

November 23–25 | 23-25 novembre

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Call for Submissions

We invite you to participate in the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's (CCSA) **Issues of Substance 2021** conference, to be held virtually, November 23–25, 2021. Since the conference is being held online, a location-based land acknowledgement does not capture our distribution across many locations in Canada and around the world. Given the location of the CCSA offices, we recognize that Ottawa is located on unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation. We extend our respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples for their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

CCSA's Issues of Substance is Canada's only national conference to bring together a wide range of people from across the country who hold valuable perspectives on substance use issues. Healthcare professionals, harm reduction workers, counsellors, researchers, policy makers, knowledge brokers and those with direct or indirect lived or living experience with substance use or a substance use disorder come together with the common goal of learning from each others' knowledge and experience. We are pleased to be partnering again this year with the Mental Health Commission of Canada as the National Partner for this event and to dedicate one of the half-days of the conference to mental health and substance use.

The virtual event, which will occur over three consecutive half days, will provide a secure and open environment to share diverse perspectives, valuable experiences, new research, and best and promising practices. It will also provide opportunities to network with others and participate in workshops related to substance use and addiction, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and mental health.

CCSA is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the 2021 conference. Our conference acknowledges the principle that all voices should have a platform to share knowledge and experience. With this in mind, we welcome submissions for research, program or policy abstracts (Academic Abstracts) and submissions based on personal experience related to substance use (Personal Experience).

Submissions are due no later than **Monday, April 12, 2021**. For more information about the conference, visit the Issues of Substance [website](#).

See this section for more information on [Academic Abstract Submissions](#).

See this section for more information on [Personal Experience Submissions](#).

Do you have experience with substance use and want to share your story?

For more information, click here: [Personal Experience Submissions](#)



Academic Abstract Submissions

Conference Theme

The theme for **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021** conference is **Driving Change Together**.

Substance use is a complex, far reaching and consequential issue. It takes a wide range of perspectives and collective efforts to drive the needed change to shape a brighter future for people who use substances. Wellness will be improved in a future where barriers are broken down and stigma is eliminated.

Substance use is associated with a staggering health impact and cost to society. In 2017, substance use in Canada cost almost \$46 billion. It led to more than 275,000 hospitalizations and contributed to the loss of nearly 75,000 lives. The COVID-19 pandemic is making the substance use landscape in Canada even more complex by having a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of Canadians. The pandemic is shining a light on the inequity that exists in our country, especially around health and access to health care. It is disproportionately affecting individuals and communities who are marginalized. And it is making an already devastating opioid crisis worse.

An early key lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that we need to be able to adapt to changing contexts. There is immense opportunity for innovation through science and technology. We must work together to shape our future. These lessons are equally true in the field of substance use and addiction.

By driving change together, we can create a healthier Canadian society where evidence transforms approaches to substance use.

Guidelines for Academic Abstract Submissions

Individuals and teams are encouraged to submit abstracts that stimulate ideas and discussion, promote learning of knowledge and skills, and energize attendees to participate in debate. We are seeking presentations, posters and workshops on policies, programs and frameworks that include evidence-informed practices, emerging research and innovative knowledge exchange strategies.

Abstracts are welcome on the impact of COVID-19 on substance use and people who use substances, the intersection between substance use and mental health, the use and impact of all substances, including alcohol, opioids, cannabis, stimulants, and other licit and illicit drugs or drugs with evolving legal status (e.g., novel psychoactive substances, e-cigarettes, etc.), as well as research on and evaluations of programs and initiatives. Abstract submissions focusing on process or on behavioural addictions such as gambling are also welcome. Although we will consider all abstracts, we are looking for submissions that support the following subthemes:

- Current trends and new issues
- Local and new substance use programs
- Mental health and substance use
- Truth and reconciliation and Indigenous approaches to healing
- At-risk or priority populations (e.g., youth, incarcerated persons, older adults, people who are homeless, new Canadians, LGBTQ2+, etc.)
- Stigma and discrimination
- Innovative and novel approaches to delivering care (e.g., virtual care, therapy animals, etc.)
- The continuum of care: promoting health, preventing harms and supporting recovery



- Building capacity and wellness with people who use substances (e.g., peer-led support, self-directed living, etc.)

We are requiring presenters to consider sex, gender and diversity as part of their work to help create more useful and specific evidence, guidance and perspectives for different groups of Canadians. Additionally, if your study focused on a specific population (e.g., Indigenous peoples, people with lived or living experience, youth, etc.), we are asking presenters to describe their engagement with this population. As part of the abstract submission, please provide a brief summary (100 words or less) about how your project has considered or could consider in the future sex, gender or diversity (e.g., ethnicity, race, socio-economic status, religion, etc.) and, if applicable, how your study engaged or could engage in the future specific populations (100 words or less).



Presentation Formats for Academic Abstract Submissions

Applicants must [submit their abstracts](#) by **Monday, April 12, 2021**. The requirements for Academic Abstract Submissions are provided below.

Abstracts should be 250 words or less in English or French and be for one of the formats described below. Please note that the word limit does not include the 100-word summaries on sex, gender and diversity considerations or on engagement with specific groups. These summaries are to be provided separately when the abstract is submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact ios-info@ccsa.ca.

Oral Presentations (15 or 45 minutes)

Individual presentations of 15 minutes or team presentations that feature a panel of three 15-minute presentations allow for a brief overview of the major points or highlights of a particular program or research project. All presentations will be followed by 15 minutes of moderated discussion and questions from a discussant that will be arranged by the Issues of Substance Program Committee. Oral presentations for work that has been completed will be given preference. Applicants **must include the following information** in the abstract **using the headings provided**:

- Title
- Learning objectives for the presentation
- Background
- Objectives of your research or project
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions

Abstracts for the 45-minute team presentations that feature three 15-minute presentations should clearly describe the three topics that will be addressed in the panel. **Do not submit separate abstracts for each of the three presentations** to be included in the panel.

Interactive Learning Workshops (60 minutes)

Workshops are interactive learning opportunities to demonstrate the real-life application of techniques and skills. The abstracts for workshops must include a clear explanation of how participants will be engaged and actively participate in learning. **Participation cannot be limited to simple questions-and-answers or group dialogue**. Applicants **must include the following information** in the abstract **using the headings provided**:

- Title
- Learning objectives for the workshop
- Description
- Interactive formats or processes

Presenters are responsible for translating electronic handouts to be used for workshops and for ensuring that any interactive components can be accomplished in an online environment. For information about the Issues of Substance platform, please contact ios-info@ccsa.ca.



Posters

Posters allow for the presentation of key points or highlights of a particular research project, program or intervention. Posters must be provided in a format suitable for digital display. The author must be available to engage with conference participants about their submission by responding to questions about their work during designated periods (to be determined prior to the conference). Applicants **must include the following information** in the abstract **using the headings provided**:

- Title
- Background
- Objectives of your research or project
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions



Submitting an Academic Abstract

Applicants must [submit abstracts](#) electronically by **Monday, April 12, 2021**. Abstract applicants can submit no more than two abstracts as primary author and the primary presenter must be one of the co-authors listed on the abstract. The Issues of Substance Program Committee reserves the right to limit the number of abstracts or submissions accepted for review, has final authority in selecting presenters and will inform applicants in June 2021 as to whether their submission has been accepted.

For individuals with lived or living experience with substance use or a substance use disorder and affected family and friends who are interested in submitting a presentation based on personal experience, please go to the section for [Personal Experience Submissions](#).

Need help with your abstract submission?

For sample academic abstracts and tips for preparing your abstract, see [Tips for Writing an Abstract](#).

You can also email ios-info@ccsa.ca or call 1-833-235-4048 to speak with someone from CCSA for direct assistance.

Who Should Submit an Abstract?

Individuals and organizations from disciplines associated with substance use and addiction, public health, mental health and substance use, and behavioural addictions are invited to submit abstracts for **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021** that showcase their initiatives, research, programs or best practices. Appropriate disciplines include addiction specialists (e.g., treatment providers, addiction medicine practitioners, clinical staff, counsellors, social workers, etc.), allied professionals (e.g., hospital staff, law enforcement personnel, correctional workers, nutritionists, teachers, etc.), public health professionals (e.g., public health nurses, health promotion program staff, etc.), policy and service planners, program managers, academic and clinical researchers, students, postdoctoral fellows, residents and private sector professionals.

A key intent of **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021** is to stimulate discussion and the exchange of ideas by presenting **new or emerging** initiatives, policy analyses, knowledge exchange and research. To this end, work submitted for presentation should not have been reported previously in a publication, either as an article or as an abstract.

Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria will each be given equal weight in the assessment of abstracts:

- Strength and appropriateness of evidence or knowledge base for the abstract content
- Potential to stimulate discussion and learning
- Significance and potential impact of findings or conclusions on the substance use and addiction field
- Consideration of sex, gender and diversity as part of the work
- Engagement with a relevant population if this was the focus of the work
- Overall quality and clarity of the abstract



Required Information

Before completing the [online submission form](#), applicants should ensure that they can provide the following information:

- Description of how the work has considered or could consider in the future issues related to sex, gender and diversity
- If applicable, a description of how a specific population was engaged in the work
- Preferred presentation format
- Primary and alternate subtheme that best applies to the abstract (this information will only be used to assist in reviewing abstracts)
- Language of presentation (English or French)
- Full title, name, organizational affiliation and email addresses of the presenter and all presenting co-authors (up to a maximum of nine)
- If this research has been previously published, the publication name and year
- If this research has been presented at another conference, the title, location and year of the conference

Upon Acceptance

- CCSA will email all communications about an abstract submission to the applicant (primary presenter), who is responsible for distributing information to other authors or co-authors.
- If an applicant accepts an offer to present, but is later unable to attend, they must provide to CCSA the name of the alternate speaker who is a co-author on the original abstract or the presentation will be withdrawn from the program.
- Presenters will be required to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of their presentation or workshop, or on their poster, as well as the funder of their work.
- All presenters must register for the conference and pay their registration fee by Friday, July 9, 2021.



Personal Experience Submissions

Conference Theme

The theme for **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021** conference is **Driving Change Together**.

Substance use touches many lives. This reality has been made painfully clear during the current opioid and COVID-19 crises. To be successful in breaking down barriers, erasing stigma and improving wellness related to substance use, we need all people and perspectives working together. Collectively, we can shape a brighter future for people who are vulnerable to risk or harms related to substance use.

The goal of our conference is to ensure all voices connected to issues of substance use are provided with the opportunity to be heard. To this end, we are inviting individuals with lived or living experience in substance use or a substance use disorder and affected family and friends to share their perspectives, experiences and knowledge. These personal stories can help us all better understand substance use and recovery.

By driving change together, we can create a healthier Canadian society.

Guidelines for Personal Experience Submissions

If you would like to contribute to the conference by presenting your experience and perspectives on a topic related to substance use, please submit your presentation idea using the [online submission form](#). All submissions are to be electronic and must be submitted by **Monday, April 12, 2021**.

Things to consider:

- This year's conference will be virtual and we encourage different types of submissions such as posters, artwork, storytelling or other type of oral presentation.
- The conference audience will be healthcare professionals, researchers, those with lived and living experience and many others.
- Example ideas include the challenges and successes of providing support to those who use substances; the use and impact of different types of drugs; managing wellness while using substances, especially during COVID-19; substance use and mental health; stigma and discrimination; and alternative or new approaches to providing support to people who use substances. Ideas about alternative recovery stories and practices can also be helpful.

Need help with your personal experience submission?

We at CCSA would be pleased to help you with your submission.

You can email ios-info@ccsa.ca or call 1-833-235-4048 to speak with someone from CCSA for direct assistance.

What we are looking for:

- Your idea should be relevant to the topic of substance use.
- Your idea should have a message that can be presented with clarity to the audience. Consider an idea or message that could improve their work and understanding of people with lived and living experience of using substances. If you are a person with living experience (actively using drugs including alcohol), helping others understand the pros and cons of your experience could be helpful. If you are a person in recovery, your recovery practices might open a door to possibilities others have not considered.



Conference Subsidies

A limited number of subsidies are available to cover the cost of registration for CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021 conference.

Presenter Subsidies

Presenter subsidies are available to those who submit an abstract for academic presentation or a submission for a presentation based on personal experience (people with lived or living experience with substance use or a substance use disorder or affected family and friends) at CCSA's Issues of Substance 2021 conference.

- Please note that only one presenter subsidy will be awarded per abstract or submission.
- **Poster presenters are not eligible** for this subsidy.

How to Apply

To [apply for a presenter subsidy](#), please submit the following documentation:

1. A written request (maximum 250 words) providing the following information:
 - Reason for financial need
 - Identification of your organization's category or your community role:
 - Government
 - Not for profit
 - University or college
 - Community member (please state community)
 - Other
 - Area of work or interest and organizational objectives aligned with the conference
 - Information on area of work or organization
2. Letter of support from your organization, if applicable, or from someone familiar with your situation and experience, and how you communicate about it.
3. Identify if you have lived or living experience with substance use or a substance use disorder or are affected family and friends. Our objective is to ensure that the Issues of Substance 2021 program and conference are as robust and inclusive as possible.
4. Name of academic abstract or submission based on personal experience submitted and names of co-authors, if applicable.

For assistance in providing this documentation, please contact ios-subsidies@ccsa.ca. Please submit your subsidy request and supporting documentation to ios-subsidies@ccsa.ca.

Deadline

The final day to [submit an application](#) for a presenter subsidy is **Monday, April 26, 2021**



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

CCSA was created by Parliament to provide national leadership to address substance use in Canada. A trusted counsel, we provide national guidance to decision makers by harnessing the power of research, curating knowledge and bringing together diverse perspectives.

CCSA activities and products are made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views of CCSA do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Canada.