

Navigating a Landscape of Challenges and Opportunities: CCSA's Plans for Collaboration in a time of Polarization

Category: Invited Presentation

Abstract Body

The increasing politicization and polarization of the substance use and addictions fields has become increasingly concerning as it affects policy, service delivery and ultimately the health of clients and people who use drugs and alcohol. In 2023 the Canadian Centre on Substance use and Addiction (CCSA) celebrates its 35th year however it is needing to grow and adapt to respond to this increasingly difficult landscape. In its role as a trusted and neutral advisor to governments the CCSA seeks to advance evidence-based science and policy. This presentation will explore initiatives underway and planned by the CCSA that will work to increase the participation of people living in Canada and across health and helping professions to become more involved in improving health and preventing harms. CCSA is working to connect with diverse communities and improve engagement with lived and living experience as well as advance reconciliation with first nations, Metis and Inuit communities. Efforts to depoliticize discussions and engage broad ideologies include programs in policy, health promotion, knowledge mobilization and standards as well as new frameworks to improve internal and external accountability.

Learning Objective # 1

Summarize the activities and projects CCSA is undertaking and change is vision including opportunities for participation by the addiction medicine community.

Learning Objective # 2

Employ approaches aimed at depoliticizing and depolarizing the current debates in and around substance use health.

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