



# CRISM

## ONTARIO

### June 2019 Newsletter

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1. Canadian Mental Health Association National Conference: September 23-25, Toronto
2. Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Conference: October 24-27, Nova Scotia
3. Issues of Substance Use Conference: November 25-27, Ottawa

# OCRINT UPDATES

The Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse has reached the end of its five-year funding, and is up for renewal. While CIHR determines the renewal process, they have agreed to extend the CRISM network for 1 more year (2019-2020). Each Node has recently submitted a proposal to CIHR for the extension period.

## 1. OCRINT Symposium

Based on the changes in the renewal process, OCRINT will be hosting the second annual symposium in Fall 2019 in Toronto (instead of June, as originally indicated). Save the dates will be coming out very soon! The symposium will offer an opportunity to share research findings from different projects, discuss priorities for future work, and vote on upcoming priorities for the network through a questionnaire. All members will be invited and encouraged to invite colleagues, friends, peers who work in the substance use area.

## 2. Development of New Demonstration Projects

Based on the results of our first OCRINT symposium, and through extensive collaboration with our members, OCRINT has developed three independent demonstration projects in partnership with members of our Node.

- (1) A partnership with Toronto Public Health to address “not in my backyard” (NIMBY) attitudes among communities located near safe injection sites in Toronto. We will also be conducting research to inform future policies related to safe consumption sites in the province.
- (2) OCRINT is working with Addictions and Mental Health Ontario, ConnexOntario, and people with lived experience to conduct a comprehensive survey of people with lived experience as well as provincial service providers to identify current gaps in service access and provision for individuals who use drugs and key priorities for future research. OCRINT is consulting extensively with current members (service providers, peers) on the development of the survey and questionnaire tool. The results will inform new project development and implementation.
- (3) OCRINT is conducting an evaluation of the Blunt Truth campaign materials among organizations, services and institutions that have purchased the youth designed tool to use cannabis with lower risk (this is an adaptation of the Lower Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines; Fischer et al., 2017). The survey will be developed collaboratively among youth, researchers, and other stakeholders. The data collected will result in recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness and uptake for a future iteration of the tool.

A status update of all above-mentioned projects will be provided at the symposium. If you are interested in participating in any of these projects, please contact Fariyah Ali, contact information is below.

**3. Stay Tuned: OCRINT is launching a Community Competition Grant (subject to final approval of CIHR!)**

During our OCRINT Symposium in January, there was expressed interest from the stakeholders to have a funding pool to support different community-based research projects. We are aware that community-based organizations and services may not always have the resources or support needed to carry out important research projects. As such, OCRINT is in the process of developing a community competition, whereby members can submit a project proposal to apply for up to a maximum of \$35,000 to support a 1-year community-based project. These proposed projects can either be developed individually (organizational/institutional) based, or in collaboration with other stakeholder groups. This will foster a collaborative environment where service providers, researchers, peers, and/or policy makers can work together and in an attempt to address shared priorities. OCRINT is committed to creating trusting collaborative working relationships among our members. We will send out more information once it becomes available.

**4. Post-Doctoral Fellow Opportunities (2)**

Post-Doctoral Fellow – Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Services Margaret and Wallace McCain Centre for Child, Youth and Family Mental Health

Based in the CAMH Child, Youth and Emerging Adult Program, the donor funded McCain Centre is focused on enhancing and improving the design, delivery and effectiveness of mental health and addictions care systems, services and policies for children, youth and families. The McCain Centre combines evidence-based and innovative research approaches to ensure strong child, youth, family and other stakeholder voices in their initiatives. The McCain Centre is seeking two Postdoctoral fellows. Please contact **Dr. Lisa Hawke**, at [lisa.hawke@camh.ca](mailto:lisa.hawke@camh.ca) for more information

## Resources

**1. In Plain Sight**

Health Canada is proud to present a new audio series called *In Plain Sight* that explores the personal stories of people affected by the opioid crisis in Canada. The series is available on [Canada.ca/Opioids](http://Canada.ca/Opioids), and will be made available on iTunes and Google Play. We ask that you take the time to listen to these stories and share them with your network.

In addition, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and help [share social media messages](#) to help us raise awareness about the opioid crisis in Canada. Messages about *In Plain Sight* will be posted on Facebook and Twitter over the next few months.

## **2. Bevel Up: A Ground Breaking Professional Learning Resource**

**Bevel Up:** A groundbreaking professional learning resource for healthcare workers on the frontlines of the drug crisis. **Bevel Up**, is an award-winning documentary and learning resource to help healthcare workers deliver compassionate care to people who use drugs. Now, it is available for the first time as free online harm reduction content at NFB.ca

Created in 2007 by the outreach nursing team from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and co-produced with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), **Bevel Up** is designed to give students and instructors in the healthcare field access to the knowledge and experience of pioneering practitioners. Watch and learn as street nurses in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside deliver nonjudgmental, compassionate and trauma-informed health care to people who use drugs.

## **Events**

### **1.Canadian Mental Health Association National Conference**

When: September 23-25, 2019

Where: Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto

Website: [CMHA Conference](#)

### **2.Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Conference: October 24-27, Nova Scotia**

When: October 24-27, 2019

Where: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Website: [CSAM Conference](#)

### **3.Issues of Substance Use Conference: November 25-27, Ottawa**

When: November 25-27, 2019

Where: Ottawa

Website: [CCSA Conference](#)

### **PLEASE BE IN TOUCH!**

#### **Want to share information about an event or project?**

If you have news you would like to share with OCRINT members, please send the information that you would like to be included in our next issue.

#### **Know someone that would like to be a member?**

If you know someone/organization who would be interested in becoming an OCRINT member, please have them email Farihah, at the below email address.

#### **Contact Information:**

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