

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK BULLETIN

April 2006

The mandate of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is to provide consultation and make recommendations regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C prevention initiatives based on the principles of harm reduction for affected communities in Manitoba.

<p style="text-align: center;">May Meeting Schedule</p> <p>5/2 Support and Outreach Task Group 5/9 Education Task Group 5/23 Coordinating Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June Meeting Schedule</p> <p>6/6 Education Task Group 6/13 Communication Task Group 6/20 Policy Task Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting Report Members of the MHRN gathered March 1st – 3rd for the 3rd Annual Meeting of the network. Evaluations indicated that the Skills Building Day was very informative and successful. The Annual Meeting Day saw reports back from the task group and coordinating committee and the development of an action plan for the upcoming year. The report from the meeting, including a summary of last year's activities, and the new action plan has been mailed out to all members. The report is also available online at: www.harmreductionnetwork.mb.ca • Manitoba Healthy Living is committed to supporting harm reduction in Manitoba and as such will continue on as co-chair of the Network in 06/07 and will continue to financially support the Network. Roberta Coulter from the Mental Health and Addictions Branch will be representing Manitoba Healthy Living as the co-chair. • Finances: Sexuality Education Resource Centre will be overseeing the operating expenses of the Network with the funding provided by Manitoba Healthy Living. The network would like to express its appreciation to Resource Assistance for Youth for its oversight of the operating budget for the Network for the past two years. • Network coordinator Daryn Bond has decided not to renew his contract with the network. He will however provide support as we transition to a new Coordinator. The new coordinator is expected to be in place by June 1st. • Communication Task Group requests your assistance in reviewing the MHRN website. Please take the time to visit the site, especially the members listings and ensure your organization is correctly listed, and if you have a website of your own that the link is working. Also, for those with websites, the network would like to establish a link from your site back the MHRN homepage. If possible, please include the www.harmreductionnetwork.mb.ca link on your links page and inform the coordinator that this is now present. Shortly, the MHRN logo will be available for members to post on their sites indicating that they support harm reduction principles and criteria for its use in other promotional materials will be developed in the near future.
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Conferences</h2>	
<p>17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm April 30 - May 4, 2006 Vancouver, Canada www.canadianharmreduction.com</p> <p>15th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research May 25-28th, 2006. Quebec City. Conference Secretariat Phone: 1 418 658 6755. Fax 1 418 658 8850. cahrquebec2006@agoracom.qc.ca</p> <p>XVI International AIDS Conference August 13-18, 2006. Toronto, Ontario www.aids2006.org</p>	
<p style="margin: 0;">MHRN 2006 Meeting Schedule</p>	
<p>All task groups meet Tuesday's from 1-3 pm @ Nine Circles Community Health Centre 705 Broadway</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A National Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse have

Coordinating Committee:

Fourth Tuesday every second month.

- May 23
- July 25
- September 26
- November 28
- January 23

Education Task Group:

Meeting monthly until curriculum is completed:

- May 9
- June 6

Subsequent meetings to be announced.

Policy & Practice Task Group:

Third Tuesday of every second month

- June 20
- August 15
- October 17
- December 19
- February 20

Support/Outreach Task Group:

First Tuesday every second month.

- May 2
- July 4
- September 5
- November 7
- January 2

Communication Task Group:

Second Tuesday every second month.

- June 13
- August 8
- October 10
- December 12
- February 13

Toll-free Conference call-in numbers for all meetings are:

Phone: 1-877-579-4178

Passcode: 857940#

To receive further information or copies of the materials mentioned in this bulletin, email or phone:

Coordinator Contact

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been conducting multi-stakeholder roundtables and workshops to gauge support for a coordinated approach to problematic substance use in Canada. In June 2005, 100 stakeholder groups came together and reached general consensus on a **National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada**.

The Framework starts with the vision statement: *All people in Canada live in a society free of the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances*. It identifies nine principles that underpin the Framework: problematic substance use is a health issue; human rights are respected; those most affected are meaningfully involved; action is knowledge-based, evidence-informed and evaluated for results; and that reducing the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances creates healthier, safer communities. Other principles relate to accountability, partnerships and the critical role of health promotion, prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction in successful responses to problematic substance use.

The Framework identifies two overarching goals:

1. To create supportive environments that promote health and resiliency of individuals, families and communities in order to prevent problematic use of alcohol and other drugs and substances; and
2. To reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances to individuals, families and communities across Canada.

The National Framework for Action provides an umbrella under which specific national strategies can be developed to address commonly identified priorities. Ideally it will be a mechanism for ongoing dialogue among the many thousands of people who devote their lives and careers to the task of eliminating or reducing the harms associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and substances. The Framework has been described as "a bold and ambitious venture, unprecedented in its scope and intent."

New and Useful Harm Reduction Resources

- The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has released a report **The Costs of Substance Use in Canada 2002**. Here is a brief excerpt from the report summary: Measured in terms of the burden on services such as health care and law enforcement, and the loss of productivity in the workplace or at home resulting from premature death and disability, the overall social cost of substance abuse in Canada in 2002 was estimated to be \$39.8 billion. This overall estimate represents a cost of \$1,267 to every man, woman and child in Canada. Tobacco accounted for about \$17 billion or 42.7% of that total estimate, alcohol accounted for about \$14.6 billion (36.6%) and illegal drugs for about \$8.2 billion (20.7%). Productivity losses amounted to \$24.3 billion or 61% of the total, while health care costs were \$8.8 billion (22.1%). The third highest contributor to total substance-related costs was law enforcement with a cost of \$5.4 billion or 13.6% of the total. Copies of the report can be obtained from the CCSA.