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In December 2000, a Task Group led by the Kaiser Foundation, consisting of health practitioners, community partners and government officials in the addictions field, was appointed by the Provincial Government to study and make recommendations on issues related to alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and gambling. The Task Group's March 2001 report,

The constitutive principles of the Centre include commitments to utilizing the interest from the endowment, along with significant contributions from UVic and other sources, to promote excellence in research and knowledge transfer, responding to the need for:

- interdisciplinary approaches to the prevention and treatment of addictions with a population health focus as the main perspective;
- research on cultural and social determinants that influence the etiology, prevention, and treatment of addictions (e.g. specific to rural or urban environments, and school or work as health promotion sites);
- prevention and health service delivery strategies relevant for populations marginalized, and frequently stigmatized by poverty, ethnicity, gender orientation, or occupation, particularly youth and aboriginal persons;
- evaluation of and support for best practices for the prevention and treatment of addictions;
- collaborations with knowledge users including service providers, policy makers, and the public in the identification of research priorities and in the dissemination of research-based knowledge;
- life-span perspectives that see the prevention of youth addictions as the cornerstone for healthy decisions across the lifespan.

During 2003-2004, the Centre completed the development of partnership agreements with BC's other three major universities including UBC, SFU, and UNBC to establish CAR-BC research units at each site. These agreements support the partners to share resources and Centre planning, and to work together to seek funding for joint initiatives in the field of substance use research.

At **Simon Fraser University**, the Centre collaborates with the Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute. Our site director is Dr. Ray Corrado, Professor in the School of Criminology. Activities at SFU focus on networking with

Through the efforts of our Director, Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater, the Centre established network relationships with all levels of government, as well as the major addictions organizations in Canada including the Kaiser Foundation, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), and the Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (CAMH). Highlights of this year include the following initiatives.

Epidemiology

Sound epidemiological research provides a basis for the assessment of new and existing prevention and treatment initiatives, as well as the assessment of policy and legislative changes. Canada lacks on-going epidemiological survey data on the prevalence of substance use and abuse. As a result, the creation of epidemiological data has been a focus of Centre activities. This year, the Centre assisted the BC Ministry of Health Services to fund an over-sampling of BC residents in the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey, the first of its kind since 1994. This survey will provide important baseline data against which to measure prevention and treatment efforts. Initial findings of the survey will be released in November 2004. The University of Victoria has also created a new faculty position in the Epidemiology of Substance Use (July 2005 start date). The researcher will use population health, epidemiology and survey research methods to advance knowledge of the epidemiology of and consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use and abuse across the lifespan.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a major public health concern in Canada. FASD can range in severity and impact, but can have tremendously negative effects in the lives of individuals, families and communities, especially when undiagnosed. For these reasons, the Centre has identified FASD as a key strategic area, and has supported applications for funding for research projects focused on this important issue. Under the leadership of Dr. Kimberley Kerns (Psychology, UVic) a group of health practitioners, Aboriginal community members, parents and researchers has created a network

outside of treatment, personality and substance use motivation, monitoring alcohol related harms, and cognitive predictors of substance abuse. In addition, the Centre sponsored a public forum on responsible drug strategies in the Victoria area, a well-attended and dynamic event in March 2004.

The highlight of the past year's series was a lecture series by John Schulenberg, PhD, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

As the Centre for Addictions Research of BC enters its second year of operations we look forward to continued activities in all areas of our mandate. The following section describes just a few of the emerging initiatives that will highlight the 2004-2005 year.

New Director

The University of Victoria has hired Dr. Tim Stockwell as the new permanent Director of CAR-BC. Dr. Stockwell began his new position on August 1, 2004. Over the past 15 years he has worked at the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) in Perth, Australia, most recently as the Institute's Director.

Dr. Stockwell has an international reputation as a researcher in the field of alcohol and drug abuse as well as policy analysis, particularly related to alcohol control systems. Under his direction, NDRI has pursued a range of research projects including a successful controlled trial of an alcohol harm reduction and use reduction program for high school youth; an analysis of the legal outcomes of cannabis laws; development of international guidelines for WHO member countries on monitoring alcohol consumption and related harms; a program of research on indigenous alcohol drug use issues; and, a comprehensive international review of "what works" in prevention in which the evidence base of 159 different strategies was review and rated.

Research Capacity

The field of research into substance use and abuse is broad and cuts across many disciplines. Canadians are also faced with an increasingly rapid emergence of new drugs both licit and illicit, as well as quickly changing approaches to policy and legislation at all levels of government. To ensure we have the research capacity to respond to emerging issues in substance use, the Centre will develop programs that support new scholars entering the field of addictions research with fellowships, training programs and increased faculty mentorship. These efforts will

include recruitment of addictions researchers as current faculty retire, and support for new emerging multi-disciplinary teams of researchers throughout BC and Canada, as well as recruitment of graduate and post-doctoral students. The Centre will also sponsor

Ms Lauren Casey
Executive Directors, PEERS

Dr. Bruce Clayman
Vice President Research, Simon Fraser University

Dr. John Cutcliffe
Chair, Nursing, University of Northern BC

Dr. Elliot Goldner
Director, Mental Health Evaluation and Community
Consultation Unit, Dept. of Psychiatry
University of British Columbia

Mr. Pat Griffin
Executive Director, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society

Ms Jocelyn Harder
Victoria Hope Society

Ms Leah Hollins
Chair, BC Addiction Foundation

Mr. Edgar F. Kaiser Jr.
Chair & CEO, Kaiser Foundation

Dr. Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health Services

Dr. G. Alan Marlatt
Director, Addictive Behaviours Research Centre