



CSAM-SMCA
2026 Scientific Conference



Words Matter: The Power of Language

Program At-A-Glance

CSAM-SMCA 2026 Scientific Conference and Annual Meeting

November 19-21, 2026 | Calgary, Alberta

CSAMCONFERENCE.ORG



2026 CONFERENCE THEME

Words Matter: The Power of Language

Every system is built on language. The words we use shape how people experience health, care, and belonging long before they ever walk through a door. They influence who feels safe asking for help, who feels excluded, and how care is delivered in everyday practice.

This year's theme, ***Words Matter: The Power of Language***, explores the effects of language in addiction medicine across community practice, acute care, policy, and research.

Message From the Chairs

We are thrilled to invite you to **CSAM-SMCA's 2026 Scientific Conference** in Calgary, Alberta, a place that is special to both of us as we each completed our addiction medicine fellowships here. Alberta is known for the beautiful Rocky Mountains, wide open prairie skies, and clear blue rivers. Despite the dynamic political landscape in this province, the quality of front-line addiction medicine and research practice in AB is amazing and understated. We are pleased to have incredible colleagues of all professions, who practice with integrity in evidence-based ways. It is an honour for us to co-chair this national scientific conference in a province that is so meaningful to us both.

CSAM-SMCA is an organization that provides a space for all those who are involved in addiction medicine nationwide to come together and learn from one another. This year's conference theme, ***Words Matter: The Power of Language***, comes at a relevant time. We are living in a world where, increasingly, truth is distorted, perceptions are prioritized, and words are weaponized. The language we use shapes how we think. As professionals in the field of addiction medicine, it is our responsibility to be intentional about using language accurately and with scientific integrity to uphold the Canadian values of human rights and healthcare for all. This year's conference will challenge each of us to improve our own use of language to care for our patients and to communicate with one another in a good way.



Meera Grover
MD, CCFP(AM), CISAM

Conference Co-Chair
President – Elect, Canadian
Society of Addiction Medicine
Addiction Medicine Physician,
Calgary, AB



Spencer Krahn
MD CCFP (AM) ISAM Cert

Conference Co-Chair
Interdepartmental Division of
Addiction Medicine – Providence
Health Care, Vancouver, BC

All times in MST		
7:00am - 8:30am	Registration & Breakfast	
8:00am - 9:30am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Welcome	 Conference Kick-Off: Day 1 – Opening & Elder Welcome
9:30am - 10:30am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Keynote	 Keynote Dr. James Makokis
10:30am - 11:00am	Break	
11:00am - 12:00pm	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Symposium	Transforming Acute Care for People who use Substances: Leadership, Culture Change, and Evidence-Informed Hospital Practice Kim Corace, Kristen Morin, Shannon Knowlan, Tali Magboo Cahill, Tara Leary
	ROOM 4 - Herald/Doll Workshop	Clinical Best Practices in Addiction Medicine: A comprehensive handbook on outpatient management of substance use disorders Katie Dunham, Meldon Kahan
11:00am - 11:20am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	Bringing acute care to the Downtown Eastside: Providing hospital-level care in a harm reduction setting for people who use drugs Pamela Bai
	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	 Experiences with Extended-Release Buprenorphine (XR-BUP) Among People Recently Released from Incarceration in Ontario, Canada Cayley Russell

All times in MST		
11:20am - 11:40am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	The Next Chapter: Development and Early Results in Novel Post-Discharge Intervention for Substance Use Disorders Monique Moller
	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	🗨️ “A new tool in the toolbox”: Final results of a qualitative study of client experiences on slow-release oral morphine in the fentanyl era Pamela Leece
11:40am - 12:00pm	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	A Culturally Safe, Microintervention-Based Model for Addiction Care in Organ Transplant Programs Ronn Johnson
	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	🗨️ Co-developing informational tools and hosting arts-based workshops with women at risk of contracting syphilis as an approach to knowledge mobilization Suzanne Turner
12:00pm - 1:15pm	Lunch	
1:15pm - 2:30pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Symposium	🗨️ Medetomidine and emerging clinical challenges: A collaborative response to the changing drug supply in Ontario Jennifer Wyman
	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Workshop	From Hospital to Community: Peer-Led Substance Use Support in Action Marcie McIlveen
	ROOM 4 - Hearld/Doll Symposium	Implementation, Expansion, and Closure of a Hospital-Based Supervised Consumption Service: Lessons from the Royal Alexandra Hospital Karine Meador, Kathryn Dong, Sheri Klassen
1:15pm - 1:45pm	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	National Guidance to Support Youth Substance Use Health in Pediatric Hospital Settings Christina Katan, Karen Leslie

All times in MST		
1:40pm - 2:05pm	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Other	Closing the Gap: Why Stigma- and Discrimination-Informed Practice Is Necessary to Bring Trauma-Informed Practice to Life Shawn Fisk
2:05pm - 2:30pm	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Other	Why Substance Use Health Matters Shawn Fisk
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Break	
3:00pm - 4:00pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Keynote	 Keynote - Overcoming: What Lived Experience Teaches Us About Connection and Care Guy Felicella
4:30pm - 7:30pm	Welcome Reception & Crafted Connections Market	

All times in MST		
7:30am - 8:00am	Breakfast	
8:00am - 8:30am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Welcome	 Day 2: Welcome, Program Overview & Bursary Awards Ceremony
8:30am - 9:00am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Awards	 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Announcement & Address
9:00am - 10:00am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Keynote	 Keynote - Caitlin Morrison
10:00am - 10:30am	Break	
10:30am - 12:00pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Symposium	 When Substance Use and Psychosis Converge: Assessment and Management of Cannabis and Stimulant-Associated Psychotic Disorders Julius Elefante, Martha Ignaszewski, Tauheed Zaman
	ROOM 4 - Hearald/Doll Workshop	Language as power: Decolonization, liberation, and Indigenous knowledge systems Jordan White, Joyce Leppington
10:30am - 10:50am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	Retention in Opioid Agonist Therapy Among People Experiencing Homelessness: A Retrospective Cohort Study in Ontario, Canada Kristen Morin
10:50am - 11:10am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	Unpacking the evidence for the safe and unsafe prescribing of antidepressants in substance use disorders Evan Wood
	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Oral Presentation	Induction onto Buprenorphine Utilizing Transdermal Patches Over 24-48 Hours: IPPAS Method Alaa Hawamdeh, James Wong, Jessica Machado, Pouya Azar, Tam To, Victor Li

All times in MST		
11:10am - 11:30am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	Variation in opioid toxicology testing among patients hospitalized with opioid toxicity: real-world evidence from the GEMINI database Nils Burgisser
	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Oral Presentation	Healthcare Practitioner Perspectives on the Alberta Recovery Model: Early Reflections Caitlin Stokvis
11:30am - 11:50am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Oral Presentation	From Gatekeeper to Gateway: Reimagining Prescribing in Addiction Care by Unlocking Access to OAT in Underserved Communities Bryce Koch, Sheila Anderson
	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Oral Presentation	Transportation as Harm Reduction: Impacts of Transportation Barriers on Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Saskatchewan Faith Kolawole
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm - 2:00pm	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Symposium	Advancing Measurement-Based Care in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders: Calls to Action for Policy, Practice, and Implementation in Canada Jean Costello, Kim Corace, Nakita Sunar, Shannon Remers, Shawn Fish, Stephanie Lu
1:00pm - 1:20pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	 Framing harm: How dominant narratives influenced the closure of Alberta's busiest supervised consumption site Morgan Magnuson
	ROOM 4 - Hearald/Doll Ted Talk	They Tried to Make Me Go to Rehab: A Physician's Reflection on Access, Inequity and Involuntary Treatment Amanda Moore

All times in MST		
1:20pm - 1:40pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	 The impacts of drug decriminalization and decriminalization amendment on health services utilization and drug poisonings in British Columbia Sameer Imtiaz
	ROOM 4 - Hearald/Doll Oral Presentation	From Evidence to Excellence: Quality Improvement in Supervised Consumption Sites Jennifer Jackson
1:40pm - 2:00pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Oral Presentation	 Bringing Treatment to Where Addiction Lives: A Therapeutic Community Model for Substance Use Treatment in Correctional Settings Russell Purdy
	ROOM 4 - Hearald/Doll Ted Talk	The Promise and Peril of Psychedelic Assisted Therapy in Addiction Treatment Monique Moller
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Break	
2:30pm - 4:00pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Other	 What Do We Mean by “Treatment”? A Fireside Conversation on Care in Substance Use Health Caitlin Morrison, Kate Colizza, Kim Corace, Kirsty Muller, Shawn Fisk

All times in MST		
7:30am - 8:00am	Breakfast	
8:00am - 8:30am	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864	 Day 3: Morning Welcome & Conference Housekeeping
8:30am - 9:30am	ROOM 1 - Imperial 123 Workshop	Substance use care on a shoestring: Responding to pediatric substance use health in the acute and tertiary hospital setting Jennifer dela Paz, Laurie Horricks, Lisette Yorke, Mariano Macias, Tamara Schindeler, Tea Rosic
	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Other	 Top 10 Canadian Addiction Medicine Research Articles Sam Young
	ROOM 3 - Imperial 975 Symposium	Emulating population-based target trials to support the clinical management of opioid use disorder Belal Hossain, Bohdan Nosyk, Jeong Eun Min, Momenul Mondol, Ruyu Yan
	ROOM 4 - Hearald/Doll Workshop	Rewriting the Decision Loop: Applying Game Theory to Clinical Interventions for Pornography Use and Compulsive Sexual Behavior Rommel Johnson
9:30am - 10:30am	Stephen Room	Poster Session
10:30am - 11:00am	Break	
11:00am - 12:15pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Keynote	 Keynote Dr. Esther Tailfeathers
12:15pm - 12:45pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Closing	 Elder Closing Ceremony
12:45pm - 1:00pm	ROOM 2 - Imperial 864 Closing	 Closing Remarks