In 2014, she single-handedly recruited over 300 survey participants into research that helped demonstrate the need for supervised consumption services in the city and participated in multiple advocacy meetings with officials and media interviews.

In addition to her role with CRISM | Prairies. Karen served as President of Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly (AAWEAR) and was a long standing board member with the Canadian

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support for injectable opioid agonist treatment clinics in Edmonton and Calgary, as well as a number of other positive policy changes. In 2019, Karen addressed the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Health in support of developing and implementing pharmaceutical safe supply, housing, and anti-poverty programs for people who use methamphetamine. Although she was recognized nationally for her leadership, Karen will also be remembered for the day-to-day support she provided to community members and colleagues at Streetworks and Boyle Street Community Services in Edmonton.

We remember Karen as witty and wry, driven, incredibly compassionate, fiery, and humble. She commanded respect as a very strong woman with a wealth of knowledge and expertise and we are honoured to have known her and learned from her. Our hearts go out to Karen's family, close friends, colleagues and community members. Thank you for everything you shared with us Karen. You will be dearly missed. Donations can be made to the Edmonton SPCA in her honor.

CRISM Prairies Updates

Research Collaboration Receives 2021 CBRCanada Excellence in Community-Campus Research Excellence Award!

Members of the CRISM Prairies network and research partners have received the [Community Based Research Canada, Excellence in Community-Campus Research Excellence Award](#) for the Research Partnership: "[Mother's stories of advocacy following their child's substance passing](#)"

As summarized by the CBR Canada Selection Committee:

"Your work is a shining example of the multitude of qualities that makes for an outstanding community-campus research partnership. The CBRCanada Award Adjudication Committee was especially impressed by how your research demonstrated a dedication to community-driven, participatory, and action-oriented research; the blend of community-university partners involved; and powerful knowledge mobilization efforts (including the [See Beyond website](#), [podcast](#), film festival showcase, and [academic publications](#)). Your work also demonstrated exceptional research impact, both in support of community organizations (i.e., bereavement peer support program funding) and in facilitating systems changes to help address the devastating impact and stigma of the opioid epidemic across Canada and around the world".

The award was [presented to team members on May 6 2021](#) in celebration of this outstanding accomplishment.

Research team members include; [Petra Schulz](#) (Moms Stop the Harm), [Dr. Rebecca Haines-Saah](#) (Principal Investigator, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary), [Dr. Elaine Hyshka](#) (School of Public Health, University of Alberta) and [Dr. Emily Jenkins](#) (School of Nursing, University of British Columbia), [Heather Morris](#) (PhD Candidate, School of Public Health, University of Alberta) and many additional contributors and partners. Congratulations to all!

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!

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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 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

Participants Needed: COVID Survey for Counsellors and Clients



University of
Lethbridge



Go to survey

We are conducting a study on **Relationship and Spirituality in Counselling Intake Assessment During and Following COVID-19** from the perspectives of counsellors and clients, funded by the [Prentice Institute of Global Population and Economy](#) at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta.

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[Counsellor](https://uleth.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6LFuY6GsBy0tZop) Survey (5-10 minutes) - https://uleth.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6LFuY6GsBy0tZop

[Client](https://uleth.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJud6kOZsCOJLQF) Survey (20- 30 min) - https://uleth.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJud6kOZsCOJLQF

This research has been approved by the University of Lethbridge Human Participant Research Committee (Protocol 2021-014).

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions by contacting the Research Coordinator at rscovid@uleth.ca.

Respondents Needed: Survey of Professionals on a Public Health Approach to Substance Use



This online survey of public health, public safety, and other health and social service professionals was designed by the [Canadian Public Health Association](#) (CPHA) to help to better understand knowledge, beliefs/attitudes, and capacity (e.g., individual and organizational learning and training needs) related to a public health approach to substance use.

Data from this survey will inform the identification of knowledge and capacity needs, and accompanying development of capacity-building tools and other resources. The results of this survey may also be reported in academic publications and at professional meetings or conferences.

The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You can access the survey [here](#) or by visiting the CPHA website.

Free Virtual Conference: *Let's Talk Overdose: The hidden pandemic and how to stop it* June 23 2021



**LET'S TALK
OVERDOSE**

On June 23 2021, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, people with lived/living experience, and youth from all over the world will gather for a virtual conference on the overdose crisis and how to stop it. This full-day event will feature keynote speakers, lightning talks, and workshops highlighting international experiences, emerging treatments and potential solutions to the overdose crisis.

This event is **free** for all attendees in order to encourage participation from anyone who is interested in this topic. We encourage those who can to make a small donation towards the cost of organizing this event and future initiatives that address the opioid crisis.

You can register by visiting: https://whova.com/portal/registration/overd_202106/

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Free iOAT Training Session: BC ECHO on Substance Use June 24 2021



On **June 24 2021**, there is an **iOAT training session** using the [BC ECHO on Substance Use](#) as a platform. This virtual learning community uses an interactive platform to link health care providers to a core interdisciplinary team with expertise in the clinical management of substance use disorders. It consists of a short lecture followed by a patient case presentation. Interdisciplinary experts and participants discuss the case and collectively develop appropriate recommendations.

This session is free to join and will be presented by Dr. Rupi Brar and Dr. Marie-Ève Goyer.

You can learn more about the session and sign up here (national):

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/management-of-opioid-use-disorder-with-injectable-opioid-agonist-treatment-tickets-153572209613>

Resources & Funding Opportunities

Resource: Alberta Community Based Naloxone Program Learning Module



The interim Community Based Naloxone training module is live internally for all Alberta Health Services (AHS) staff and externally for non-AHS community organizations and members of the public.

AHS staff can take the module via MyLearningLink, course name **Community Based Naloxone – Training for Kit Distribution – 10001**.

Non-AHS community based organizations and any member of the public can access the module called **Community Based Naloxone Training for Kit Distribution** on www.ahs.ca/naloxone, in the Training Resources box.

Direct link to module:

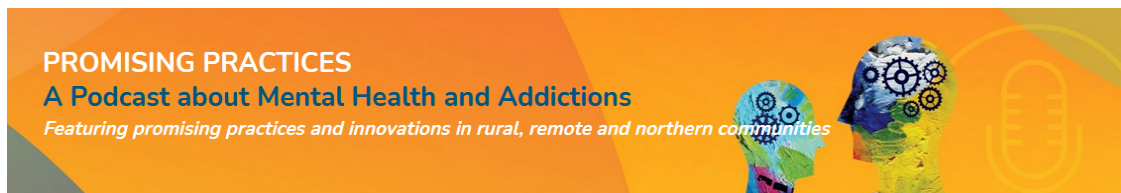
https://ahamms01.https.internapcdn.net/ahamms01/Content/AHS_Website/modules/naloxone/story.html

This learning module is required for AHS staff distributing kits within AHS settings, and may be used with any other specific training at your site. The course content has been updated to align with the [Community Based Naloxone Program Opioid Poisoning Response Curriculum Guide for Trainers](#) and the current kit instruction insert. The course will take approximately 30 minutes and includes audio and closed captions.

This module is an interim module that will be replaced by an interactive module in September 2021. Any feedback we receive will be considered for the final module. If you have any questions or concerns,

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Resource: Promising Practices Podcast



[Canada's Premiers](#) have created a podcast dedicated to sharing promising practices in mental health and addictions and reducing the stigma of mental illness. The podcast, entitled [Promising Practices](#), consists of 13 episodes. Each episode profiles an innovative program or initiative in one of the provinces and territories, with a focus on rural, remote and northern communities.

Mental health and addictions issues continue to impact many Canadians. The steps taken to protect Canadians from COVID-19 have brought greater focus to these issues. Given the importance of mental health and addictions, all Premiers are pleased to share these important stories from across the country with Canadians through this podcast.

Podcast episodes were released between March and June 2021. You can learn more about the podcast by visiting: <https://www.canadapremiers.ca/podcast/>

Resource: Healthcare Excellence Canada Virtual *Learning Together* Series



[Healthcare Excellence Canada](#) (HEC) virtual learning opportunities are all about one thing: connecting people. Bringing a diverse range of people together, from across the country, to share experiences and insights, ask question, listen and talk. Exploring solutions. Celebrating lasting improvements. So we can all benefit.

When you join a HEC virtual learning opportunity, you will hear directly from the people doing the work. Indigenous Partners, Patient Partners, families, caregivers, innovators, physicians, policymakers, researchers. These learning opportunities are not about us talking at you. They are about all of us, coming together for purposeful conversations.

The virtual learning together series regarding emergency shelters and substance use facilities connects residential substance use centres and emergency shelters so lessons learnt can be shared and more people can benefit. The learning series includes a mixture of formats - webinars, huddles, discussion forums and workshops.

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Employment Opportunity: Two Senior-Level Positions Open at BCCSU



The [BC Centre on Substance Use](#) (BCCSU) has two senior-level positions open for application. BCCSU is seeking candidates with diverse disciplinary backgrounds to fill two roles in the organization. Titles, descriptions, and application links provided below:

1) [Associate Director, Education and Clinical Activities](#)

Role: Provides support the Director in the execution of the strategy for the Centre's education and clinical activities including the development and dissemination of provincial clinical care guidance documents, evidence-based clinical guidelines, practice support tools, policy briefs and aligned educational offerings. Supports the Director in the supervision of a team of program and project managers, coordinators, medical writers and trainees. Supports or supervises, as directed, on grant development and clinical and educational fundraising. Works alongside the Director with a range of internal and external stakeholders and provincially networked partners on relevant BCCSU strategies, programs and outputs. Supports the Director with the oversight of the BCCSU educational programs, and works collaboratively with the BCCSU Co-Medical Directors interdisciplinary addiction medicine fellowship programs and Directors across the BCCSU training programs. Works with the Director and BCCSU's Senior Director of Administration to support the development and maintenance of BCCSU clinical and educational infrastructure. Represents the Centre in appropriate committees and working groups.

2) [Director, Education and Clinical Activities](#)

Role: Oversees execution of the strategy for the Centre's education and clinical activities including the development and dissemination of provincial clinical care guidance documents, evidence-based clinical guidelines, practice support tools, policy briefs and educational offerings. As an integral member of the Centre's leadership, and in partnership with the BCCSU's Co-Medical Directors, the incumbent actively engages the development of the Centre's long- and short-term strategies, goals and objectives. Oversees a team of program and project managers, coordinators, medical writers and trainees. Supervises grant development and clinical and educational fundraising. Works closely with a range of internal and external stakeholders and provincially networked partners on relevant BCCSU strategies, programs and outputs. Actively supports the BCCSU's interdisciplinary program of research related to substance use including advising on clinical and education focused projects. Oversees the BCCSU educational programs, and works collaboratively with the BCCSU Co-Medical Directors interdisciplinary addiction medicine fellowship programs and Directors across the BCCSU training programs. Works with the BCCSU's Senior Director of Administration to support the development and maintenance of BCCSU clinical and educational infrastructure. Represents the Centre in appropriate committees and working groups.

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

Resource:
Getting to Tomorrow - Ending the Overdose Crisis
CDPC National Dialogue

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des politiques
sur les drogues

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.

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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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