

Annual Report April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008

 $Centre\ for\ Addictions\ Research\ of\ BC$ 

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# **Message from the Advisory Board Chair**

I am pleased once again to introduce the annual report of the Centre for Addictions Research of BC. You will find in this latest account of our act

# Our people and partners

Staff at the Research and Ad	dministration Of	ffice (University o	of Victoria)
Dr. Tim Stockwell—Director			

Staff at the Communication & Resource Unit (Vancouver)

**Site Directors** 

### **Advisory Board**

### Dr. Micheal Prince, Chair

Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, University of Victoria

#### **Dr. Howard Brunt**

Vice President Research, University of Victoria

### **Dr. Elliot Goldner**

Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University

#### Mr. Pat Griffin

Executive Director, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society

### Ms. Jocelyn Harder

Regional Addictions Advocacy Society

### **Dr. Colin Jones**

Assistant Vice President Research, Simon Fraser University

### Mr. Edgar F. Kaiser Jr.

Chair & CEO, Kaiser Foundation

### **Dr. Perry Kendall**

Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health Services

### Mr. Philippe Lucas

Director, Vancouver Island Compassion Society

#### Dr. G. Alan Marlatt

Director, Addictive Behaviours Research Centre, University of Washington

### Mr. Bill Naughton

Acting Chief of Police, Victoria Police Department

### **Ms. Jody Paterson**

Journalist

### **Dr. Eric Single**

Sr. Associate and Epidemiologist, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

### **Dr. Patrick Smith**

Senior Advisor, BC Mental Health and Addictions, Provincial Health Services Authority

### Dr. Richard Vedan

Director, First Nations House of Learning, University of British Columbia

### Research Fellows

#### **Dr. Gordon Barnes**

Professor, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria

### Dr. Susan Boyd

Associate Professor, Studies in Policy and Practice, University of Victoria

### Dr. Jeff Brubacher

Emergency Physician and Researcher; Vancouver General Hospital

### Dr. Jane Buxton

Physician Epidemiologist, BC Centre for Disease Control and Assistant Professor, Health Care and Epidemiology, University of BC

### **Dr. Cameron Duff**

Research Lead, Youth Addiction Services, Vancouver Coastal Health and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, University of BC

### **Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater**

Director, Centre for Youth and Society, University of Victoria

### **Dr. Timothy Pelton**

Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria

#### Dr. Eric Roth

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria

### Research Affiliates

### Dr. David Brown

Research Scientist and Senior Project Manager, Mental Health and Addictions Services, Provincial Health Services Authority

### Mr. Dean Nicholson

Administrator/Counsellor, East Kootenay Addiction Services

### Dr. Erica Woodin

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

### **Graduate Students**

**Ms. Kristina Brache**—Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

**Ms. Michelle Coghlan**—Department of Sociology, University of Victoria

**Ms. Kara Murray**—Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

**Mr. Andrew Ivsins**—Department of Sociology, University of Victoria

Mr. Philippe Lucas—Studies in Policy and Practice, University of Victoria

**Mr. Warren Michelow**—Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, University of BC

# **Collaborating Centres**

### **British Columbia:**

Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, Simon Fraser University Centre for Social Responsibility, Simon Fraser University National Institute for Research in Sustainable Community Development, Kwantlen University College

## **Key Results Area 1**

"To build research infrastructure and capacity across BC for the conduct of research that will increase understanding and support more effective responses to substance use."

## **Highlights**

Throughout the year there was continual growth in research capacity within CARBC, as well as substantial progress in the building of collaborative research programs with researchers and research centres across BC.

External research funding from all sources increased from \$1.2m in 2006-07 to over \$3m in 2007-08. This growth in capacity can be attributed to (i) the success of CARBC Research Fellow Dr. Eric Roth as Co-PI on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) new emerging team grant concerned with HIV prevention, (ii) the success of Dr. Benedikt Fischer in securing a prestigious CIHR Chair in Applied Public Health, and (iii) continuing progress in the development of a multisite collaborative project to build a comprehensive alcohol and other drug monitoring system in British Columbia as a pilot for Canada.

Also of great significance was a proposal under the leadership of Dr. Scott Macdonald

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**"Sir Ringe" program evaluation. Reid, W.** (PI), & **Stockwell, T.** (Co-PI). BC Ministry of Health, \$15,000, and Interior Health Authority, \$10,000 from February 2008 to December 2008.

Data analysis in support of the comprehensive alcohol and other drug epidemiological monitoring system for Canada—British Columbia project phase II. Stockwell, T. (PI). BC Ministry of Health, \$50,000 from February 2008 to March 2009.

 $\label{to the 2002 BC Provincial Health Officer's report, "Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy." Stockwell, T. (Co-PI), Thomas, G. (Co-PI),\\$ 

Objective		Performance indicators for 2007–08
1.6	Provide training opportunities and programs for the development of additional research skills among CARBC sta, students and affiliates.	<ul> <li>2 international conferences for junior research sta (2 in 2006–07; 0 in 2005–06)</li> <li>2 CARBC research sta attended a statistics course (3 in 2006–07; 1 in 2005–06)</li> <li>Contributions to 4 graduate research training programs within UVic (4 in 2006–07; 4 in 2005–06) and 3 funded graduate training programs accessible to students across BC (3 in 2006–07; 0 in 2005–06)</li> </ul>
1.7	To provide mentorship to new and existing researchers across a range of community settings.	<b>5</b> new drug and alcohol researchers working on CARBC projects under supervision (5 in 2006-07; 3 in 2005-06)
1.8	Improve access to data sets and platforms for addiction researchers.	Continued development of a BC-wide alcohol and other drug epidemiological monitoring platform  Continued collaboration with the BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network to develop research "hubs" in the areas of clinical research and pharmacoepidemiology.
1.9	Support provincial, national and international research capacity through editorial and peer review activities.	Peer review of articles submitted to journals and grant proposals: approx. <b>54</b> over the year (approx. 75 in 2006–07)  CARBC faculty hold editorial positions with <i>A D E C</i>

## **Key Results Area 2**

"To conduct high quality research that increases understanding of substance use and addiction and informs effective responses."

## **Highlights**

In 2007–08, the Epidemiology and Monitoring Unit continued to document detailed changes in alcohol and drug use over time and between geographic regions of BC and Canada. Progress was made in the area of alcohol consumption research. We have documented per adult consumption in the five health authorities, 16 health service delivery areas and 89 local health areas of BC, up to and including the end of 2007. Work is underway to identify consumption across the province of high-risk alcoholic beverages, defined as cheap high alcohol content drinks. This research represents the most detailed analysis of alcohol consumption in BC. We are also involved in collecting data on drug episode separations for alcohol, cocaine, cannabis, opiates and amphetamines over time and between provinces of Canada.

Within the Illicit Drugs, Public Health and Policy Unit, a variety of research activities were begun and several major projects were completed. Some of the highlights include (i) a collaborative study with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto which compared heroin users and prescription opioid user using data from the multi-site OPICAN cohort, and (ii) a study on sourcing patterns of prescription opioids illicitly used by street drug users in Toronto and Victoria Dr. Fischer also worked with collaborators from Australia and the US on an international report for cannabis control reform options spearheaded by the UK's Beckley Foundation. The report is scheduled for release during the 2009 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs. The Unit also engaged in developing a research protocol for a forthcoming study of crack use in mid-sized BC communities, funded by the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the BC Ministry of Health.

## **Completed projects**

# What happens when government monopolies on the retail sale of alcohol are disbanded?

**Investigators:** Harold Holder (PI), Sven Andreasson, Ted Miller, Thor Norström, Esa Österberg, Mats Ramstedt, Ingeborg Rossow and **Tim Stockwell** 

Funding body: National Institute of Public Health, Sweden

**Summary:** The aim of the project was to build a model based on empirical evidence for the relative impact of dierent alcohol monopolies, and to apply the model to dierent policy scenarios. The first application of the model was for Sweden, but there is potential to apply it to other jurisdictions such as British Columbia. The public report was submitted in November 2007. A paper is currently being prepared for publication in a journal.

Price and tax incentives for consumers to choose lower alcohol content beverages

 $\textbf{Investigators: Tim Stockwell (PI), Scott Macdonald, David Segal, \textit{Jinhui Zhao} \ and \ \textbf{Basia} \\$ 

# Feasibility study for supervised drug consumption options in Victoria

**Investigators: Benedikt Fischer** (PI), **Christiane Allard**, **Michelle Coghlan** and Jo-Anne Stoltz

Funding bodies: Vancouver Island Health Authority and the City of Victoria

**Summary:** This project consisted of multiple components including interviews and focus groups with a variety of local stakeholders concerning the needs, considerations and options for supervised drug consumption measures in Victoria, and an international literature review on models and experiences elsewhere. The final report for the project was submitted to the funders in May 2007.

# Analyses of most recent follow-up and longitudinal data from the multi-site 'OPICAN' study of illicit opioid and other drug users across Canada

Investigators: Benedikt Fischer (PI), Juergen Rehm and J Patra

Funding body: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (IHRT grant)

**Summary:** Recent data from the OPICAN study, published in the C

A in November 2006, documented a substantial shift away from heroin use to prescription opioid use among street drug user populations in Canadian cities. Additional analyses have further examined changing drug use and associated key characteristics in this study population.

Two major analyses—a latent class analysis of poly-drug pattern typologies and a comparison analyses of heroin-only, prescription opioid-only, and poly-opioid users—were completed and published in D A . The analyses were also accepted for publication in A

### BC pilot alcohol and other drug monitoring project

Investigators: Tim Stockwell (PI), Scott Macdonald, Lorissa Martens, Katie Fisher, Andrew Ivsins, Warren Michelow, Ajay Puri, Juergen Rehm, Cameron Duff, Clifton Chow, David Marsh, Jane Buxton, Andrew Tu, Elizabeth Saewyc, Annie Smith, Krista Richard, Ray Corrado and Irwin Cohen

**Funding bodies:** BC Mental Health and Addiction Services (PHSA), Health Canada, Vancouver Island Health Authority, BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, BC Ministry of Health and the Crystal Meth Secretariat

**Summary:** CARBC was awarded a contract from PHSA and Health Canada to pilot a comprehensive alcohol and other drug epidemiological monitoring system for Canada. The pilot phase of this project ended on October 31, 2007 with the completion of a substantial report (see www.AODmonitoring.ca).

## **Ongoing projects**

### Disseminating behavioural interventions to primary care: Depression and hazardous alcohol use

Investigators: John F. Anderson, Elliot Goldner, Dan Bilsker and Joti Samra

**Funding body:** Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction (through an investigative team grant)

**Background:** This project investigates the feasibility of recruiting family physicians to screen patients for depression and hazardous alcohol use.

**Progress to date:** An implementation trial has been completed, and a research paper has g g e A or depE A A A A

## LE, NONET project

**Investigators: John F. Anderson** (Research Mentor), Miranda Kelly and Marcia Koenders

Funding body: Canadian Millennium Foundation

Background: This pilot project provides an opportunity for Aboriginal undergraduate stu-

dents at UVic to receive research mentorship with a UVic faculty member.

**Progress to date:** 

# BC alcohol and other drug monitoring project: Implementation phase

Investigators: Tim Stockwell (PI), Scott Macdonald, Lorissa Martens, Katie Fisher, Andrew Ivsins, Warren Michelow, Ajay Puri, Juergen Rehm, Cameron Duff, Clifton Chow, David Marsh, Jane Buxton, Andrew Tu, Elizabeth Saewyc, Annie Smith, Krista Richard, Ray Corrado and Irwin Cohen

**Funding bodies:** BC Mental Health and Addiction Services (PHSA), Health Canada, Vancouver Island Health Authority, BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, BC Ministry of Health and the Crystal Meth Secretariat

**Background:** CARBC was awarded a contract from PHSA and Health Canada to pilot a comprehensive alcohol and other drug epidemiological monitoring system for Canada.

**Progress to date:** The pilot phase of this project ended on October 31, 2007 with the completion of a substantial report. A new contract was agreed upon for the second phase of the project, ending on March 31, 2009. This phase involves full implementation of multiple data collection components and regular reports on the project website: http://www.AODmonitoring.ca. Regular monitoring is now underway in these categories: (i) emergency departments, (ii) among three high-risk populations, (iii) among the general population by telephone, (iv) by use of alcohol sales data, and (v) by applying alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug attributable

substance use and their consequences in multiple surveys being conducted as part of the BC alcohol and other drug monitoring project. An international symposium on epidemiological monitoring of alcohol and other drugs was hosted by CARBC and partly funded from this grant. Several graduate students have been supported to study topics involving cross-substance patterns of use, such as the elects of the combined use of alcohol and cocaine, and patterns of multiple substance use at music festivals. Monitoring of alcohol and other drug use patterns among persons presenting to emergency departments in Vancouver in Victoria is underway, and a case crossover study regarding risk of injury from substance use combinations is in the planning stage.

### **Alcohol consumption in moderation**

**Investigators:** Kaye Fillmore (Co-PI), **Tim Stockwell** (Co-PI), William Kerr, Alan Bostrom and Tanya Chikritzhs

**Funding bodies:** Alcohol Rehabilitation and Education Foundation, Australia, and National Drug Research Institute, Australia

**Background:** A meta-analysis of published research on the relationship between the level of alcohol use and risk of premature death was conducted in order to examine what happened to the apparent health benefits of moderate alcohol consumption when dierent biases were eliminated from the studies. Additional information was sought from the original authors to access original results.

**Progress to date:** The first results, published in March 2006, received extensive international media coverage. Eight commentaries on this paper and one response were published in March 2007. A follow-up paper was published in the \$A\$ \$D\$ featuring estimates for numbers of deaths prevented and caused by dierent drinking patterns in Canada under dierent scenarios of cardiac protection, and gender dierences in this protection. A third meta-analysis is underway. It will include more recently published studies.

# Update to the 2002 BC Provincial Health Officer's report, "Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy"

Investigators: Tim Stockwell (Co-PI), Gerald Thomas (Co-PI), Dan Reist, Jane Buxton and Scott Macdonald

Funding body: BC Ministry of Health, Office of the Provincial Health Officer

**Background**: BCs Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, issued a report on the public health consequences of alcohol use in BC in 2002. The report highlighted concerns in relation to possible deregulation of the alcohol market in BC. Data collected from both the BC AOD monitoring project and a separate project assessing the impact of the partial privatization of the government alcohol monopoly in BC will be incorporated, with a range of other data, in a new report assessing progress six years further on. A number of policy options will be canvassed in the report.

**Progress to date:** Data collection and report compilation are underway.

# International Guide to Monitoring Alcohol Consumption and Related Harms—2nd Edition

**Investigators: Tim Stockwell** (PI), Vladimir Poznyak, Tanya Chikritzhs, **Scott Macdonald**, Jürgen Rehm, William Kerr, David Jernigan and Deborah Dawson

**Funding bodies:** Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and World Health Organization, Geneva

**Background:** The first edition of this guide was published in 2000. It became a popular WHO publication and has already been translated into several languages. The second edition ed material and advice regard o (O behaviour and related harms, (M measure per capita alcohol **ors**Lption, and (M

Rec mmenlations for an integrated national monitor ynterm as multiple data d mains are also ma~

**Progress to date:** The new edition has been translated into Fre2 A will be ma~ vailable to member countries.

# Patterns of alcohol consumption in Canada and implications for policy

Investigators: Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao, Gerald Thomas and J di Sturge

Funding bodies: CARBC and BC Ministry f Health

**Background:** This jecC is a further examination of the 2004 Canadian CAnoth Survey with a view to examin the extent to whi; scon; F at a dinjust a few heavy drine ers scon; F at a dinjust a few heavy drine as a sasses sandling aims C invarious at Canadian and scon; F as a sasses sandling aims C invarious at Canadian and scon; s

use were higher in the 2004 CAS than the 2002 CCHS, suggesting the low response rate may have provided a positive bias to levels of substance use reported. Late responders were significantly more likely to report alcohol, cannabis and some other drug use than early responders to the 2004 CAS, suggesting negative  $\,\mathrm{e}\,$  ects of non-response bias. Corrections for this bias were made and new estimates of prevalence of substance used in Canada were reported.

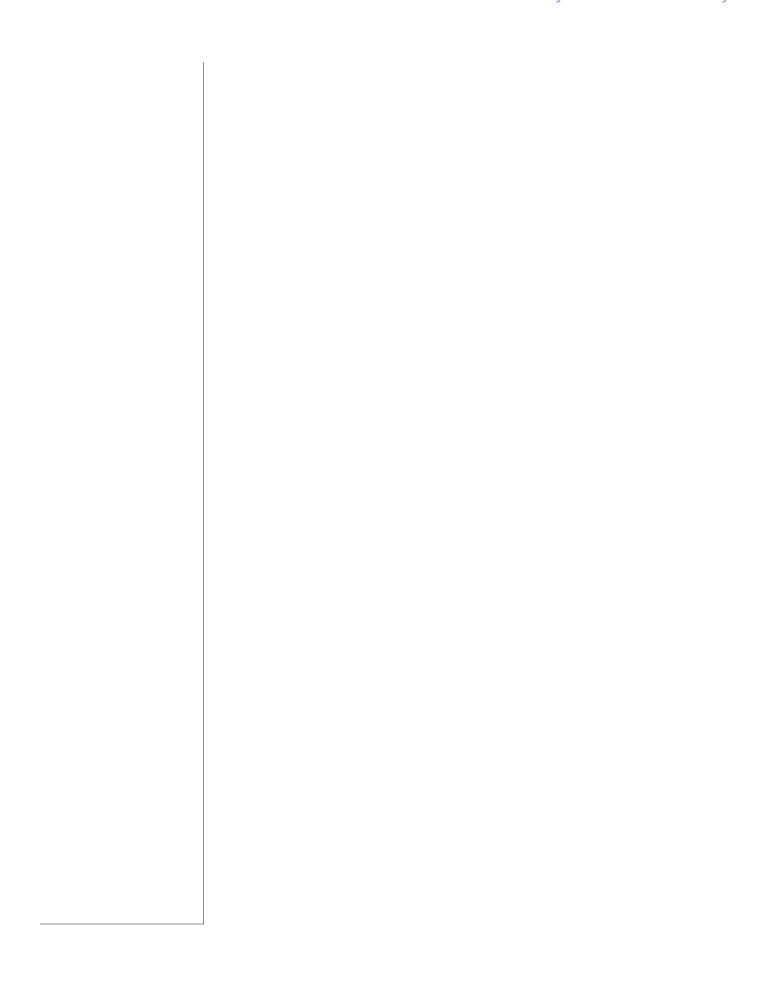
**Progress to date:** The analysis has been completed and a paper was presented at the 34th Annual Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, BC, June 2008. This paper will be submitted for publication.

# The public health impact of the partial privatization of British Columbia's government alcohol retail monopoly, 2001–2007

Investigators: Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao and Scott Macdonald

Funding bodies: Canadian Institutes of Health Research, CARBC and BC Ministry of Health

**Background:** The BC government's retail alcohol monopoly has been gradually privatized in recent years. In 2001–02 there were 222 government liquor stores compared with 208 in 2005–06 (-6.3%). Over the same period private liquor stores increased from 648 to 938



## **Crack use in Vancouver Island communities**

Investigators: Benedikt Fischer (PI), Juergen Rehm (Co-PI) and M Firestone-Cruz (Co-PI)

Funding body: BCMinistry of Health

**Background:** Crack is a commonly used illicit drug among street-involved users in BC and

Changes in pharmaceutical opiate use rates in new members of a community-based medical cannabis dispensary suffering from chronic pain

**Investigator: Philippe Lucas** 

Funding bodies: CARBC and UVic Graduate Studies

**Background:** 

to get their feedback on the application process. The evaluation team is developing logic models, one for each demonstration project, which will be used to define indicators for evaluating project outcomes.

### Driving under the influence of drugs

**Investigator: Jeff Brubacher** 

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network

**Summary:** This is a pilot project to develop a protocol for a prospective study involving injured drivers treated in the emergency room after a car crash. Blood samples will be obtained and analyzed for drugs. Clinical data from the driver's medical record will also be obtained. This information will be linked with ICBC records to determine culpability, and will eventually be linked with subsequent driving records.

Progress to date: Participant recruitment is currently underway.

Table 2: Performance Indicators for Key Results Area 2

Objective		Objective Performance indicators for 2007-08		
2.1	Conduct research on the patterns, distribution, determinants and consequences of substance use.			

	Objective		Performance indicators for 2007–08	
2.4	Conduct research on province-wide monitoring of alcohol, tobacco, gambling and other drug use patterns and related harms,		<b>20</b> relevant projects (12 in 2006-07; 5 in 2005-06)	
	the impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug-related harms,		8 relevant projects (5 in 2006–07; 9 in 2005–06)	
	development and evaluation of more e ective community prevention programs,		4 relevant project (3 in 2006-07; 2 in 2005-06)	
	development and evaluation of more e ective treatment systems and programs,		3 relevant projects (1 in 2006-07; 1 in 2005-06)	
	investigation of the influence of structural determinants and the social contexts of drug use on the implementation of strategies designed to reduce and prevent harmful drug use, and		15 relevant projects (10 in 2006-07; 8 in 2005-06)	
	research and evaluation of e ectiveness of knowledge translation and exchange activities and strategies.		<b>3</b> projects underway (3 in 2006-07; 1 in 2005-06)	
2.5	Develop and maintain significant collaborative projects with other researchers and research centres in British Columbia.	tüv	17 projects (14 in 2006-07; 7  ŽĮJAo  ŽĮJT (PŠŠ  "F7"-A  "WXX""\$5 (F1 & Ž)JM (PŽO) TPg,	o
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# **Key Results Area 3**

"To disseminate research findings that increase understanding of substance use and addiction, to increase awareness of related harms and to identify effective responses."

## **Highlights**

In May 2007, CARBC hosted an international symposium dedicated to identifying best practice in international alcohol and other drug monitoring systems. A total of 46 papers were presented, and over 90 delegates attended from Canada, South Africa, Australia and several countries in both Europe and South America. Highlights from the symposium are soon to be featured in two special issues of  $\mathcal C$ 

In 2008 in Victoria, CARBC hosted the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, an international conference that attracted about 200 participants from over 30 countries. A grant from the BC Ministry of Health and a peer-reviewed grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council helped o set costs and provide travel support for people to attend the conference. Considerable planning and preparation was conducted during the 2007–08 fiscal year for this event.

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### **Commissioned knowledge exchange contracts**

**Knowledge summary on substance abuse. Reist, D.** (PI), **Anderson, J. F.**, Coleman, P., **Reimer, B.,** & **Thomas, G.** Joint Consortium on School Health, \$50,000 from October 2007 to June 2008.

**Tobacco reduction in the context of mental illness and addictions. Reist, D.** (PI). Provincial Health Services Authority, \$15,000 from December 2007 to March 2008.

**Supporting community knowledge and action. Reist, D.** (PI), & **Pankratz, N.** Vancouver Foundation, \$50,500 from December 2007 to December 2008.

**Beyond 2008, NGO Consultation on International Drug Control. Reist, D.** (PI). BC Ministry of Health, Health Canada, Department of Foreign A airs and International Trade, Foundation of the Open Society Institute, and Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, \$128,766 for February 2008.

**BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information. Reist, D.** (PI). [Includes support for a variety of projects related to public education.] Provincial Health Services Authority, \$243,750 from April 2007 to March 2008.

**Tobacco Resource Centre. Bond, J.** BC Ministry of Health, \$1,673,000 from April 2005 to March 2011.

**Development of a multi-system response to problematic substance use. Reist, D.** (PI), **Thomas, G., Dyck, T., Capler, R., Pankratz, N., Souza, E.,** & **Reimer, B.** [Includes support for a variety of projects related to prevention and education.] BC Ministry of Health, \$1,324,000 from April 2005 to March 2010.

## **Completed projects**

## **Beyond 2008 global NGO forum (North America consultation)**

**Investigator: Dan Reist** 

**Funding bodies:** BC Ministry of Health, Health Canada, Department of Foreign A airs and International Trade, Foundation of the Open Society Institute, and Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

Summary: On February 4, 2008, CARBC and Keeping the Door Open hosted a consultation

was designed to present the evidence, directly address the implementation challenges, and do so in a solution-focused way. The goal was to honour the challenges that service providers might raise, and to o er solutions through both increased familiarity with the evidence and the sharing of case studies from those with experience addressing tobacco use by mental health and addiction clients.

### The road ahead: A guidebook for parents of young teens

Investigators: Dan Reist (PI), Lu Ripley and Nicole Pankratz

Funding body: Provincial Health Services Authority

**Summary:** Families play a key role in preventing and reducing the harm related to substance use. They are well positioned to provide young people with a foundation that would help them make healthy decisions, build life skills and learn relevant information. Reaching this goal, however, can be challenging CARBC developed this resource, published in late 2007 and distributed by the BC Council for Families, to help parents maximize their prevention and educational e orts.

# Leading and promising practices for addressing harm from alcohol and tobacco use among seniors (65+) in British Columbia

Investigators: Gerald Thomas (PI), Tim Dyck and Dan Reist

Funding body: BCMinistry of Health

**Summary:** The purpose of this paper was to provide guidance to the BC Ministry of Health in its e orts to better address the needs of older adults (age 65+) who engage in the problematic use of alcohol and tobacco. Specifically, this paper (i) discusses rationales for targeting the problematic use of substances by older adults, (ii) provides a review of the health benefits of addressing problematic alcohol and tobacco use among older adults, (iii) characterizes alcohol and tobacco use among this segment of the population in BC, (iv) reviews best and promising practices for messaging and treatment/cessation interventions for older adults who engage in problematic alcohol and tobacco use, (v) presents an environmental scan of existing policies and programs for addressing problematic alcohol and tobacco use among seniors in BC, (vi) identifies gaps between current policies/programs and best and promising practices, and (vii) o ers recommendations for improving BC's response to problematic alcohol and tobacco use by older adults. The paper was submitted to the BC Ministry of Health in October 2007. Discussions on implications are ongoing

## Recommended practices for educating about and enforcing smoke-free laws and retail display bans for tobacco: A review of Canadian and international practices

Investigators: Gerald Thomas (PI) and Dan Reist

Funding body: BCMinistry of Health

**Summary:** Governments in Canada and around the world continue to enhance their tobacco legislation in order to control tobacco use and further reduce the health and social harms associated with smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption. Recently, the Province of British Columbia passed Bill C-10: Tobacco Sales (Banning Tobacco and Smoking in Public Places and Schools) Amendment Act, 2007, which extends existing legislation by (i) prohibiting tobacco sales in certain locations, (ii) banning designated smoking rooms (DSR's), (iii) prohibiting tobacco use on school grounds, (iv) creating smoke-free bu er zones around public doors, windows and air intakes, and (v) banning the retail display of tobacco and tobacco-related products where youth have access. This document provides a review of Canadian and international educational and enforcement activities related to implementing

smoke-free legislation (including bu  $\,$  er zones and smoke-free school grounds) and retail tobacco display bans with the goal of identifying recommended p

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 $\textbf{Investigators: Dan Reist} \ (PI), \textbf{Nicole Pankratz}, \textbf{J}\! e\! an \textbf{Douglas} \ and \ M\! o\! na \ W\! y\! nn$ 

**Funding Body:** 

actively working with several campus-based groups to help them plan and implement various strategies, and is currently developing tools for these campus groups to assist in implementing e ective policies and programs.

### HereToHelp project

Investigators: Nicole Pankratz and Dan Reist

Funding Body: Provincial Health Services Authority

**Background:** BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information is seeking to provide a central resource for the public to access quality information on mental health and substance use.

**Progress to date:** CARBC is currently working with the Canadian Mental Health Association on a project to develop a comprehensive series of public education materials related to substance use and mental health. To date, CARBC has drafted 20 substance-related fact sheets, backgrounders and tip sheets related to substance use. An additional 15 resources are planned for the coming year. All of these resources will be available on the HereToHelp website, www.heretohelp.bc.ca

### **Visions**

**Investigators: Nicole Pankratz** 

# Development of a multi-system response to problematic substance use

Investigators: Dan Reist (PI), Evelyn Souza and Bette

Reimer

Funding body: BCMinistry of Health

**Background:** The BC Ministry of Health has provided funding for CARBC to operate a web-based resource centre to support communities and service providers in preventing and reducing the harm associated with substance use.

Progress to date: CARBC maintains within its website a catalogue of resources that provides access to information on (i) e ective programs and approaches to addressing substance use and (ii) substance '...‡ \* f ; ‡ † ...‡ ä use patterns, risks and harms. The Centre also operates a warehouse for the distribution of the distri

### **Seminars**

**Responding to Alcohol: Monitoring, Treatment, Policy and Harm Reduction**, May 11, 2007, Vancouver, BC.

Alcohol and Related Harm in BC: A Map and a New Direction for Harm Reduction, Spinnakers Brewpub, December 10, 2007, Victoria, BC (pictured right).

**Tobacco Reduction in the Context of Mental Health and Addictions**, February 15, 2008, Vancouver, BC.

Safer Crack Use, Outreach, Research and Education (SCORE) Community Forum, First United Church, March 4, 2008, Vancouver, BC.

**Rethinking Treatment: Recognizing and Responding to the Spectrum of Substance Use**—In Partnership with Keeping the Door Open, March 31 to April 1, 2008, Vancouver, BC.

### **Publications**

### Journal articles and book reviews

Anderson, J. F. (2007). Screening and brief intervention for hazardous alcohol use and Indigenous populations: Potential solution or impossible dream? A . 439-448.

- **Buxton, J. A.,** Tu, A., & **Stockwell, T.** (In Press). Tracking trends of alcohol, illicit drugs and tobacco use through morbidity data. *C D* .
- **Dyck, T.**, & **Pankratz, N.** (2008). The BC campus: Where futures begin? Or a site for risky substance use?

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  , 6-7.
- **Didenko, E.**, & **Pankratz, N.** (2007). Substance use: Pathway to Homelessness? Or a way of adapting to street life? BC A , 9–10.
- **Duff, C., Michelow, W.,** Chow, C., & **Stockwell, T.** (In Press). The Canadian recreational drug use survey (CRDUS): Aims, methods and first results. *C*
- Fillmore, K. M., **Stockwell, T.**, Chikritzhs, T., Bostrom, A., & Kerr, W.C. (2008). Debate: Alcohol and coronary heart disease, *A* e25.
- Fillmore, K. M., **Stockwell, T.**, Chikritzhs, T., Bostrom, A., & Kerr, W. C. (In Press). Commentary: A delicate matter: Scientific agreement and the "protective e ect" of alcohol for disease including coronary heart disease. *A*
- Fillmore, K. M., Chikritzhs, T., Bostrum, A., & **Stockwell, T.** (In Press). Alcohol use and prostate cancer: A meta-analysis.
- **Fischer, B., & Coghlan, M.** (2007). Crack in North American cities: The neglected 'epidemic' *A* , , 1340–1341.
- **Fischer, B.**, Firestone Cruz, M, & Rehm, J (2007). Illicit opioid use and its key characteristics: A select overview and evidence from a Canadian multi-site cohort of illicit opioid users (OPICAN)—Reply. *C*, 335–336.
- **Fischer, B., Oviedo-Joekes, E.**, Blanken, P., Haasen, C., Rehm, J., Schechter, M., et al. (2007). Heroin-assisted treatment (HAT) a decade later: A brief update on science and politics. , 552–562.
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## Media—Monthly newspaper columns

**Pankratz, N.** (2007, June). C

Published in 8 community newspapers. BC Ministry of Children an

# Media coverage

Story/Topic	Print	TV	Radio	On-line	Totals
Alcohol—Other	29	1	8	2	40
Alcohol health benefits	8	1	8		17
Alcohol tax	13		10		23
Crack pipes	28		15	4	47
Drug policy	27	2	8	2	39
Drugtesting	16		3		19
Harm reduction	10				10
Homelessness	5				5
Intravenous drug use	6		3	1	10
Low alcohol drinks	12	3	7		22
Marijuana	27		12	2	41
Methamphetamine	2				2
Opioids & prescription drugs	17		12	3	33
Overdose	3		6		9
Policing	11		3		14
Public health & illicit drugs	12				12
Supervised injection sites	47		10	4	61
Teen substance use	16		2	1	19
Tobacco	4			1	5
Miscellaneous	50		5	1	56
Totals	343	7	112	21	484

Table 3: Performance Indicators for Key Results Area 3

Objective				Performa	nce indicators for 2007-08	
3.1	Disseminate research findings to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, community interest			oners, als, other		
	gn	p	gn		aat	
		to pol-	_	yma—	ou	F

Objective		Performance indicators for 2007-08			
34	Achieve a high academic impact for BC addictions related research so that it is well-known, frequently requested and often cited.	317 citations in peer reviewed journals in 2007 of research on substance use issues by CARBC researchers (353 in 2006; 244 in 2005)			
35	Provide balanced, factual information on drug-related harms and prevention approaches through a variety of knowledge exchange strategies including media releases and the internet.	<ul> <li>343 articles in the print media (407 in 2006-07; 160 in 2005-06), 21 on-line (35 in 2006-07; 28 in 2005-06), and 140 interviews used by the electronic media (26 in 2006-07; 25 in 2005-06).</li> <li>2 CARBC newsletters (2 in 2006-07; 2 in 2005-06)</li> <li>18 articles from CARBC in magazines, newsletters, websites, and unrefereed journals (14 in 2006-07; 5 in 2005-06)</li> <li>3616 orders for information products were responded to by the CARBC resource centre (5651 in 2006-07; 658 in 2005-06)</li> </ul>			
36	Conduct seminars, lectures and occasional conferences on the state of knowledge and its application to policy, practice and the research agenda.	5 public research seminars (10 in 2006–07; 9 in 2005–06), 1 national symposium convened or co-convened by CARBC (1 in 2006–07; 1 in 2005–06) and 2 international symposia (1 in 2006–07; 0 in 2005–06)  36* invitations to CARBC researchers were accepted to present at conferences and symposia (32 in 2006–07; 45 in 2005–06) of which 19 were held in BC (12 in 2006–07; 25 in 2005–06), 10 were national (12 in 2006–07; 13 in 2005–06) and 16 were international (10 in 2006–07; 7 in 2005–06)  25* papers accepted for conference presentations from CARBC researchers and students (21 in 2006–07; 17 in 2005–06) of which 7 were held in BC (6 in 2006–07; 3 for 2005–06), 9 were national (6 in 2006–07; 7 for 2005–06), and 8 were international (11 in 2006–07; 7 for 2005–06) conferences.  *NB International meetings held in BC counted in each category.			
37	Contribute to teaching programs on substance use and addictions for undergraduate and graduate courses/programs.	5 courses in which addictions issues were taught by CARBC members at UVic (4 in 2006-07; 3 in 2005-06)  1 course in which addictions issues were taught by CARBC members at other campuses (6 in 2006-07; 1 in 2005-06)			

Objective		Performance indicators for 2007-08		
38	Cultivate communities of practice that disseminate knowledge among policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, researchers, community interest groups and the general public in order to increase awareness of drug related harms and e ective prevention strategies.	CARBC personnel are represented or networks active in BC (8 in 2006-07) which link researchers, policy maker and members of the wider communi of disseminating knowledge on substaddiction:  BC Mental Health & Addiction Re BC Partners for Mental Health ar Information BC Addictions Network Keeping the Door Open BC AOD Monitoring Project Group CARBC Program Committee IMPART CIHR NET Grant on Cross-Substate BC Centre for Disease Control growith injecting drug use and infector	y 4 in 2005-06) s, practitioners, ty with the aim tance use and esearch Network and Addictions  app ance Studies oup concerned	

# **Key Results Area 4**

"To contribute to the implementation of evidence-based policy and practice."

# **Highlights**

Conducting research which has immediate relevance to local decision-makers and practitioners is a core part of the CARBC mission. There were several examples during 2007–08 of CARBC research having direct impact on the policy-making process:

Several converging lines of research on alcohol-related harm, drink prices and alcoholic beverage strength led to a submission made jointly with the BC Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, to the Ministry of Finance and also the BC Select Committee on Finance

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Reist, D. Member, BC Partners for Mental Health & Addiction Information, a coalition committed to improving mental health literacy in BC and supported by BC Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Reist, D. Member, Kaiser Foundation Board of Directors.

Reist, D. Member, Action on Addictions Advisory Committee, Vancouver Foundation.

Reist, D. Member, Vancouver Youth Prevention Network, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Stockwell, T. Co-chair with Dr. Bill Honer (UBC), BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network Network Planning and Advisory Committee.

Stockwell, T. President of Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research at the Alcohol Annual Symposium, Riverside CA. and chair of the coordinating committee.

Stockwell, T. Member of National Surveillance Advisory Committee. Organized by the Office of Research and Surveillance, Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Program, Health Canada.

Stockwell, T. Member of National Alcohol Strategy Working Group. National policy committee formed jointly by Health Canada, CECA and CCSA.

Stockwell, T. Member of Canadian Executive Council on Addictions.

Stockwell, T. Member, Advisory Board for the Kaiser Foundation National Awards for Excellence.

Thomas, G. Chair of Local Organizing Committee, Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, 19th Annual Scientific Meeting (October 11–13, 2007).

Thomas, G. Member of Secretariat, National Treatment Strategy Working Group (2006-2008)

#### **Consultations**

CARBC conducted a number of consultancies with provincial, national and international bodies in 2007-08. These bodies including the following:

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Canadian Human Rights Commission

Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence, Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Cluster, World Health Organization

International Union of Operating Engineers

Social Responsibility Unit, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

UK Department of Health—National Institute of Health Research, in association with the School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, and

Versacold

These consultancies have contributed directly to the implementation of prevention strategies and policies. Some examples involve violence prevention around licensed venues in Alberta, patte

Table 4: Performance Indicators for Key Results Area 4

Objective		Performance indicator 2007–08
4.1	Plan the evaluation of new public health and safety measures designed to minimise harms from substance use and gambling prior to their implementation.	5 relevant CARBC studies include: feasibility for safe consumption sites; a revanr  dty nlrmh



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