

**REMARKS BY H.E. GÉRARD LATULIPPE, CANADIAN HIGH
COMMISSIONER**

**SEMINAR: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
EFFECTIVE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION**

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OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS AND FACILITATORS

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SOME BRIEF REMARKS HERE TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF DRUG ABUSE, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

FUNDING THIS IMPORTANT SEMINAR REPRESENTS JUST PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PROJECT, 'FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF DRUG INFORMATION NETWORKS IN THE CARIBBEAN'.

BUILDING UPON OUR PREVIOUS PROGRAMMING IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION, THIS PROJECT SEEKS TO STANDARDIZE INDICATORS ON DRUG SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION, IT PROVIDES MECHANISMS FOR REGULAR REPORTING AND EARLY DETECTION.

THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A) HOLDING WORKSHOPS SUCH AS THE ONE BEGINNING TODAY.
- B) GENERATING INFORMATION FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY AND PROGRAMMING THROUGH SURVEYS, COORDINATION, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT; AND
- C) SUPPORTING DRUG INFORMATION NETWORKS IN PUBLISHING ANNUAL REPORTS AND CONVENING COORDINATION MEETINGS.

AS YOU KNOW, A GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN AUGUST 2012 TO RE-ESTABLISH A REGIONAL NETWORK CALLED THE CARIBBEAN DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (CARIDIN).

THERE ARE SEVERAL BENEFICIAL OUTCOMES ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT.

AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT STUDIES IN PRISONS FOR ADULTS AND IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS USING CICAD'S METHODOLOGY, AND A GREATER CAPACITY TO MANAGE DRUG INFORMATION NETWORKS.

THIS WILL BE MATCHED BY INCREASED CAPACITY TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE DRUG TREATMENT COURT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES, AND MORE INFORMATION SHARING ON THE DRUG RELATED REHABILITATION NEEDS OF PRISONERS.

ANOTHER BENEFIT IS ENHANCED CAPACITY OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION STAKEHOLDERS TO GATHER, IDENTIFY, AND INCORPORATE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE INTO THEIR PROGRAM DESIGN AND PLANNING.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT DRUG POLICIES WILL ALSO HAVE GREATER CAPACITY TO INCORPORATE UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON DRUGS INTO ANTI- DRUG POLICIES AND PRACTICE.

OF COURSE, CANADA'S ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES ARE MUCH BROADER THAN THIS KEY PROJECT.

CANADA CONTINUES TO BE A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (OR MEM), BOTH THROUGH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ANNUAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FUNDING TO THE OAS- CICAD FOR ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

THE MEM PROCESS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A GROWTH IN THE BODY OF DATA RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG ACTIVITIES IN CANADA, AND BETTER COORDINATION OF CANADIAN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

IT HAS ASSISTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN REVIEWING THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, AND HAS HELPED IMPROVE METHODS USED TO GATHER DATA AND TAKE STOCK OF RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

THESE MECHANISMS ALSO PROVIDE US WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION WE NEED COLLECTIVELY TO HELP SHAPE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN ADDRESSING THE DRUG PROBLEM.

SUCH INITIATIVES ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THEY ARE BASED.

CANADA ENCOURAGES OUR PARTNERS TO JOIN IN THE EXISTING EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, THE UNODC AND THE OAS AS A MEANS TO HELP OURSELVES, THE REGION AND GLOBAL EFFORTS.

CANADA'S EFFORTS AT HOME CONTINUE TO BE ALIGNED WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF ILLICIT DRUGS SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY.

CANADA'S NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IS EVALUATED ON A PERIODIC BASIS. RESULTS OF THOSE EVALUATIONS ARE USED TO MONITOR AND UPDATE THE STRATEGY AS REQUIRED.

NATIONAL SURVEYS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL AND STUDENT POPULATIONS, AND INFORMATION IS ALSO COLLECTED ON THE HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WORKS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTNERS TO GATHER AND SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF NEW SUBSTANCES IN CANADA.

IN ADDITION, VARIOUS DATA, SUCH AS HOSPITAL AND PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION DRUG PURCHASES, LOSSES AND THEFTS, DRUG SEIZURES AND DISPOSITION REQUESTS, ARE ANALYZED ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

THE RESULTS FROM THESE ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF CANADA'S NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY AND AS EVIDENCE WHEN REGULATING NEW SUBSTANCES.

DRUG ABUSE CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THROUGH REGIONAL AND INDEED GLOBAL COOPERATION, WE HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL BE MUCH BETTER ABLE TO PREVENT AND REDUCE DRUG ABUSE IN THIS REGION AND BEYOND.

I WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR.

THANK YOU.