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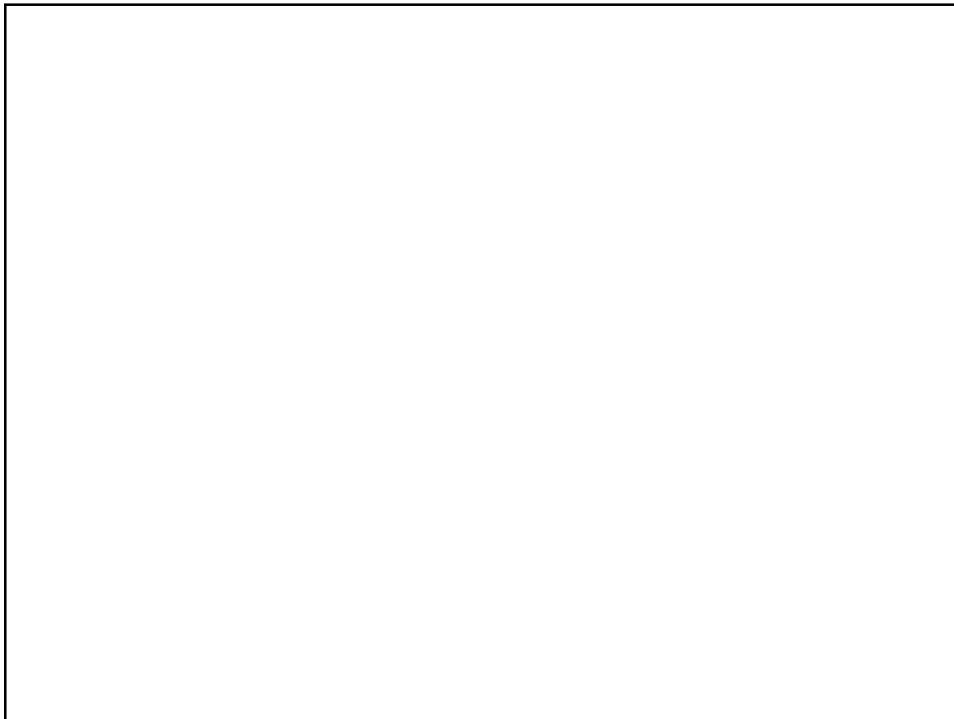
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BUILDING A NATIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY: CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

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Building a National Substance Abuse Prevention Policy The National Anti-Drug Strategy: Canadian Experience

Presentation to: **44th CICAD Regular Session**
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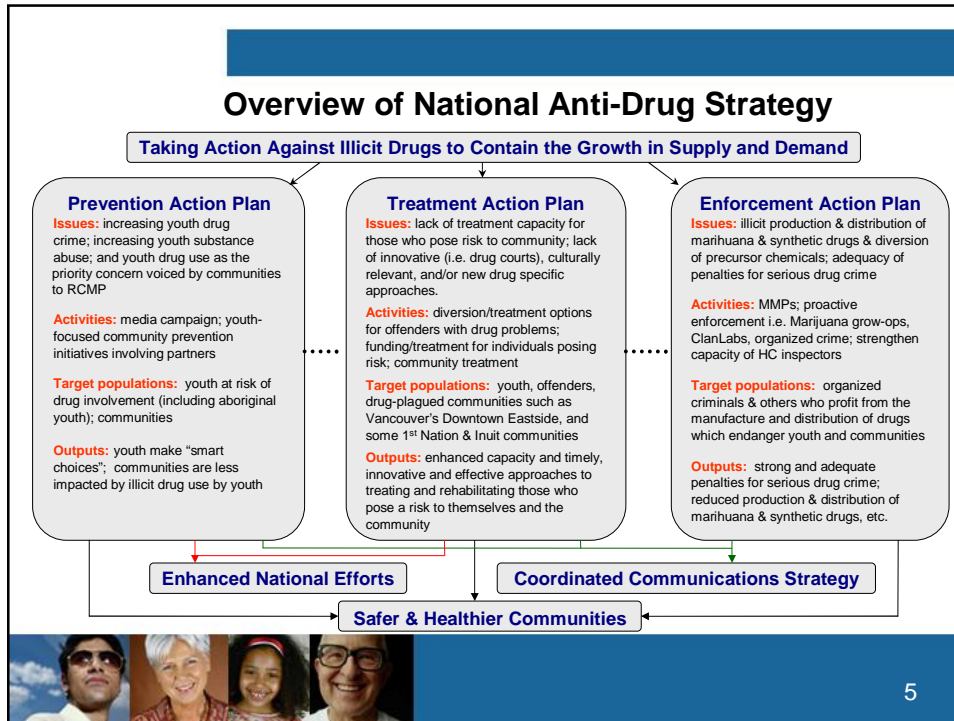
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Context - Canadian Trends and Concerns

- Substance abuse among youth:
 - § rates of illegal drug use are greater for youth than for the general population;
 - § the average age that Canadian youth begin experimenting with drugs is decreasing;
 - § reported incidents of drug offences involving youth have steadily increased; and
 - § gaps exist around youth's knowledge of the harms of drug use and in governments' ability to meet the treatment needs of addicted youth.
- Illicit production and distribution of marijuana and synthetic drugs, the emergence of grow-ops and clandestine labs in residential neighbourhoods, as well as the diversion of precursor chemicals, have all been identified as issues for Canada.





- ## Prevention Action Plan – An interdepartmental approach
- A national, multi-year mass media campaign to discourage young people from using drugs (Health Canada).
 - Resources and tools for preventing drug use (Health Canada and RCMP).
 - Community-based prevention strategies, programs and services for youth and vulnerable populations (Health Canada, RCMP, Public Safety, Justice Canada).
 - A new prevention strategy for Canada's youth (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse).
 - Assistance to communities affected by drug-related crime (Public Safety and RCMP).
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Principles that underpin our work

- Multi-sectoral partnerships
- Full range of evidence
- Open communication and clear roles and responsibilities
- A “one-size fits all” approach is not effective
- Sustainable and measurable results and outcomes



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Partners' Roles

The role of the federal government:

- Leadership role in building partnerships across sectors, research, surveillance, policy development, knowledge development and exchange, and providing resources to communities to implement activities on the ground.
- Responsible for enforcement, compliance and regulations tied to Canada's *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, which contains our domestic drug laws.

The role of provinces/territories:

- Provinces and territories are primarily responsible for the delivery of treatment services and also participate in prevention efforts in their jurisdictions. Law enforcement agencies are for the most part at the municipal and provincial level.

The role of non-government organizations (NGOs):

- NGOs on a larger scale, such as the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), undertake national activities including research, collection of best practices etc. Smaller NGOs such as community groups and schools deliver community-based programs.



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How we work with our partners

- Federal government led and funded F/P/T (federal, provincial and territorial) committees (justice, health, crime prevention).
- CCSA as part of the government drug strategy and works as a conduit on behalf of the federal government in engaging with NGOs.
- Including provinces and territories in key national activities. For example, surveillance and data collection.
- Prevention and treatment grants and contributions to P/Ts and NGOs as a lever for the federal government to have a presence on the ground.
- Consultations with stakeholders when developing policy, programs, regulations, public education etc.



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Future Directions – where to next?

- § Enhanced focus on international partnerships, evidence and experiences as drivers for our own domestic prevention policy.
- § More of a focus on the underlying socio-economic factors that lead to substance abuse (such as poverty, family violence).
- § Focussing prevention efforts by substance and sub-population (targeted approach), with evaluation components to determine effectiveness of these approaches.
- § Establishing national standards around school-based prevention which will be utilized by all P/Ts.



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