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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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CIVIL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CICAD STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION
MICHEL PERRON, CANADIAN CENTRE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

Civil Society Contributions in the Implementation of the CICAD Strategy and Plan of Action

Michel Perron, Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

May 11, 2012



Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

About CCSA

- Charitable, non-profit organization
- Works at arm's length from government
- Volunteer board
- Approximately 50 staff
- National and international role

Our mission

Provide national leadership and advance solutions to address alcohol and other drug-related harms.



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Why this work matters

- ✓ Substance abuse is significant contributor to cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and diabetes
- ✓ Impacts health, social and criminal justice systems
- ✓ Healthcare is biggest single direct cost associated with substance abuse
- ✓ Substance abuse costs Canadians \$40 billion a year



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Why partner with NGOs?

- ✓ NGOs have unique, on the ground expertise and perspective allowing greater connectedness to public in decision-making and policy
- ✓ NGO can address societal issues with independence and flexibility
- ✓ NGOs have proven ability to translate policy into action and tailor to specific conditions. They can often do this more quickly and for less cost
- ✓ NGOs accept their shared responsibility of addressing drug problem and want to work with governments towards common objectives
- ✓ NGOs represent an extreme diversity of views but have proven to be able to build on common objectives, speak with one voice, and commit to working together



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How CCSA applies this in Canada

- ✓ We address substance abuse and addictions across Canada, while being respectful and responsive to federal and provincial government roles and responsibilities
- ✓ We operate on principle of shared responsibility and accountability, where every stakeholder has role in working toward collective response
- ✓ Responses to issues of substance abuse must be evidence-based rather than ideologically or politically driven
- ✓ In our experience, networks composed of all essential partners is the most effective means of creating and sustaining continued progress on intractable societal challenges.



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To get started – we set the *Foundation*

- ✓ *National Framework for Action* (2005) is coordinated, Canada-wide, multi-partner approach to meeting the challenges associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances
- ✓ Shared ownership of *Framework* enables leaders, across all sectors, to emerge as advocates of given priority area within an overall plan of coordinated action
- ✓ *Framework* sets the vision, underlying principles, and 15 priority areas for sustained action to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances in Canada



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Next – we put the *Framework* into Action

- ✓ October 2008 – *A Systems Approach to Substance Abuse in Canada*
The National Treatment Strategy and action plan improves the quality of care, and access to services and supports for those with a substance abuse problem. It does so across a wide range of jurisdictions within Canada.
- ✓ November 2010 – *Portfolio of Canadian Standards for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention*
The Standards - Canada's first national resource for drug abuse prevention, improves the quality and rigor of drug prevention activities for youth. This means time spent with youth is time well spent.



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Next – we put the *Framework* into Action

– July 2011 – *International Symposium on Drugs and Driving*

The symposium has identified an emerging public health and road safety threat. More complex than drinking and driving, drugged driving merits greater attention in Canada and abroad.

✓ May 2012 – *National Prescription Drug Misuse Strategy*

Building on recent work led by Public Safety Canada among others, CCSA will launch a comprehensive strategy to address prescription drug misuse with Canada's medical, enforcement, treatment, pharmacy, industry and government partners.



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A similar approach - *Beyond 2008*

- ✓ CCSA chaired this process for Vienna NGO Committee. Engaged 900 NGOs from 145 countries as part of review of 1998-2008 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs
- ✓ Despite tremendous diversity of views, participants agreed on one Declaration and three Resolutions with specific recommendations for: member states, International Narcotics Control Board, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and NGOs
- ✓ Since 2009, 85% of *Beyond 2008* recommendations have been adopted. Partnership with NGOs has improved and collaboration increased - all within the context of the international drug control conventions



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Leveraging for success in the Americas

- ✓ The challenge before the Americas is great. The post-Cartagena mandate, daunting. The need to capitalize on *all* national assets, essential
- ✓ NGOs represent key assets in all areas of drug policy, program and practice. Working in partnership with NGOs should never dilute authority or mandate. If done right, it enhances it.
- ✓ Governments and CICAD should be asking NGOs – *What can you do for us and our Hemispheric Strategy?*
- ✓ Set the foundation first, then the actions. A common vision, objectives and principles of engagement permits coherent short- and medium-term decisions and investments



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Thank you
for your attention
and this opportunity

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