



ISSUES of SUBSTANCE QUESTIONS de SUBSTANCE

CCSA's National Conference | Congrès National du CCDUS

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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 2023** conference, to be held on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 20–22, 2023, at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

CCSA's Issues of Substance is one of the few conferences in Canada to bring together a wide range of people from across the country who hold valuable perspectives on substance use. Healthcare professionals, harm reduction workers, counsellors, service providers, researchers, policy makers, knowledge brokers and those with direct or indirect lived or living experience with substance use come together with the common goal of learning from each others' knowledge and experience.

Occurring over three consecutive days, the event will provide an opportunity 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, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, community programs and mental health.

CCSA is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the 2023 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; and
- personal experience related to substance use.

Submissions are due no later than **Feb. 27, 2023**, at **11:59 p.m. EST**. For more information about the conference, visit the [Issues of Substance website](#).

See below for more information on **Research, Program, and Policy [Abstract Submissions](#)**.

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

Conference Theme

The theme for **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2023** conference is **Inspiration, Innovation, Inclusion**.

Substance use is a complex, far-reaching and consequential issue. It 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 impacts on individuals, families and communities cannot be quantified.

The COVID-19 pandemic made an already complicated substance use landscape even more complex. The mental health and well-being of people living in Canada were significantly impacted. The inequities that exist in our country — especially around health and access to health care and

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

For more information about [Personal Experience Submissions](#), please see below.



criminal justice involvement — were exacerbated. The devastating impacts of a highly toxic unregulated drug supply combined with decreased access to supports have been felt in our communities through record numbers of drug toxicity deaths.

We have also seen some progress and signs of hope as we build on new strengths we developed since the onset of the pandemic. We have learned what is possible if we all work together, that it takes a wide range of perspectives and collective efforts to drive needed change, and that novel grassroots ideas can produce significant impact. We have also witnessed immense opportunities for innovation through science and technology. **Inspiration, Innovation, Inclusion:** these are the key ingredients for a healthier Canadian society where all forms of evidence transform approaches to substance use.

Research, Program or Policy Abstract Submissions

Guidelines for Research, Program or Policy Abstract Submissions

Individuals and teams are encouraged to submit abstracts that stimulate ideas and discussion, increase knowledge and promote improvements that will 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 drugs of legal, illegal or evolving legal status (e.g., novel psychoactive substances, e-cigarettes, psychedelics); as well as overviews, research on and evaluations of programs and initiatives. Abstract submissions focusing on process or behavioural addictions, such as gambling, are also welcome. Although we will consider all abstracts, we are looking for submissions that support the following subthemes:

- Emerging trends and new issues;
- Local innovations in community-level programming (can go beyond service delivery and include housing access, employment, etc.);
- Policy and system-level innovation (e.g., safer supply, decriminalization);
- Including people who use substances in building capacity and promoting health (e.g., user-led support, self-directed living);
- Unique considerations for equity-deserving populations (e.g., youth, women, individuals involved in the justice system, older adults, people experiencing homelessness, new Canadians, LGBTQ2+ individuals);
- Truth and reconciliation;
- Indigenous approaches to healing;
- Stigma and discrimination;
- Mental health and substance use;
- Advances in brain and behavioural science;
- Innovative approaches to delivering care (e.g., virtual care, therapy animals);
- Innovative knowledge exchange strategies; and
- The continuum of care: promoting health, reducing harms, supporting recovery.



Considering sex-, gender- and equity-related factors will contribute to more useful evidence, guidance and perspectives for diverse groups of people living in Canada. As such, presenters need to include sex, gender and other equity considerations as part of their work. Additionally, if your study, program or policy focused on a target population (e.g., Indigenous people, older adults, LGBTQ2+ individuals, youth), presenters should describe their engagement with the population. As part of the abstract submission, please provide a brief summary (100 words or fewer) about how your project has considered or could consider in the future sex, gender, equity or diversity (e.g., ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, culture, religion) and, if applicable, how your study, program, or policy engaged or could engage in the future target populations (100 words or fewer). If your project did not include these considerations, please provide an explanation of why they were not applicable.

Presentation Formats for Research, Program, or Policy Abstract Submissions

Applicants must [submit their abstracts](#) by **Mon., Feb. 27, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Abstracts should be **250 words or fewer in English or French** and be for one of the formats described below. This word limit does not include the 100-word summaries on sex, gender and equity considerations nor on engagement with specific groups. These summaries are to be provided separately when submitting the abstract.

If you have any questions or need support to develop or submit your abstract, please email ios-info@ccsa.ca.

Oral Presentations (20 or 60 minutes)

Individual presentations of 20 minutes, or team presentations that feature a panel of three 20-minute presentations, allow for a brief overview of the major points or highlights of a particular program, policy or research project. All presentations will be followed by 30 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
- Authors and Partners
- Learning Objectives for the Presentation
- Background
- Objectives of Your Project or Program
- Methods
- Results or Findings
- Conclusions and Impacts

Abstracts for the 60-minute panel presentations that feature three 20-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 (90 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 discussion. Applicants **must include the following information** in the abstract **using the headings provided:**

- Title
- Author(s) or Facilitator(s)
- Learning Objectives for the Workshop
- Description
- Interactive Formats or Processes

Posters

Posters allow for the presentation of key points or highlights of a particular research project, program, intervention or policy. Posters must be displayed on a poster board and cannot be larger than 45 inches wide by 45 inches high (exact measurements will be provided upon acceptance of your poster to the conference). Authors must staff their poster for a designated period. During the designated poster viewing, authors must be available to respond to questions about their work and are encouraged to have handouts of the poster to share with conference participants. Applicants **must include the following information** in the abstract **using the headings provided:**

- Title
- Authors or Partners
- Background
- Objectives of Your Research or Project
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions and Impacts

Submitting a Research, Program or Policy Abstract

Applicants must [submit abstracts](#) online by **Mon., Feb. 27, 2023**, at **11:59 p.m. EST**. Abstract applicants can submit no more than two abstracts as primary presenter, who 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 whether their submission has been accepted in June 2023.

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 that showcase their initiatives, research, programs, or best or promising practices for **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2023**. Appropriate disciplines include addiction specialists (e.g., treatment providers, addiction medicine practitioners, clinical staff, counsellors, social workers), allied professionals (e.g., hospital staff, nutritionists, teachers), public health professionals (e.g., public health nurses, health promotion program staff), policy and service planners, program managers, academic and clinical researchers, students, postdoctoral researchers, residents and private sector professionals.

Need help with your abstract submission?

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

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



Individuals with lived or living experience who contributed to research projects, programs or policies are welcome to submit a Research, Program or Policy Abstract. For individuals with lived or living experience and affected family and friends who are interested in submitting a presentation based on personal experience, please go to the [Personal Experience Submissions](#) section below.

A key intent of **CCSA's Issues of Substance 2023** 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, equity, diversity and inclusion as part of the work;
- Engagement with a relevant population if this was the focus of the work; and
- Overall quality and clarity of the abstract.

Required Information

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

- Description of how the work has considered or could consider in the future issues related to sex, gender, equity, diversity and inclusion;
- 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 name, title, organizational affiliation and email addresses of the presenter and all co-authors (up to nine);
- If the work has been previously published, the publication name and year; and
- If the work 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 their co-authors.
- If an applicant accepts an offer to present but is later unable to attend, they must provide CCSA the name of the alternate speaker who is a co-author of the original abstract, or the presentation will be withdrawn from the program.
- Presenters will need to disclose any real or potential and perceived conflicts of interest at the beginning of their presentation or workshop, or on their poster, as well as the funding sources of their work.



- All presenters must register for the conference and pay their registration fee by Fri., June 9, 2023.

Personal Experience Submissions

Guidelines for Personal Experience Submissions

If you would like to contribute to the conference by presenting your experience and perspectives on substance use or your substance use journey, please submit your presentation idea using the [online submission form](#). All submissions are to be electronic and must be submitted by **Mon., Feb. 27, 2023**.

Things to consider:

- We encourage different types of submissions, such as posters, artwork (e.g., poetry, music, drawing, paintings), storytelling or other type of oral presentation.
- The conference audience will be healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers, 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 the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Substance use and mental health;
 - Stigma and discrimination;
 - Experiences of meaningful involvement in research or policy making;
 - Alternative or new approaches to providing support to people who use substances; and
 - Alternative recovery stories and practices.

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 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 about people with lived and living experience of using substances. If you are 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 may open a door to possibilities others have not considered yet.

Conference Subsidies

CCSA is committed to supporting the participation of as many people as possible who need financial support at the Issues of Substance 2023 conference. Prioritization will be given to presenters and individuals with lived or living experience with substance use, or are affected family and friends. For more details and instructions on how to apply, please go to [conference subsidies](#).



Other Information

Audio-Visual Equipment

Session rooms will be fully equipped with computers and data projectors. If additional audio-visual equipment (including flipcharts) is needed, the presenter will be responsible for those costs.

Translation Requirements

Presentations can be in English or French. Simultaneous French and English interpretation will be available for all keynote and some oral concurrent sessions. Translation will not be available for workshops.



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.