OUR MISSION

To be an internationally recognized institute dedicated to the study of psychoactive substance use and addiction, in order to support community-wide efforts to promote health and reduce harm.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The work of CISUR will continue to be guided by the following principles:

• Collaborative relationships
  Dynamic, collaborative relationships are essential for maintaining relevance to the multi-faceted concerns related to substance use and addictions. Key relationships include those with policymakers, researchers from many disciplines, practitioners and people with personal experience of substance use, addictions and related problems.

• Independent research
  Protection from vested interests is essential to ensure that rigorous research is conducted and communicated clearly, with a view only to furthering the public interest. This will be ensured through excluding representatives of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and gaming industries from membership of the Advisory Board and not accepting direct research funding from such sources.

• Ethics, social equity and justice
  Commitment to solid ethical principles governing internal and external relationships, financial management, the conduct of research and the communication of research findings is essential. Also required is a commitment to the promotion of equity and fairness and the pursuit of social justice through attention to the impact of the social determinants that shape substance use and the development of health inequities.

• Reducing risk and increasing protection
  Attention is required to both immediate factors (e.g. behavioural patterns and contexts) and distal factors (e.g. social, economic and developmental influences) to effectively address the harms from substance use and addictions across the life course.

• Harm reduction
  Recognition that some people will continue to use psychoactive substances and experience addictions is critical, so strategies are needed to reduce harmful consequences in addition to those that aim to directly reduce or prevent high-risk behaviours.

• Informed public debate
  Commitment to informing public debate to achieve effective public policy on substance use and addictions through the communication of research findings is required.
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Cover photo: John Dorocicz

This report covers the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
Message from the Advisory Board Chair

Overall, this has been a very strong year for CISUR. In particular, I wish to note the attaining of new grants and contracts, including large grants and/or multiple contracts pertaining to the evaluation of BC’s Risk Mitigation Guidance (i.e., Safer Supply) program, the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation project, and the Managed Alcohol Project. As total funding has increased, we add more projects to our portfolio and add more staff to work on those projects with more opportunities for students.

To be sure, the work required to prevent and mitigate harms from substance use is needed now more than ever. The overdose epidemic continues unabated, despite the (at least for now) waning of the COVID epidemic. What does the future hold, and what will be the effect of efforts to address the toxic supply of illicit drugs in the short and long term? We also saw per capita alcohol consumption rise to its highest level since 2000, which represented a spike on top of a steady upward trend during this period. Will this level out, or will the many alcohol policy liberalizations during the pandemic, which the government seems unlikely to reverse, continue to drive increases in consumption and alcohol-related harms?

We continue with our national and international collaborations. We currently have three CISUR Scientists serving on the committee updating the Canadian national drinking guidelines, and this past year marked the first full year of CISUR’s being a WHO collaborating center for alcohol policy. We also continue to engage with multiple community organizations through research partnerships and advocacy, and host three active community of practice networks.

As in past years, I want to offer my deep thanks to members of our Advisory Board who review CISUR’s work and help CISUR look to the future. Here’s to another great year ahead!

Michael J. Prince, Ph.D.
Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy,
University of Victoria
Chair, CISUR Advisory Board
I'm happy to report that CISUR continues to be a leading national and international resource for substance use research, and we further strengthened our position during the past fiscal year (April 2021 through March 2022). First and perhaps most importantly, UVic renewed CISUR’s status as a research centre for another five years. To prepare the renewal application, we underwent a thorough external review process whose findings praised CISUR’s mission, culture, projects, scientists, staff and students. We wish to thank our external reviewers Cam Wild and Samantha Wells, and UVic’s own Denise Cloutier for their hard work and attention throughout this process.

CISUR faculty and staff have concluded another successful year of impactful research work in substance use and harms and their contributing factors. Papers, grants, contracts, awards and innumerable media engagements have been matched by important research translation activities with community and government partners, and related outreach activities.

The end of our fiscal year marked the retirement of the extraordinary Dan Reist, who has led CISUR’s Vancouver office and our knowledge translation activities for 18 years. Dan is a gifted, kind and generally remarkable man who will be missed, but we plan to bother him for help and counsel for as long as he’ll put up with us!

We also welcomed two new scientists to CISUR. The first is Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira, who is a Canada Research Chair in Substance Use and Health Policy Research and assistant professor at the School of Public Health and Social Policy. Prior to coming to CISUR, he worked as Associate Professor at the Drug Policy Program of the Centre for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Aguascalientes, Mexico. His current work near the Mexico-US border includes helping establish supervised consumption sites, including Latin America’s first supervised consumption site and the fourth in the world exclusively for women. Adam Sherk was also added to the ranks as a CISUR Scientist upon his promotion from his position as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Adam is already a leading alcohol epidemiologist and policy researcher who, among other achievements, developed a customizable software application to assess alcohol related harms related to policy and consumption change that is being used in multiple countries. Adam is also CISUR’s only scientist-farmer and is a source of exceptional free-range eggs for our well-fed group.

Unfortunately, we still have our work cut out for us. The opioid overdose epidemic continues to progress, and CISUR scientists are leading efforts in evaluating “safer supply” programs that aim to circumvent the poisoned illicit drug supply. This past year also marked the highest recorded per capita alcohol consumption in British Columbia in the past 20 years. CISUR scientists are leading efforts to update estimates of the health and economic effects of all substance use across the province, and the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) project is well into its third iteration with the goal of reducing and preventing alcohol-caused harms. These are just a couple of examples of what will keep us very busy in the coming year. For more detail, keep reading!

Timothy S. Naimi, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR)
Professor, Department of Public Health and Social Policy
University of Victoria
Directors and Faculty

Dr. Timothy Naimi  
Director, Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Jaime Arredondo  
Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Cecilia Benoit  
Scientist (Emerita, Sociology)

Dr. Russ Callaghan  
Scientist (Northern Medical Program, UNBC)

Dr. Marilou Gagnon  
Scientist (Nursing)

Dr. Mikael Jansson  
Scientist (Sociology)

Dr. Marjorie MacDonald  
Scientist (Emerita, Nursing)

Dr. Scott Macdonald  
Scientist (Emeritus, Health Information Science)

Dr. Bernie Pauly  
Scientist (Nursing)

Dan Reist  
Assistant Director for Knowledge Exchange

Dr. Adam Sherk  
Scientist

Dr. Tim Stockwell  
Scientist (Emeritus, Psychology)

Dr. Karen Urbanoski  
Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Bruce Wallace  
Scientist (Social Work)

Dr. Jinhui Zhao  
Scientist
Staff (Victoria)

Jarred Aasen  
Research Assistant

Brittany Graham  
Research and CoP Coordinator

Daniel Gudiño  
Research Assistant

Fariha Alam  
Research Associate

Priscilla Healey  
Research Assistant

Stephanie Arlt  
Research Assistant

Katherine Hogan  
Research Assistant

Shawn Belcourt  
Peer Research Associate

Abby Hutchison  
Research Assistant

Cedar Bowers  
Transcriptionist

Jeremy Kalicum  
Research Assistant

Meaghan Brown  
Research Coordinator

Jenn Keogh  
Research Assistant

Piotr Burek  
Research Assistant

Mike Knott  
Community Research Associate

Fred Cameron  
Community Research Associate

Brett Koenig  
Research Assistant

Dr. Connie Carter  
Research Manager

Ashley Larnder  
Research Assistant

Laura Cartwright  
Peer Research Associate

Rebecca Louw  
Research Assistant

Sam Churchill  
Research Assistant

Celeste Macevicius  
Research Assistant

John Dorocicz  
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Susan Martin  
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Amanda Farrell-Low  
Communications Officer / Assistant to the Director

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Priscilla Healey  
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Brett Koenig  
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James Fraser  
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Katherine Hogan  
Research Assistant

Sybil Goulet-Stock  
Research Coordinator

Abby Hutchison  
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Jenn Keogh  
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Mike Knott  
Community Research Associate

Susan Martin  
Research Associate

Ashley Larnder  
Research Assistant

Priscilla Healey  
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Jenn Keogh  
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Brett Koenig  
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Katherine Hogan  
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Abby Hutchison  
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Sybil Goulet-Stock  
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Jarred Aasen  
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Stephanie Arlt  
Research Assistant

Meaghan Brown  
Research Coordinator

Piotr Burek  
Research Assistant

Fred Cameron  
Community Research Associate

Connie Carter  
Research Manager

James Fraser  
Research Assistant

Brittany Graham  
Research and CoP Coordinator

Daniel Gudiño  
Research Assistant

Priscilla Healey  
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Katherine Hogan  
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Abby Hutchison  
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Sam Churchill  
Research Assistant

Amanda Farrell-Low  
Research Coordinator

James Fraser  
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Phoenix Beck McGreevey  
Peer Research Associate
Staff (Victoria), cont’d

Becky McLeod  
Peer Research Associate

Heather Spence  
Peer Research Associate

Sydele Merrigan  
Research Associate

Ben Stevenson  
Peer Research Associate (RIP)

Lacey Mesley  
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Heather Stroscher  
Research Coordinator

Megan Mills  
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Ginger Sullivan  
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Taylor Teal  
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Laura Vetrone  
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Michaela Smith  
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Nicole Vishnevsky  
Research Assistant

---

Staff (Vancouver)

Dr. Tim Dyck  
Research Associate

Dr. Trudy Norman  
Research Associate
Ben Stevenson  
January 22, 1987 - March 28, 2022

Benjamin Tenisci Stevenson started with the risk mitigation guidance study as a Peer Research Associate at the beginning of the project. The combination of his previous post-secondary work and resultant research experience and his invaluable connection to the community made him a natural choice for the role.

Ben’s input at our Peer Research Advisory meetings was insightful and relevant. During his time in the role, he assisted in workshopping the quantitative survey, taking turns role playing with other PRAs as researcher and participant – identifying problem areas and workshopping ways of delivering the survey that felt more authentic and improved data collection. In the recruitment phase of the project, he often teamed up with another local PRA to go out into the community and find potential participants, putting them at ease with his familiar presence and knowledgeable manner.

Ben Stevenson died alone in an SRO in the last week of March 2022, leaving a piece of the community gone forever and a hole in our lives. Those of us on the project who were fortunate enough to work with him will remember his insight, his quiet sense of humor, and his intelligence. Those of us who were privileged enough to call him a friend will remember his warmth, compassion, genuine positivity, and his smile.

- Phoenix Beck McGreevy  
(From the BC Co/Lab newsletter)

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dr. Gillian Kolla  
(Public Health)

Dr. Jane McCall  
(Nursing)

Dr. Jennifer Robinson  
(Social Dimensions of Health)

Dr. Marion Selfridge  
(Social Dimensions of Health)
Advisory Board

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Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, University of Victoria

Dr. Mark Asbridge
Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University

Dr. Brian Emerson
Deputy Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health

Dr. William Kerr
Senior Scientist, Alcohol Research Group, Public Health Institute, Oakland, California

Dwayne McDonald
Deputy Commissioner, Commanding Officer, BC Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Jessica Mensinger
Practice Lead, Substance Use Team, Interior Health Authority

Dr. Cynthia Milton
Associate Vice-President, Office of the Vice-President Research, University of Victoria

Dr. Rita Notarandrea
CEO, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Ottawa, Ontario

Sandra Richardson
Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Foundation

Colleen Salter
Director, Mental Wellness Clinical Services, First Nations Health Authority

Darryl Sturtevant
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
Collaborating Scientists

Dr. Brittany Barker  
Health System Impact Fellow, First Nations Health Authority

Dr. Jeffrey Brubacher  
Emergency Physician and Researcher, Vancouver General Hospital

Dr. Jane Buxton  
Professor, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Physician Epidemiologist, Harm Reduction Lead, BC Centre for Disease Control

Dr. Erin Hobin  
Scientist, Public Health Ontario

Dr. Nathan Lachowsky  
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Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater  
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

Dr. Doug Magnuson  
Professor, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria

Dr. Lenora Marcellus  
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Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, UBC Okanagan

Dr. Amanda Slaunwhite  
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Dr. Gerald Thomas  
Director, Alcohol & Gambling Policy, Healthy Populations and Development, BC Ministry of Health
Research Affiliates

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Research Coordinator, Youth Addictions, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

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PhD Researcher, Department of Psychology, University of Portsmouth

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BC Centre for Disease Control Harm Reduction Program Peer Engagement & Evaluation Project

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Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria

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Manager, Harm Reduction Policy, BC Ministry of Health

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Executive Director, Peers Victoria Resources Society

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Physician, Drug Treatment Court

Dr. Kara Thompson  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, St Francis Xavier University

Dr. Zach Walsh  
Co-Director, Centre for the Advancement of Psychological Science & Law

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Policy Officer, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health & Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

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Graduate Students

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Meaghan Brown
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Samantha Davis
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Gioi Tran Minh
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Kayla Gruntman
School of Social Work, UVic

Brianna Joppe
School of Social Work, UVic

Bella Priore
Department of Psychology, UVic

Dee Sharp
School of Social Work, UVic
COLLABORATING CENTRES

- World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) Collaborating Centre on Alcohol and Public Health Policy, Washington, DC/Geneva, Switzerland
- Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), Ottawa, ON
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research (CAMH), Toronto, ON
- Alcohol Research Group (ARG), National Alcoholic Research Center, Berkeley, CA, USA
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), Curtin University, Perth, WA, Australia
- Sheffield Alcohol Research Group (SARG), School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, UK

CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: BRUCE WALLACE (SCIENTIST)

The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project (aka Substance) continued to demonstrate the potential of providing direct services within a research agenda. We established our storefront site within the Solid Outreach building and we fully integrated mass spectrometry into our project through our collaboration with Vancouver Island University. With this service hub in Victoria established and operating six days a week we then moved forward with our plans for a distributed model of drug checking with sites in North, Central and South Vancouver Island. There are challenges in carrying out multidisciplinary projects but also great potential and I have hugely benefitted from being part of a project that combines students, faculty and graduates from Social Work, Chemistry, Computer Science, Public Health and Nursing. Our shared commitment to community-university partnerships and experiential learning has been able to combine science with public health to produce research, innovation and knowledge mobilization that informs responses to the overdose crisis while promoting equity.
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of many colleagues and community agencies, including the following:

**Victoria:**
- Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness
- AVI Health and Community Services
- Community Social Planning Council
- SOLID Outreach Society
- Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services
- Victoria Cool Aid Society

**Vancouver:**
- Eastside Illicit Drinkers Group for Education (EIDGE)
- St. Paul's Hospital
- Providence Health Care
- Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)
- Vancouver Coastal Health

**British Columbia:**
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre on Substance Use
- BC Ministry for Attorney General
- BC Ministry for Mental Health and Addictions
- BC Ministry of Health
- BC Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
- BC Support Unit - Vancouver Island Centre
- BC Representative for Children and Youth
- BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre
- BC/Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors
- Coalition of Substance Users of the North (CSUN), Quesnel
- First Nations Health Authority
- Fraser Health
- Interior Health
- Island Health Authority (VIHA)
- KANDU (Knowledge for All Nations and Developing Unity), Kelowna
- Lookout Housing and Health Society
- Northern Health Authority
- Office of the Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health
- Port Alberni Shelter Society
- Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)
- Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC)
- Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- Vancouver Island University

**Rest of Canada:**
- CAN, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- CAN, Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform
- CAN, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Statistics Canada
- CAN, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)
- CAN, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
- CAN, Centre of Excellence on Women's Health (CEWH)
- CAN, Health Canada
- CAN, Mental Health Commission of Canada
- CAN, Public Health Agency of Canada
- CAN, Royal Society of Canada
- ON, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
- ON, Homewood Research Institute, Guelph
- ON, Jean Tweed Centre, Etobicoke
- ON, Ottawa Inner City Health, Ottawa

**International:**
- University of Stirling and Salvation Army Research Unit, UK
- University of New South Wales, Australia
“To build Canadian infrastructure and capacity to conduct research and knowledge exchange that will increase understanding and support more effective responses to substance use.”

CISUR faculty earned 18 new or renewed competitive grants and contracts worth approximately $4.5 million (both representing large increases). Overall, the centre had approximately $1.05 million in income (operating funds), not including carry forward from the endowment or from overheads from the previous year. Approximately 89% of this was from grants and contracts, and 11% was from endowment and related revenues.
Successful applications to funding competitions

- **A MIXED METHODS EVALUATION OF SAFER SUPPLY INITIATIVES TO REDUCE ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE IN BC**  
  CIHR Project Grant, $2,050,000, 2022-2026

- **CANNABIS SUBSTITUTION IN MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAMS**  
  Health Canada, Substance Use and Addictions Program, $1.9 million, 2022-2023

- **DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR NURSE-ASSISTED INJECTION IN BC’S SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES**  
  Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Convene Grant, $15,000, 2021-2022

- **DRUG USER KNOWLEDGE & DRUG CHECKING EVIDENCE: KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS ACTIONS TO REDUCE OVERDOSE IN ISLAND HEALTH**  
  Island Health Authority’s Catalyst grants, $90,460, 2022-2023

- **ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE AMONG POLICY STAKE-HOLDERS TO ADDRESS ALCOHOL-RELATED HARMs IN CANADA**  
  SSHRC Connection Grant, $46,980, 2021-2022

- **SCALE-UP FOR DISTRIBUTED DRUG CHECKING SITES**  

- **PHOTOVOICE: PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE VISUALIZE THE OVERDOSE CRISIS**  
  CIHR SPOR Grant, $9,725, 2021-2022

- **HOMELESS RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**  
  $60,000, 2021-2023

- **THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ALCOHOL MINIMUM UNIT PRICING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LABELLING AS A CANCER PREVENTION INTERVENTION IN CANADA, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, AT THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS**  
  CIHR Catalyst Grant, $99,943, 2022-2024

- **REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSTABILITY DURING COVID19: A VANCOUVER ISLAND CASE STUDY**  
  Victoria Hospital Foundation, $57,695, 2021-2022

- **THE SAFER WASHROOM CAMPAIGN: DISSEMINATING BEST PRACTICES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**  
  Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Reach Grant, $15,000, 2021-2022

- **STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOME: DEVELOPING STAFF WELLNESS STRATEGIES IN INDIGENOUS ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION SERVICES**  
  University of Victoria Collaborative Health Research Grant, $34,000, 2021-2022

- **UPDATING, OPTIMIZING AND EXPANDING THE CANADIAN ALCOHOL POLICY EVALUATION (CAPE) PROJECT**  
  Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program, $734,119, 2022-2023
Commissioned contracts won and other grants

- BC PARTNERS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE INFORMATION - ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT PLANNING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION
  Provincial Health Services Authority, $25,000, 2021-2022

- BC PARTNERS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE INFORMATION SERVICE
  Provincial Health Services Authority, $227,400, 2021-2022

- UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER TOGETHER: A JOURNEY INTO OUR EXPERIENCES OF STIGMA TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND CREATE CHANGE (UNITE)
  Provincial Health Services Authority, $22,500, 2021-22

- MINIMUM PRICING SCENARIOS FOR BC
  BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, $80,000, 2022

- CAMPUS SUICIDE PREVENTION PROJECT
  Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, $16,500, 2021-22

- COLLABORATE TO GENERATE A SET OF RISK CURVES ILLUSTRATING THE RELATIONSHIP LEVELS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL HARMs OUTCOMES USING ALTERNATIVE METRICS AND ASSUMPTIONS
  Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, $35,000, 2021

- GIRLS EXPERIENCING MULTIPLE CHALLENGES
  Representative Council for Children and Youth, $25,000, 2021-2022

- UPDATING AND REVISING CANADIAN ALCOHOL POLICY EVALUATION (CAPE) 3.0 SCORING RUBRIC AND ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF APPLYING IN CANADA THE ALCOHOL ENVIRONMENT PROTOCOL (AEP) FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ALCOHOL CONTROL (IAC) STUDY
  Public Health Agency of Canada, $39,990, 2022

Total Income for 2021/22

The figure below summarises the various sources of our income which come to a total of $5,251,398. This includes funds carried forward from previous years. The main source of income was evenly divided between competitive research grant competitions and other grants and contracts, with the rest coming from core funding and knowledge exchange grants and contracts.

CISUR 2021/22 Revenue & Carry-Forward Summary

- Research Grant Competitions
  $2,054,590

- Other Research Grants and Contracts
  $2,310,795

- Knowledge Exchange Grants and Contracts
  $297,253

- Endowment
  $588,760
Table 1. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 1: Building Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1</strong> To maintain or increase the number of substance use research projects through grants and contracts</td>
<td>Conduct work on substance use research won by CISUR scientists in the form of (a) international and Canadian peer reviewed grants and (b) Canadian and international contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: (a) 7 (b) 6 2021/2022: (a) 13 (b) 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2</strong> To maintain or increase national and international funding for substance use and health research at CISUR</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding for substance use research won by CISUR scientists from (a) Canadian and international peer reviewed sources (b) Canadian and international contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: (a) $1,772,496 (b) $1,779,776 2021/2022: (a) $2,054,590 (b) $2,608,048</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3</strong> To maintain or increase funding for knowledge exchange concerning substance use and health promotion at CISUR</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding for substance use knowledge exchange held by CISUR from (a) Canadian and international peer reviewed sources (b) Canadian and international contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: (a) $246,598 (b) $223,197 2021/2022: (a) $291,400 (b) $179,990</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Drug-checking programs can track the flow of fentanyl across North America—and shine a light on new substances that could make the drug-poisoning crisis more deadly.

Mexico and Canada may be physically separated by thousands of kilometres, but people like Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira are working to bring them closer together when it comes to harm reduction and drug policy.

Arredondo is the new Canada Research Chair in Substance Use and Health Policy Research, a professor in UVic’s School of Public Health and Social Policy, and a scientist with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR). He comes to UVic from the Centre for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Aguascalientes, Mexico, where he was a professor in the Drug Policy Program.

“I had a not-so-traditional transition to academia,” Arredondo explains. “Before grad school, I worked in the Mexican government in the Ministry of Public Safety in the state of Quintana Roo, where the popular Cancun resort community is located.” This means his first experience in public policy was closely related to public safety, particularly policing. After leaving government to start his graduate studies in San Diego, he began to look at violence and the US-led war on drugs as public-health issues, not criminal ones, and worked to understand how police themselves could be risk factors for HIV—both for people who use drugs, and for officers themselves, as aggressive tactics used by police against people who used drugs put them all at risk.

Canadian connections

Arredondo’s work in Tijuana implementing a fentanyl drug-checking program with the harm reduction organization Prevencasa led him to the BC Centre on Substance Use in Vancouver. Getting to know the DTES community helped him explore new research ideas around implementing innovative projects in his home country of Mexico and his temporary home in Canada.

“I got to know many of the interventions that are now standard in British Columbia, like naloxone distribution and overdose prevention sites and adapt them to the reality of Mexico and the US/Mexico border,” he says.
Arredondo returned to Mexico, specifically Mexicali and the border town of Tijuana, to help put policies such as overdose prevention sites and drug checking into place. He has worked with charities such as Integración Social Verter, which set up La Sala, the only supervised consumption site in Latin America, and the fourth in the world specifically for women. He also started a safe smoking distribution program in Baja California. But given the very different status of harm reduction and drug markets in Mexico versus Canada, there are hurdles to overcome, particularly around the power of organized crime in Mexico and how it relates to harm reduction.

“Trying to create a drug-checking service might be a little scarier in Mexico where a lot of community organizations, leaders, journalists or people who used substances are getting killed by disputes with organized crime,” Arredondo says. “To our surprise, we haven’t had any problems with violence from organized crime when it comes to harm reduction. It was more the government who showed resistance to the ideas.”

The Mexican government cut all funding for harm reduction in the country in 2018, making it hard to sustain services without external help or research grants.

Harm reduction without borders

With his new CRC appointment, Arredondo is shifting much of his base to Victoria, but his work in Mexico and beyond continues. He says these countries, as well as the US, have a lot to learn from each other in terms of how we approach harm reduction and treat people who use drugs. His work assessing decriminalization in Mexico helped him understand that the law on the books is not always followed by implementation on the ground.

These countries are linked by free trade agreements like NAFTA, but also by informal markets such as the political economy of drugs. I think they all have common issues. One of them is the vulnerabilities around people who use substances and the stigma surrounding substance use. That seems to be equally harmful throughout our region.

Mapping the North American drug supply

A new project Arredondo is involved in will help connect his Mexican and Canadian research with what is happening on the US west coast. This region is also seeing a need for harm reduction services, like drug checking and supervised consumption sites, in the face of rising fentanyl-related overdoses due to a contaminated drug supply, largely coming from Mexico.

A new partnership between the OnPoint San Diego needle exchanges service, local health departments and the University of California San Diego, will try to implement community-based drug checking similar to UVic’s Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project.

“This new community service in San Diego has the potential to be one key element in the development of a pacific-wide drug monitoring system,” explains Arredondo. “The introduction of fentanyl in the Canadian and BC drug supply is a phenomenon being replicated in other western North American cities, like San Diego and Tijuana. We need to take actions to save lives now.”

The concept of interconnected drug-checking projects set up across North America could tell us a lot about the rapidly changing drug supply as it travels around the continent. Identifying some unexpected results of where adulterants, such as benzodiazepines, are appearing up in the supply chain can help share harm-reduction knowledge among community organizations and governments.

“Drug-trafficking organizations in Mexico seem to be adapting to new demands for stronger opioids in Canada and the US. Now, more than ever, substance use issues must be seen as a common challenge in the North American region.”

This article originally appeared in UVic’s Ring newspaper.
“To capitalize on the resources of Canadian universities through the recruitment of high-calibre graduate and postdoctoral students from multiple relevant disciplines to the study of substance use, addiction and harm reduction.”

HIGHLIGHTS

CISUR faculty were active in teaching substance use-relevant courses in online and in-person formats. We continue to house and mentor a handful of postdoctoral students, and approximately 20 graduate students. The Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) position was formally approved in 20/21, and Dr. Jaime Arrendo Sanchez Lira arrived in fall, 2021. Dr. Adam Sherk was promoted to Scientist from his position as a post-doctoral fellow. In addition, our scientists won numerous awards this past year.

Honours and Awards

Cecelia Benoit
- 2022 Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize for the Social Sciences and Humanities

Gillian Kolla
- 2021 Banting Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Marjorie Macdonald
- Global Qualitative Nursing Research – award for Best Paper of 2021 in the empirical category (with co-authors Laura Tomm Bonde and Rita Schreiber)

Bernie Pauly
- 2021 Nurse and Nurse Practitioner Association of BC: Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge and Research Award
- 2021 Dr. Nancy Hall Public Policy Leadership Award (CMHC BC Division)
- 2021 Fellow, Canadian Academy of Nursing

Bruce Wallace
- 2022 UVic President’s Chair
### Table 2. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 2: Engaging Academic Expertise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1</strong> To attract and retain high quality researchers from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field</td>
<td>Maintain or increase number of (a) doctoral level researchers within CISUR each year and (b) postdoctoral fellows with CISUR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: (a) 12 (b) 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: (a) 18 (b) 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.2</strong> To attract and retain high quality students from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field</td>
<td>Maintain or increase number of CISUR graduate students under supervision per year</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 26</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 31</td>
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</table>
Cecilia Benoit wins prestigious prize for social sciences and humanities

She has worked with, learned from and spoken up for midwives and sex workers, Indigenous women on Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, unhoused people and people who use illicit drugs. She has published hundreds of research papers and dozens of books. She has testified before the Supreme Court of Canada as an expert witness.

And through a lifetime in academia and advocacy, Cecilia Benoit, who as a rebellious teenager resisted her father’s entreaties that she enter a nunnery, has displayed a fervent dedication to groups often marginalized in Canadian society.

For a career marked by empathy, curiosity and scholarly rigour, Benoit, a researcher with the Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research at the University of Victoria, was recently awarded the 2022 Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

By Richard Dal Monte
‘Pioneering research’ lauded

“For more than three decades, her pioneering research has helped to decrease gender and racial inequities while also empowering youth, women and Indigenous Peoples,” wrote Kevin Hall, UVic’s president and vice-chancellor, in his letter nominating Benoit for the award.

Hall praised her “incredible influence as an educator and mentor,” noting she has supervised 48 graduate students, many of whom have taken up leadership roles in academia as well as the public and non-profit sectors.

“Long before the topic was popular in the academy,” he wrote, “Dr. Benoit has advocated for Indigenous practices and ways of knowing in health care practices, specifically with respect to childbirth practices, midwifery and maternity care. Thanks to her diligent efforts and those of others, midwifery has become recognized as a respected and legitimate profession in Canada and the costs for new mothers and their families covered by the public purse.”

‘The social structure was unfair’

Benoit says her twin dedications—to academia and to those who society inadequately cares for and protects—come down to her childhood.

The third youngest of Joseph Benoit and Rita LaFitte’s 11 children, Benoit grew up in a poor family noticing that many people in her community worked hard but were unable to get ahead, and thinking there must be ways to make society more equitable.

I just got drawn to sociology because that’s where I thought I could start to figure out how I could see the world and figure out why the world is the way it is. So, developing a way of seeing and, from there, is it possible to change it?

Despite their limited means, her parents “did provide for us in whatever way they could and they did really stress education as being important.” Still, she could see “the social structure was unfair, the way society was put together.”

“We live in a class system, a patriarchal system and one that’s also very advantageous to people with white skin,” says Benoit, who is of Mi’kmaw and European ancestry.

Another inequity she witnessed in her younger years also proved formative: that women’s and girls’ work never ended while men’s did. Outside their formal workday, men rested while women toiled at domestic tasks without break or reward. “That stuck with me for a long time,” she says.

How to change the world?

The first major thing she set out to change was the exclusion of midwives from the health care system. In the early to mid-1990s, she says, some politicians were interested in changing legislation to allow midwives to provide care to pregnant women and to attend births. Benoit’s doctoral and postdoctoral research—which showed the inclusion of midwifery in the Canadian health care system would create legitimate work for midwives, improve care for birthing families and be economical—changed her career.

In fact, when asked about societal changes she’s seen during her working life, she notes that 20 to 30 years ago, a person could be charged for practicing midwifery, and she calls Canada’s legalization and funding of the practice “an amazing achievement in a couple of decades.”
“And it was social science research, and a social movement of people in society, that got the government’s attention.”

Another change she has witnessed as a scientist is the expansion of support for marginalized and street-involved youth: kids who have fallen through society’s cracks. BC will soon have 19 clinics around the province providing them care. And while, as with midwifery and reproductive care, there are improvements still to be made, she says, “youth are getting better health and social care than they used to and it’s because we understand them better; we understand their situations, their challenges.”

Research partners rather than research subjects

Understanding the situations of people who need society’s care is at the core of Benoit’s work, as is this research philosophy: “think of people you interview as partners rather than subjects.”

Indeed, her research with people who sell sexual services—and a number of other topics—started with an invitation within that community to work with its members. As a result of that connection, she says, she and her colleagues conceived a project to study people involved with sex work by comparing their working conditions to those of people doing other kinds of care work: in food and beverage industries, and in hair care and barbering.

A small university news release announcing funding for this project drew an unexpected response, however: an opinion piece in a local paper saying, roughly, “how dare hardworking women be included in this study with prostitutes?” that was subsequently published across the country.

“It was very ugly. I was shocked,” she says, noting that she received hate mail. “That was my first lesson in stigma.

“From then, I had to either give it up or dig my heels in and say, ‘it’s hard research and we’re going to do it anyway.’”

Benoit says she’s glad she chose the latter and notes the subsequent research informed a challenge of Criminal Code’s approach to sex work—and resulted in her expert testimony before the Supreme Court.

While she doesn’t maintain the schedule she once did, having retired from her position as a UVic sociology professor four years ago, she still conducts research without fear of favour, and by parking any prejudice at the door.

“I guess I continue to be kind of driven by the opportunities that are available to me.”

Asked for advice for emerging researchers, she says: “try to shed light doing the best research you can on social problems in our time—problems that really need solutions but they’re not easily solved, so they need an eye that can get beneath the public debate to see what else we could know and should know.”

By the numbers

Cecilia Benoit’s work has always been about people, but the numbers associated with her life and career are notable and impressive:

She has four degrees (two bachelors, one masters, a PhD and a post-doc).

She has won 18 honours, awards and prizes for research and academic achievement.

She has over 250 publications, including 21 books or monographs, 120 journal articles, 40 book chapters and 70 reports, briefs and other published writings. Since 2014 alone, she has authored 59 journal articles.

This article originally appeared in UVic’s Ring newspaper.
To conduct high quality research that increases understanding of substance use, addiction and related harms in order to inform effective responses and promote health.”

CISUR had an outstanding year for high quality, impactful research projects. Major active research projects cover the areas of substance use epidemiology, the effect of policies and regulatory interventions, social determinants of health, harm reduction among those with lived or living experience and/or active substance use disorders, treatment systems, community engagement and knowledge translation products and evaluations. Across the five major research priority areas below, there were 55 total ongoing research projects, including 39 active projects led by core CISUR faculty, and 16 additional major projects led by CISUR-affiliated faculty and scientists.
RESEARCH PRIORITY 1

SUBSTANCE USE PATTERNS & RELATED HARMS

A. CISUR PROJECTS

- ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION ON TRAFFIC-RELATED INJURIES AMONG YOUTH AND ADULTS IN ALBERTA AND ONTARIO
  
  **Investigators:** Callaghan, R. (PI), Stockwell, T., Macdonald, S., & Asbridge, M.
  
  **Funding body:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant
  
  **Duration of support:** 2019-2021

- EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ALCOHOL AND CANNABIS SALES AND ALCOHOL- AND CANNABIS-RELATED HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS IN BC
  
  **Investigators:** Naimi, T. (PI), Vallance, K., Stockwell, T., Churchill, S., Callaghan, R., & Farrell-Low, A.
  
  **Funding body:** BC Ministry of Health
  
  **Duration of support:** 2021

- THE ECONOMIC COSTS OF SUBSTANCE USE IN CANADA
  
  **Investigators:** Stockwell, T., Young, M. (co-PIs), Macdonald, S., Sherk, A., Wallingford, S., Sorge, J., Kent, P., Dorocicz, J., Fairbank, J., Zhao, J., Biggar, E., & Hall, B.
  
  **Funding bodies:** Health Canada and Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
  
  **Duration of support:** 2016-2022

- IMPACT OF MARIJUANA POLICIES ON ALCOHOL USE AND ALCOHOL-RELATED MORTALITY
  
  **Investigator:** Naimi, T. (PI)
  
  **Funding body:** National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health, USA
  
  **Duration of support:** 2018-2022

- A POPULATION-BASED, RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY ASSESSING THE RELATION BETWEEN CANNABIS USE AND MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY CONDITIONS AND ASSESSING THE DISTRIBUTIONAL PROFILES OF CANNABIS USE IN CANADA.
  
  **Investigators:** Callaghan, R. (PI) & Naimi, T.
  
  **Funding body:** Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
  
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2021

- ESTIMATION OF THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
  
  **Investigators:** Stockwell, T. (PI), Churchill, S., Sherk, A., & Zhao, J.
  
  **Funding body:** BC Ministry of Finance
  
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2021
• ESTIMATES OF ALCOHOL-ATTRIBUTABLE DEATHS AND YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST IN THE UNITED STATES AND ANALYTIC METHODS
  Investigators: Naimi, T. (PI) & Sherk, A.
  Funding body: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA
  Duration of support: 2020-2023

• ESTIMATION OF THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN CANADIAN PROVINCES
  Funding body: Public Health Agency of Canada
  Duration of support: 2020-2021

B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECT

• EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION ON ROAD SAFETY
  Investigators: Brubacher, J. (PI), Asbridge, M., Brant, R., Chan H., Erdelyi S., & MacDonald, S. (Co-Is)
  Funding body: Canadian Institutes of Health Research
  Duration of support: 2017–2022
**A. CISUR PROJECTS**

- **UPDATING, OPTIMIZING AND EXPANDING THE CANADIAN ALCOHOL POLICY EVALUATION (CAPE) PROJECT**
  
  **Investigators:** Naimi, T., Giesbrecht, N., Stockwell, T. (co-PIs), Asbridge, M., Callaghan, R., Gagnon, M., Mann, R., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., & Thompson, K. (co-Is)
  
  **Funding body:** Health Canada (Substance Use and Addictions Program)
  
  **Duration of Support:** 2022-2023

- **THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ALCOHOL MINIMUM UNIT PRICING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LABELLING AS A CANCER PREVENTION INTERVENTION IN CANADA, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, AT THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS**
  
  **Investigators:** Stockwell, T. (PI), Cukier, S., de Groh, M., Haligan, M., Hobin, E., McEachran, J., Naimi, T., Sherk, A., Shield, K., & Thomas, G.
  
  **Funding body:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant
  
  **Duration of Support:** 2022-2024

- **ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE AMONG POLICY STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS ALCOHOL-RELATED HArMS IN CANADA**
  
  **Investigator:** Naimi, T.
  
  **Funding body:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Connections Grant)
  
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2022

- **POLICE DISCRETION WITH HIGH RISK SUBSTANCE USING YOUTH**
  
  **Investigators:** Macdonald, S. (PI), Pauly, B., Hardy, C., Roth, E., Wortley, S., Jansson, M., Baron, S., Stockwell, T., Lee, Z., Reist, D., Benoît, C., Lachowsky, N., & Urbanoski, K.
  
  **Funding body:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
  
  **Duration of Support:** 2016-2021

- **UPDATING AND REVISING CANADIAN ALCOHOL POLICY EVALUATION (CAPE) 3.0 SCORING RUBRIC AND ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF APPLYING IN CANADA THE ALCOHOL ENVIRONMENT PROTOCOL (AEP) FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ALCOHOL CONTROL (IAC) STUDY**
  
  **Investigators:** Naimi, T. (PI), Alam, F., Vallance, K., & Wettlaufer, A.
  
  **Funding body:** Public Health Agency of Canada
  
  **Duration of Support:** 2022

**B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS**

- **ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MINIMUM UNIT PRICING ON HOMELESS AND STREET DRINKERS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY**
  
  **Investigators:** Elliott, L., Emslie, C. (co-PIs), Whiteford, M. (lead researcher), Stockwell, T., Dimova, E., Johnsen, S., Whittaker, A., Smith, I., Rush, R., & Homeless Network Scotland
  
  **Funding body:** Scottish Government’s Chief Scientist Office
  
  **Duration of support:** 2019-2023

- **ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: SYNTHESISING KNOWLEDGE FOR POLICY ACTION**
  
  **Investigators:** Shield, K. (PI), Agic, B., Ali, S., Rehm, J., Sherk, A., Stockwell, T., Wells, S., & Young, M. (Co-Is)
  
  **Funding body:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research Knowledge Synthesis Grant
  
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2021
RESEARCH PRIORITY 3

COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAMS

A. CISUR PROJECTS

- **YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER-RISK CANNABIS USE GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED 13 TO 18: A PATHWAY TO BETTER MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS**
  
  **Investigators:** Benoit, C. (NPA), Card, K., Jansson, M., Korol, K., Koenig, B., Lee, J., Thompson, B. (Co-PIs)
  
  **Funding body:** CIHR Catalyst Grant: Cannabis and Mental Health
  
  **Duration of Support:** 2021-2022

- **INTEGRATING A LOW-BARRIER DRUG CHECKING PLATFORM INTO PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO OVERDOSE**
  
  **Investigators:** Hore, D. (PI), Wallace, B., Storey, M.A. (co-PI); Barnes, R., Cameron, F., Jensen K., Jones, R., Russell, G., Thompson, T. (Collaborators), Stanwick, R. (Principal Knowledge User), & Davison, C. (Knowledge User).
  
  **Funding body:** CIHR/NSERC's Collaborative Health Research Projects
  
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2023

- **SPECTROSCOPY FOR THE MASSES: TRAINING THE COMMUNITY TO OPERATE DRUG-CHECKING TECHNOLOGIES AS A RESPONSE TO THE OVERDOSE CRISIS**
  
  **Investigators:** Hore, D., Wallace, B., (Co-PI); Aasen, J., Cartwright, J., Davison, C., Jensen, K., Phillips, P., Price, M., Stanwick, R. (Collaborators)
  
  **Funding body:** Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat's New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration
  
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2022

- **IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIONS IN DRUG CHECKING: A HARM REDUCTION PILOT IN RESPONSE TO ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE**
  
  **Investigators:** Hore, D. & Wallace, B.
  
  **Funding body:** Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program
  
  **Duration of support:** 2018-2023

- **BEYOND THE ‘MISSING WOMEN INQUIRY’: EMPOWERING SEX WORKERS AS SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES**
  
  **Investigator:** Benoit, C.
  
  **Funding body:** Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation
  
  **Duration of support:** 2018-2022

- **DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR NURSE-ASSISTED INJECTION IN BC’S SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES**
  
  **Investigators:** Gagnon, M. (PI), Gauthier, T. (Co-lead), MacLaughlin, K., Chu, S.K.H., Dalpe, V.
  
  **Funding body:** Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Convene Grant
  
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2022

- **DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR NURSE-ASSISTED INJECTION IN BC’S SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES**
  
  **Investigators:** Gagnon, M. (PI), Gauthier, T. (Co-lead), MacLaughlin, K., Chu, S.K.H., Dalpe, V.
  
  **Funding body:** Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Convene Grant
  
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2022
• **FENTANYL DETECTION IN STIMULANTS: A PILOT IN THREE MEXICAN CITIES**
  
  **Investigators:** Arredondo, J. (PI), Garcia, A., Garcia, L., Gonzalez, P., Chaves, A., & Zwitser, G.  
  **Funding body:** Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) Programa de Política de Drogas (PPD)

• **NORTH-SOUTH LESSONS IN SUBSTANCE USE: EXPANDING BEST PRACTICES IN HARM REDUCTION BEYOND CANADA**
  
  **Investigator:** Arredondo, J. (PI)  
  **Funding body:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2026

• **SCALE-UP FOR DISTRIBUTED DRUG CHECKING SITES**
  
  **Investigators:** Wallace, B. & Hore, D. (Co-PIs)  
  **Funding body:** Social Planning and Research Council of BC Homelessness Community Action Grant  
  **Duration of support:** 2022

**B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS**

• **HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTION FOR SEVERE DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS**
  
  **Funding body:** National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme  
  **Duration of Support:** 2018-2021

• **THE SAFER WASHROOM CAMPAIGN: DISSEMINATING BEST PRACTICES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**
  
  **Investigators:** Gagnon, M. (PI), Riley, S. (Co-lead), Sedgemore, K., & Goodyear, T.  
  **Funding body:** Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Reach Award  
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2022

• **DRUG USER KNOWLEDGE & DRUG CHECKING EVIDENCE: KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS ACTIONS TO REDUCE OVERDOSE IN ISLAND HEALTH**
  
  **Investigators:** Wallace, B., Russell, G. (Co-PIs), Gill, C., Hore, D., Tupper, K. (Co-Is), Burek, P., Hutchison, A., & Strosher, H.  
  **Funding body:** Island Health Authority Catalyst Grant  
  **Duration of support:** 2022-2023

• **HEALTHY PROFESSIONAL/KNOWLEDGE WORKERS: EXAMINING THE GENDERED NATURE OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, LEAVES OF ABSENCE & RETURN TO WORK EXPERIENCES FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**
  
  **Investigators:** Bourgeault, I. (PI) & Benoit, C. (Co-Lead)  
  **Funding body:** SSHRC/CIHR Partnership Grant  
  **Duration of support:** 2018-2024
RESEARCH PRIORITY 4

TREATMENT SYSTEMS & PROGRAMS

A. CISUR PROJECTS

• A MIXED METHODS EVALUATION OF SAFER SUPPLY INITIATIVES TO REDUCE ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE IN BC
  Investigators: Urbanoski, K., Pauly, B., Nosyk, B., Slaunwhite, A.K., & Barker, B. (Co-PIs)
  Funding body: Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant
  Duration of support: 2022-2026

• CANNABIS SUBSTITUTION IN MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAMS
  Investigators: Pauly, B. (PI), Goulet-Stock, S., & Stockwell, T. (Co-Is)
  Funding body: Health Canada (Substance Use and Addictions Program)
  Duration of support: 2022-2023

• THE ROLE OF CHILD PROTECTION IN SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES FOR WOMEN
  Funding body: SSHRC Insight Grant
  Duration of support: 2019-2023

• STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOME: DEVELOPING STAFF WELLNESS STRATEGIES IN INDIGENOUS ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION SERVICES
  Investigators: Pauly, B. (PI), Stockwell, T., Hunt-Jinnouchi, F., & Dueck, M.
  Funding body: University of Victoria Collaborative Health Research Grant
  Duration of support: 2021-2022

• PERSPECTIVES OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS ON SAFER SUPPLY: A CONCEPT MAPPING STUDY
  Funding body: Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program
  Duration of support: 2020

• REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSTABILITY DURING COVID19: A VANCOUVER ISLAND CASE STUDY
  Investigator: Pauly, B. (PI)
  Funding body: Victoria Hospitals Foundation
  Duration of support: 2021-2022

• CANADIAN MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAMS
  Investigators: Pauly, B., Stockwell, T. (co-PIs), Brown, M., Chow, C., Vance, K., Wettlaufer, A., Zhao, J., Goulet Stock, S., Ratenberg, D., & Graham, B.
  Funding bodies: Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Canadian Mental Health Association, Sudbury Branch
  Duration of support: 2013-2021
B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS

- COMMUNITY-LED OPTIONS FOR ACCESS TO SUBSTITUTION THERAPIES (COAST) PROJECT
  
  **Investigators:** Milroy, M.J., Urbanoski, K., Pauly, B. (Co-leads), Blyth, S., Magnuson, N., Phillips (SOLID) (Community Co-Leads)
  **Funding body:** Vancouver Foundation 2020 Convene Grant
  **Duration of Support:** 2020-2021

- ESTIMATING THE VALUE AND LONG-TERM IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING RISK MITIGATION GUIDANCE TO REDUCE THE HARMs OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A SIMULATION MODELING ANALYSIS
  
  **Funding body:** CIHR Project Grant
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2023

- ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MINIMUM UNIT PRICING ON HOMELESS AND STREET DRINKERS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY
  
  **Investigators:** Elliott, L., Emslie, C. (Co-PIs), Whiteford, M. (lead researcher), Stockwell, T., Dimova, E., Johnsen, S., Whittaker, A., Smith, I., Rush, R., & Homeless Network Scotland
  **Funding body:** Scottish Government’s Chief Scientist Office
  **Duration of support:** 2019-2023

- A PROPOSAL TO EVALUATE SAFER SUPPLY PROGRAMS IN CANADA
  
  **Funding body:** CIHR
  **Duration of support:** 2021-2025

- EMERGENCY SAFER SUPPLY PROGRAMS (ESSPS): BRIDGING THE HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CARE CASCADE FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS
  
  **Investigators:** Strike, C., Guta, A. (PIs), Antoniou, T., Bayoumi, A., Gagnon, M., Kenny, K., Kolla, G., & Leece, P. (Co-Is)
  **Funding body:** Ontario HIV Treatment Network
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2022

- A MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM FOR AUSTRALIA
  
  **Funding body:** Australian Government National Health and Research Council Partnership Project
  **Duration of support:** 2019-2024

- IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF AN INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN CALGARY, ALBERTA AND VICTORIA
  
  **Investigators:** Milaney, K. (Nominated Principal Investigator), Nixon, L., Pauly, B. (Co-Is), & the Calgary Aboriginal Standing Committee on Homelessness and Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (Victoria, BC)
  **Funding body:** CIHR Operating Grant
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2023

- A MIXED METHODS EVALUATION OF RISK MITIGATION MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE DUAL PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS OF COVID-19 AND OVERDOSE
  
  **Investigators:** Slaunwhite, A. (NPA), Hongdilokkul, N., Nosyk, B., Pauly, B., & Urbanoski, K. (PAs)
  **Funding bodies:** CIHR, MOH, MSFHR, Victoria Hospital Foundation
  **Duration of support:** 2020-2021
A. CISUR PROJECTS

- **P2P: PEER 2 PEER SUPPORT**
  Investigators: Buxton, J. & Pauly, B. (Co-PIs)
  Funding body: Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program
  Duration of support: 2018-2023

- **MONITORING AND INFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO SUBSTANCE USE (BC COMMUNITY NETWORK OF SUBSTANCE USE OBSERVATORIES; AKA BC CO/LAB)**
  Funding body: Health Canada
  Duration of support: 2019-2024

- **GIRLS EXPERIENCING MULTIPLE CHALLENGES**
  Investigators: Benoit, C. (PI), Mellor, A., & Premji, Z. (Co-Is)
  Funding body: Representative Council for Children and Youth
  Duration of Support: 2021-2022

- **PHOTOVOICE: PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE VISUALIZE THE OVERDOSE CRISIS**
  Investigator: Pauly, B. (PI)
  Funding body: CIHR SPOR
  Duration of Support: 2021-2022

- **CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND THERAPEUTIC USE: DOCUMENTING THE EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SERVED BY THE RECREATIONAL MARKET**
  Investigators: Gagnon, M., Guta, A. (Co-PIs) Strike, C., Elliott, R., Ware, M., Chow, N., Stratton, T., & Nickerson, J.
  Funding body: CIHR
  Duration of Support: 2018-2022

- **HOMELESS RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**
  Investigator: Pauly, B. (PI)
  Funding body:
  Duration of Support: 2021-2023

B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS

- **GIVING VOICE TO WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE IN RESEARCH**
  Investigators: Urbanoski, K. & Milligan, K.
  Funding body: CIHR Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Catalyst Grant
  Duration of support: 2020 –2022

- **CAREGIVING FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED OLDER ADULTS AT THE END OF LIFE**
  Investigators: Stajduhar, K. (PI), Black, F.M., Chou, F., Colgan, S., Dosani, N., Gagnon, M., Gerke, J.B., Jakubec, S.L., Mcneil, R., Sawatzky, R., & Thorne, S.E.
  Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant
  Duration of support: 2020-2024

- **ADDRESSING THE HARMS OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH OF THE CANADIAN HEALTH WORKFORCE: EVALUATION OF AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED, MULTI-LEVEL INTERVENTION STRATEGY**
  Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant: Addressing the Wider Health Impacts of COVID-19
  Duration of support: 2022-2024
Table 3. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 3: Implementation of Quality Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To conduct research on the patterns, distribution, determinants and</td>
<td>Number of epidemiological projects initiated, ongoing and/or successfully completed each year in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consequences of substance use in Canada and internationally</td>
<td>2020/2021: 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To conduct research that is valued by stakeholders as being of high quality,</td>
<td>Number of CISUR special reports and commissioned reports focused on policy and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>responsive to emerging issues and relevant to public policy and practice in Canada and internationally</td>
<td>2020/2021: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To conduct research in the following other key priority areas:</td>
<td>Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1  • The impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minimize alcohol and other drug-related harms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2  • Development and evaluation of more effective community prevention programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Development and evaluation of more effective treatment systems and programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • The influence of structural determinants of social contexts of drug use on the implementation of harm reduction strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Research and evaluation of effectiveness of knowledge translation and exchange activities and strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2022: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2022: 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2022: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2022: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3  • Number of research projects ongoing and completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021: 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/2022: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2021/2022 was a slightly quieter year in terms of media coverage for CISUR, but researchers at the institute were still frequently contacted by media for their expertise in areas such as alcohol consumption and policy, drug policy and more. Drug checking and safer supply programs, two interventions CISUR researchers lead projects on, became more popular topics as we saw increased attention being paid to them as the overdose crisis only deepened this past year; there were 2,224 suspected overdose deaths in BC in 2021, an increase of over 25% from 2020.

“To disseminate knowledge that increases understanding of substance use and addiction, raises awareness of related harms and identifies effective responses.”
Media coverage

CISUR top ten media topics, 2021/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th># of Stories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug policy</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe supply</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis legalization</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdose crisis</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol labelling</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and cancer</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol policy</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug checking</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our busiest period for media coverage was December and January, when CISUR researchers released alcohol consumption statistics showing BC had reached a 20-year high in alcohol consumption for 2020/21 and a high profile story on CBC’s The National featured CISUR research on the lack of warning labels for alcohol containers.

CISUR overall media coverage, 2021/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th># Articles</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 05, 2021 - May 10, 2021</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7,885,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11, 2021 - Jun 15, 2021</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1,916,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 16, 2021 - Jul 21, 2021</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>15,839,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 22, 2021 - Aug 26, 2021</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,105,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27, 2021 - Oct 01, 2021</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3,575,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 02, 2021 - Nov 06, 2021</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>7,188,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 07, 2021 - Dec 12, 2021</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2,518,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13, 2021 - Jan 17, 2022</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>48,861,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18, 2022 - Feb 22, 2022</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3,144,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 23, 2022 - Mar 30, 2022</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>9,031,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,062</strong></td>
<td><strong>102,065,061</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Media

Our social media presences continue to slowly grow, with 2,596 Facebook and 3,077 Twitter followers. Our most popular Facebook post was about the National piece on cancer warning labels for alcohol, which was shared 18 times and reached around 4,000 people. On Twitter, an article on Dr. Gillian Kolla’s Banting Fellowship earned 41,000 impressions.

CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: ADAM SHERK (SCIENTIST)

Another great year for CISUR and our team! We continued to build international capacity in substance use research as we were invited to host several workshops and support sessions for Pan American Health Organization members nations in using our International Model of Alcohol Harms and Policies for projects in their countries. We developed and updated key monitoring systems regarding substance use-caused harms in BC, in Canada and around the world. I was also invited to participate in updating Canada’s Guidelines on Alcohol and Health, which will be released in the fall.
Website

Our website saw slightly more traffic than last year, with 44,751 visitors and 93,447 pageviews in 2021/22. Our most viewed page was stats on the sex industry in Canada, although a closer look at this traffic shows a very short session duration and high bounce rate, meaning some people likely were searching for something else and wound up there. We’ve since updated the page name in an attempt to make search results more accurate. Our Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study and Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Project were our two research project pages with the most traffic, and education resources such as iMinds and Cycles continue to be popular destinations on the website.

CISUR’s top ten most visited webpages, 2021/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Name</th>
<th>Pageviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The sex industry in Canada</td>
<td>14874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISUR main page</td>
<td>10764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study</td>
<td>6855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption in BC</td>
<td>4541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iMinds</td>
<td>2789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISUR publications</td>
<td>2281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About CISUR</td>
<td>2157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISUR projects</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycles</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Project</td>
<td>1811</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CISUR’s top ten most downloaded files, 2021/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CISUR Bulletin 20: Scale up of MAPs</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of MAPS in Canada</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Guidance for Implementation of Managed Alcohol for Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safer Drinking During COVID-19</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping Schools Drug Literacy Curriculum</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in Canada: A Review of Provincial and Territorial Policies</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycles Guide</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InterMAHP Guide</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Most sex workers do not feel exploited and most sex buyers are not oppressors’ chart</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol reality check questionnaire</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Dissemination Channels and Materials

Public talks and webinars

CISUR projects such as the Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study, Co/Lab and the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Project hosted a variety of online talks and Community of Practice events over the 2021-2022 year, some of which were uploaded to CISUR’s YouTube page.

Print/Web Collateral

The Knowledge Exchange team developed a new Here to Help resource in partnership with the BC Schizophrenia Society titled *Cannabis and Schizophrenia: How can I support someone who has schizophrenia and is using cannabis?* They also updated several Here to Help factsheets and brochures, including *Supporting People Who Use Substances: A brief guide for friends and family, Understanding Substance Use: A health promotion perspective,* and *You and Substance Use: Things to think about and ways to make changes.* Co/Lab published several resources around effective safer supply from a service-user perspective (including a postcard and a checklist) as well as a practice brief on the Victoria SAFER Initiative. An infographic on cannabis substitution in managed alcohol programs was also produced. The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project produced monthly results reports for their drug-checking service.
Alcohol consumption in BC higher than ever

By Amanda Farrell-Low

British Columbians drank more alcohol during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic than they have in the past 20 years, according to the latest analysis of BC alcohol sales data from the University of Victoria’s Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR).

Consumption for this past fiscal year (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021) was equivalent to 547 cans of 5% beer or 104 bottles of 12% wine per year for each person aged 15+ in the province. At 9.32 litres (L) of pure alcohol per capita, this the highest level of alcohol consumption recorded since CISUR started monitoring it in 2001. It also confirms the rising trend CISUR first identified in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This tells us the higher levels of consumption seen in the first few months of COVID were not the result of stockpiling, but of an overall increase in drinking sustained over the year,” says Dr. Tim Naimi, director of CISUR.

While consumption at bars and restaurants saw large decreases (60% and 46%, respectively), it was more than made up for in increases at private liquor stores, which accounted for 55% of all alcohol sold in the province.

“It has never been easier to buy alcohol in BC, and we know increased availability of alcohol leads to people drinking more,” says Naimi. “COVID-era changes to alcohol policy such as increased hours, government support for liquor retailers to develop online stores, expanded home delivery and declaring liquor stores an essential service have certainly played a role in these increases.”

Measured by health authority, Interior had the highest rates of consumption at 13.69L per capita, with Island Health second at 11.54L. Fraser was the lowest at 7.09L.

“In the past, some regions have pointed to tourism as a reason for above-average consumption rates, the assumption being that visitors accounted for a good chunk of alcohol purchases,” says Naimi. “Given the fact that BC saw many fewer tourists in the summer of 2020, this theory doesn’t appear to hold water.”

This research was supported by Health Canada. This article originally appeared on UVic News.
PUBLICATIONS

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**


CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: KAREN URBANOSKI (SCIENTIST)

Research successes over the past year are dampened in the midst of the ongoing public health emergency related to the toxic drug supply. Given this context, it was heartening to see such gains in traction of our research on safer supply. Most impactful has been the strengthening of my relationships with community and government partners, particularly people with lived/living experience of substance use who have generously shared their time and expertise with our team. There is genuine interest in evidence to inform policy and practice that will turn the tide in this emergency and support families and communities. Through developing a strong research network focused on meaningful change, this has been among the most rewarding years of my career.

CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: CELESTE MACEVICIUS (RESEARCH ASSISTANT)

Working at CISUR has been as much a part of my education as my schoolwork has been. In developing research skills, working on a broad range of issues in substance use and harm reduction, and grappling with big questions that surround this work amongst other passionate and engaged people, I believe I have become a better researcher, public health practitioner, community member, and activist. I am so grateful to have the chance to work at CISUR and learn so much from my coworkers, supervisors, community members, and participants I have interviewed and transcribed.


CISUR folks wearing orange shirts to honor National Day of Truth and Reconciliation: (L-R) Fariha Alam, Nicole Vishnevsky, Kate Vallance, Marilou Gagnon, and Amanda Farrell-Low.
2021 was one of the worst years on record for overdoses in BC with more than 2200 people dying of an toxic drug policy and an unregulated market. Since 2020, I have been a co-lead on projects evaluating prescribed safer supply during dual public health emergencies. One of the strengths of this work has been the creation of a strong team of academic and community researchers who have been producing accurate and timely evidence as to the implementation and impacts of prescribed safer supply in BC. This state of the art evaluation brings together administrative data bases with primary data collection (qualitative and quantitative) informed by implementation science and people impacted by substance use that will continue to produce up to date evidence for decision making and real time knowledge translation and exchange. Drug policy reform is critical and our team is posed to continue to bring both science and compassion to inform actions. This same approach has informed the Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study to generate a body of knowledge on managed alcohol programs (MAP) and alcohol harm reduction in Canada that has informed international work and collaborations. Many new MAPs were implemented during COVID in the wake of escalating harms and together with partners I am leading the development of the first ever national guidelines for managed alcohol programs and I am forging new partnerships and research related to cannabis substitution as an alternative to alcohol in MAP.


Stockwell, T., Andreasson, S., Cherpitel, C., Chikritzhs, T., Danghardt, F., Holder, H., Naimi, T., & Sherk, A. (2021). Time for carefully tailored set of alcohol policies to


Books


Book Chapters


Guta, A., McClelland, A., & Gagnon, M. (Upcoming). From concerns about informed consent in social science research to the end of consent in public health research: Rethinking the legacy of the tearoom trade in the context of molecular HIV surveillance. In P. Keilty & E. Tziallas (Eds.), *Queer Data*. Routledge.


Commissioned and Special Reports

This year, I worked closely with the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (VCBC) as they faced unprecedented challenges related to the pandemic and growing pressure to close their service. Founded in 1996, VCBC is one of the oldest buyers in Canada. It currently has over 8,000 active members who consume cannabis for symptom management (i.e., for therapeutic purposes). We partnered to conduct a survey on their longstanding smoking lounge, a space that members consider vital to their health and wellbeing. We also worked together on advocacy strategies to secure an exemption from Health Canada, which would allow them to continue to operate and, most importantly, protect one of the last low-threshold community access points for people who use cannabis for symptom management post-legalization. I was able to support efforts to raise the profile of VCBC and its ongoing struggles post-legalization with media outlets, including the Tyee: ‘We’re Saving Lives, and Being Punished for Doing It’. Finally, I joined forced with M-J Milloy to shine a light on the raids and fines faces by BC’s community-level cannabis access points -- and explain why these access points should be protect and integrated into a safe supply responses to the overdose crisis.


Dalpé, V. & Gagnon, M. (2021). What are the monitoring and reporting requirements in supervised consumption services? An overview of the Canadian context. Victoria, Canada: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research.


CISUR Reports and Bulletins


Infographic

Substituting cannabis in a Managed Alcohol Program... could it work? (2021)

Opinion Editorials and Letters to News Outlets


Invited and other Presentations

Arora, K. & Dyck, T. (2021, September). Screening orientation for clinicians. Webinar in support of Beyond the Blues education and screening days. Vancouver, BC.


Atanackovic, J., Benoit, C. et al. (2022). Why are physicians, dentists and midwives reluctant to take leaves of absence from work when experiencing mental health issues? Comparative findings from the Healthy Professional Worker Study. Canadian Sociological Association Annuila Conference.


Dyck, T. (2021, April). Alcohol harm reduction within campus community health promotion. HM|HC Talks dialogue session for the PEP-AH Western Regional Symposium webinar series in support of campus-based initiatives to reduce alcohol-related harms.


Pauly, B. & Cameron, F. (2021, April 14). Safer supply would work well if... Findings from a concept mapping study. Canadian Public Health Association National Webinar.


## Table 4. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 4: Dissemination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To publish research findings in international peer reviewed journal articles</td>
<td>Number of articles published each year by CISUR researchers and students in peer reviewed journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To publish research findings in book chapters, books and research monographs</td>
<td>Number of book chapters, books or research monographs published by CISUR researchers and students each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To disseminate research findings through reports, systematic reviews and other resources, nationally and internationally</td>
<td>Number of reports, systematic reviews or other resources published each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To achieve a high academic impact for CISUR addictions-related research so that it is well known, frequently requested and often cited internationally</td>
<td>Number of citations in peer reviewed journals of research by CISUR scientists and graduate students per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To conduct seminars, workshops, lectures and occasional conferences on related policy, practice and research</td>
<td>• Number of public research seminars, symposia, workshops or conferences convened or co-convened by CISUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of invitations to CISUR researchers to present at conferences or symposia each year and number of papers accepted for presentation by CISUR researchers and students at conferences or symposia each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020/2021: 6 / 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021/2022: 6 / 95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project is about much more than testing drugs.

Of course, drug checking is its core service. Their storefront, Substance, tests samples at the corner of Cook and North Park in Victoria, and demand for their services has never been higher, with the backdrop of the dual public-health emergencies of COVID-19 and drug-overdose deaths. But the project, led by UVic social work professor Bruce Wallace and chemistry professor Dennis Hore, is also a blend of research, service and partnerships including several UVic faculties, people who use drugs, students, government agencies, community groups and more.

Wallace, a 2022 recipient of a President’s Chair—the highest academic honour UVic can award a faculty member—says community engagement and partnerships are an integral part of the work of the drug checking project and his research program in general.

Wallace, who is also a scientist with UVic’s Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR), continues: “That’s where service-as-research really has a unique role. We’re not going out and trying to study a problem. We are trying to generate evidence by addressing the problem.”

Mark Willson, director of programs for SOLID, the drug user organization which shares its building with Substance, agrees. “Too often, researchers come into our community, do a survey, and we don’t hear much from them again,” says Willson. “Substance is here providing a much-needed service and giving back to the community instead of just researching us.”

Researching overdose response

Since BC declared a public-health emergency related to overdose deaths in 2016, Wallace’s research has focused on overdose response, including the made-in-BC model of overdose prevention sites. His work has since shifted
to drug checking, which uses a combination of technologies, like spectrometers and testing strips, to determine the type and concentrations of substances found in samples of drugs.

Initially, Wallace says the Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project’s primary aim was to detect fentanyl in the illicit drug supply to help people avoid it. But a lot has changed since the project began in 2018. Heroin has been almost entirely replaced by varying concentrations of fentanyl, and now benzodiazepines—central nervous system depressants that do not respond to naloxone—are showing up in about half of all expected-opioid samples they test. Overdose deaths, already at unprecedented highs, have doubled in BC since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

“As everybody’s lives were disrupted, that was also disrupting the lives of people who use drugs and those illicit markets,” says Wallace. “Drug checking had a unique role in trying to provide as much up-to-date information to both service providers and people who are involved in that market to be able to know what was happening.”

That meant staying operational throughout the pandemic was of the utmost importance. Wallace says they worked with the UVic and Island Health ethics boards to get approval to continue to offer drug checking as safely as possible, and set up at overdose prevention sites in encampments and hotels, following the need for their services.

The project was then approached by SOLID to move into a storefront in their building on Cook Street. Substance’s bright, colourful windows and welcoming atmosphere are essential: Wallace says the space itself is an exercise in combatting stigma.

“When people think of stigma campaigns, they think of bus shelter ads and radio spots. The way our storefront is a visible place for people who are engaged in the illicit drug market and seeking as much knowledge as they can, to have that within our communities and be really open about it, that enacts anti-stigma,” he says. “We don’t feel the need to be hiding services for people who use drugs in the back of social services.”

### Expanding and evolving

The project continues to evolve. They release weekly and monthly reports on what they are finding in the local drug supply, have partnered with community organizations up and down the Island to offer on-site drug checking pop-ups in their communities, and launched a Vancouver-Island-wide service where people can mail in their samples and check their results online.

“One of the limits of the drug checking project is you have to be able to walk into that storefront to access the benefits of the service and the research,” says Wallace. “We’ve always had a health-equity objective to make sure that drug checking is going to be effective by operating at a scale that’s reflective of the issue.”

The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project also offers many hands-on learning opportunities for students from a wide range of disciplines and experience levels, from grad students doing PhD research to undergrads in a co-op placement.

“Students are able to work on some of the much longer-term objectives of their academic programs and also have a service shift in the community,” says Wallace. “They see the challenges that we’re trying to work with within the systems of criminalization and stigmatization and how to actually engage in those systems, not just critique them.”

While Wallace is grateful for the President’s Chair recognition, he says there is still much work to be done.

“I’m really humbled to receive this award. My research goals align with what UVic has outlined in their strategic plan, which is to be able to engage both locally and globally, to have a role in community as the university, and provide engaged learning and scholarship,” says Wallace. “I look forward to when the work many of us are working towards in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, CISUR and other places at the university is less novel and is really part of the university’s assumed role in peoples’ lives and in our communities.”

This article originally appeared in UVic’s Ring newspaper.
“To contribute to constructive communication and cooperation between producers, intermediaries and users of various types of knowledge for the implementation of evidence-based policy and practice.”

As we all settled into the second year of COVID with its inherent challenges, accomplishment and change were hallmarks of CISUR’s efforts in knowledge mobilization. This year also highlighted our work as a member of the BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information.

CISUR continued to lead in championing mental health and substance use literacy on BC college and university campuses. These efforts were pursued through the Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses community of practice (CoP) alongside our Support Team colleagues from the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division. In 2021-22 much progress was made toward shifting governance of the CoP from the Support Team to the Leadership Committee of campus representatives, consistent with CoP practice. Progress was also made
in increasing the profile and campus activation of the Okanagan Charter, a key international health promotion document for BC post-secondary institutions. The Support Team promoted student engagement as peers alongside professionals in various capacities on the Leadership Committee and in opportunities for presentation and co-facilitation of HM|HC Talks. Finally, opportunities were provided for Jessie’s Legacy, another BC Partner agency, to have greater involvement in the HM|HC learning community through attending Support Team meetings and leading conversation around disordered eating at an HM|HC Talk.

Dialogue work in 2021-22 emphasized training and supporting a group of individuals (both system professionals and people with lived experience) to co-facilitate dialogues within clinical settings to explore issues related to stigma and discrimination. Eight individuals completed training and participated in facilitating dialogue sessions in various settings. CISUR provided support through debrief sessions following each dialogue event.

Evaluation work with the BC Partners this year was satisfying with major progress made in implementing responsive evaluation in all the projects. Building on foundational documents produced in the past several years, we developed and applied a tool that simplifies reporting and feeds into a summary document that will facilitate future yearly planning. Initial evaluation efforts took place in several BC Partner projects. Partner agencies were delighted to find that two or three well worded open-ended phenomenological questions could reap rich data rewards!

This year we updated several of our major works for the BC Partners Here to Help website including Understanding Substance Use: A health promotion perspective, Supporting People Who Use Substances: A Brief Guide for Friends and Family and You and Substance Use: Things to think about and ways to make changes. These, along with Substance Use and Young People: A Guide for Families and their Caring Communities comprise a core suite of health-promotion-based resources for those looking for assistance in dealing with substance use issues. We also developed a new resource on cannabis and schizophrenia in partnership with the BC Schizophrenia Society that is now available on the website.

Finally, our greatest change came at the end of this year with the retirement of CISUR Assistant Director Dan Reist. Dan played a key role in the formation of CISUR and has led the knowledge mobilization team since CISUR’s inception in 2003. His incisive intellect and thoughtful questions are legendary among his colleagues. His capacity building approach to health promotion within a socio-ecological frame is embedded within all our efforts and will remain our focus as we move forward. His embodiment of the spirit of dialogue and collaboration is an inspiring legacy. We wish Dan the very best in all the days to come.
CURRENT PROJECTS

• ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SCREENING AND EDUCATION

Investigators: Dyck, T. & Reist, D.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Duration of support: ongoing

Alcohol and other drug screening and education is an ongoing project aimed at extending the reach of assessment tools and harm reduction information to help more people in BC take greater control over their health in regard to substance use. We promote the idea that screening can function as a tool for self-management. This led us to develop a range of online screening tools that promote reflection and encourage self-directed action. We have also developed paper based screening tools that provide a gateway to conversation between people who use substances and supportive individuals (rather than function as a precursor to diagnosis). These various screening and brief intervention materials have been developed for adults and teens.

The project is nested within the Beyond the Blues education and screening days component of the Education Events project of BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information.

2021-2022 activities included:

• Participation on the Education Events stewardship team
• Participation on the Beyond the Blues planning group
• Contribution to webinars orienting volunteer clinicians to screening at Beyond the Blues sites
• Continued provision of support documents to guide Beyond the Blues site recruits and visitors in thinking and talking about substance (esp. alcohol) use

For a complete list of our primary materials related to this project, see Screening and brief intervention tools.
Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses is a province-wide community-of-practice promoting campus mental health supported by BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information. The project, which began in 2005, is based on the notion that success in a post-secondary institution, as in any setting, requires attending to the collective well-being of the campus itself as well as the well-being of its individual members. It also embraces the notion that health promotion involves building the capacity of individuals and communities to take increased control of their own health and well-being. The project is directed by a Leadership Committee made up of campus representatives assisted by a Support Team from CISUR and the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division).

2021-2022 activities included:

- Helping the Leadership Committee to increasingly exercise its oversight operations in fulfilment of its mandate
- Carrying out and reporting on activities outlined in the Support Team annual workplan, reflecting goals and objectives articulated in the HM|HC Strategic Plan
  - Encouraging and supporting activation of the Okanagan Charter on our campuses
  - Facilitating meaningful engagement of students as peers in HM|HC initiatives
  - Preparing for and co-hosting HM|HC Talks learning events as opportunities for dialogue
  - Contributing to HM|HC e-newsletter composition and to improvement of the website as critical communication and community connection and capacity building vehicles
  - Assisting in integration of fellow BC Partner, Jessie's Legacy, in a supportive role in HM|HC
  - Giving impetus toward consistent application of responsive evaluation of HM|HC endeavors
- Publications prepared
  - Editorial assistance in the formulation of an HM|HC guide on e-mental health supports on BC post-secondary campuses
  - Co-authorship of the Mental Health & Well-being Framework for Vancouver Community College
- Presentations delivered
  - Alcohol harm reduction within campus community health promotion (a presentation and dialogue session for the Post-secondary Education Partnership–Alcohol Harms [PEP-AH] 2021 western regional webinar series relating to concerns around adverse impact from alcohol use on campus)
HERE TO HELP (INFORMATION PRODUCTS)

Investigators: Norman, T. & Reist, D.
Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Here to Help is an ongoing project of BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information. It seeks to help British Columbians and others who visit its web repository learn how to better understand and manage mental health and substance use issues—at home, in the workplace and in the community. As one of seven BC partners, CISUR serves on the project stewardship team and updates substance use information products for distribution on the website.

These activities support health literacy, the knowledge and skills people need to enhance well-being within their environments. Drug literacy, one form of health literacy, means imparting the knowledge and skills needed to effectively navigate a world where psychoactive substances are present and commonly used. This project plays a key role in helping people in the province be better informed when making decisions about substance use in the context of their own unique situations.

2021-2022 activities:
Here to Help continues to be a major vehicle for CISUR Knowledge Mobilization health literacy work. Over 50 of our resources are now part of the website's collection. This year saw major updates to three of our core works including Understanding Substance Use: A health promotion perspective, Supporting People Who Use Substances: a brief guide for friends and family and You and Substance Use: Things to think about and ways to make changes. Several of our Safer Use and Learn about information sheets received minor updates to bring them in line with current evidence, changes in practice or harm reduction best practices. In 2022-23 CISUR will participate in streamlining Here to Help content and developing and implementing administrative changes to enhance access to Here to Help resources and heighten visibility of less used partner agency products.

Find a complete list of CISUR publications related to this project at Here to Help
• **BC PARTNERS EVALUATION**

**Investigators:** Reist, D. & Norman, T.  
**Funding body:** BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

This project involves facilitating the development and implementation of an evaluation process for the BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information. In the past, we have introduced the BC Partners to responsive evaluation with its emphasis on understanding the phenomenological experiences of all stakeholders in an initiative in contrast to other common forms of evaluation grounded in positivist assumptions. This was laid out in an introductory paper (Introduction to Responsive Evaluation). The goal is to build capacity within BC Partners by developing evaluative thinking at all levels of governance and project planning, implementation and assessment.

**2021-2022 activities:**

This year focused on implementing responsive evaluation in BC Partners projects. Several implementation guides, along with planning and reporting templates were prepared for partner agency use. With CISUR assistance, several programs/projects experienced significant success in their first forays into responsive evaluation and are keen to move ahead in using the reporting template. 2022-23 will focus on increasing evaluative thinking and capacity through ongoing practical support for partner agency program evaluations and 2023-24 planning efforts.
PROMOTING DIALOGUE

Investigators: Reist, D. & Asgari, M.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Promoting Dialogue is one of our core projects that promotes the use of dialogue to develop understanding between stakeholders in various settings related to mental health and substance use issues. This project grew out of earlier projects using dialogue to address issues related to cannabis legalization and opioid overdose.

Dialogue can bring people together and bridge divides within communities. It is a manner of communication that involves two-way conversations where people not only speak to each other but also really listen. The intent is to leave the conversation with a better understanding of the topic and the different experiences and perspectives of others that might contribute to greater mutual appreciation and engagement. True dialogue is distinguished from other forms of conversation by how we view “the other.” Each partner in a dialogue is curious about the experiences of the other partners – about their assumptions, beliefs and values.

2021-2022 activities:

Emphasis this year was to train and support a group of individuals (both system professionals and people with lived experience) to co-facilitate dialogues within clinical settings to explore issues related to stigma and discrimination. Eight individuals completed the training and have participated in facilitating dialogue sessions in various settings. CISUR continues to provide support through debrief sessions following each dialogue event.

For a complete list of our primary materials related to this project, see Dialogue resources.

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**Principles of Dialogue**

- Foster a safe space where all voices are heard.
- Embrace diversity and recognize the value of different perspectives.
- Practice active listening and valuable engagement.
- Encourage power sharing and equal participation.
- Promote curiosity and understand different viewpoints.
- Ensure all participants are heard and valued.
- Avoid making assumptions and judgments.
- Foster a culture of respect and equal participation.
- Encourage honest and open communication.
- Promote equal dialogue and mutual understanding.
• **VISIONS: BC’S MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE JOURNAL**

**Investigators:** Norman, T. & Reist, D.

**Funding body:** BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

This is an ongoing project aimed at increasing the representation of substance-related information in the award-winning quarterly magazine. It is written by and for a range of BC audiences: people who have experienced mental health or substance use issues, their family and friends, service providers, community advocates, leaders, decision-makers and those who are interested in learning more about substance use.

**Visions** is a central knowledge exchange vehicle of the BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information. The magazine creates a place where many perspectives on mental health and substance use issues can be heard. As one of seven BC partners, CISUR serves on the editorial advisory group and contributes articles that focus on substance use and socio-ecological approaches to understanding, addressing and managing substance use issues. This project plays a key role in helping to build a shared understanding of substance use from a health promotion perspective.

**2021-2022 activities:**

**Visions** underwent some changes in 2021-22. Though the magazine retains its focus on promoting mental health and substance use literacy, the way that end is achieved has shifted. There is a greater emphasis on collaboration among partner agencies in content generation and decision-making at all levels of magazine production, primarily via the Advisory Board. For example, while areas such as housing, youth, and wellness remain prominent in **Visions** content, there is acknowledgement of pressing societal concerns and their influence on health and wellbeing. Recent issues addressed the Black Lives Matter movement and COVID-19. Upcoming issues will speak to the influences of a digital world and intergenerational trauma. In 2022-23 CISUR will co-lead the **Visions** project and head creation of one full issue.
Memberships, Committees, Advisory Boards, other Leadership Positions

Benoit, Cecilia
- Institutional Member Representative, Royal Society of Canada Council
- Scientific Officer for the Knowledge Synthesis Network grant peer review committee, Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Indigenous Panel Member, Assessment on the State of Health Human Resources, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- Chair, External Academic Awards and Honours Committee, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
- Academic Editor, Substance Use, Misuse and Dependence: Prevention and Treatment. PLOS ONE
- Member, College of Reviewers, CIHR, Ottawa, Ontario
- Chair, Board of the Victoria Youth Clinic Society

Callaghan, Russell
- UNBC Associate Research Ethics Board member, June 18, 2015 – Present.
- Member, College of Reviewers, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (October 1, 2017 – present).
- University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) Research Data Centre (RDC). Advisory committee member (November 9, 2018-present)
- Population Data BC (PopData BC) steering Committee, Professional Specialization in Population Health Data Analysis Program (PHDA). Committee member (February 4, 2016-present)

Gagnon, Marilou
- Member, College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia
- Founder and President, Harm Reduction Nurses Association
- Member, Advisory Group, Supporting SCS Sustainability in Canada: Through COVID-19 and Beyond
- Member, Task Force on COVID-19, Working Group on Harm Reduction, Royal Society of Canada
- Advisory Committee, SAFER Project, AVI Health & Community Services, with funding from the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) Grant Application, Government of Canada
- Elected member, Equity Committee, Faculty Association, University of Victoria
- Committee Member, Evaluation and Strategic Planning, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria

Naimi, Tim
- Massachusetts medical license # 80922
- Georgia medical license # 052087
- Editorial Board, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs
- American Public Health Association
- Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine
- Diplomate, American Board of Pediatrics
- Diplomate, American Board of Preventive Medicine
- Academic Certification, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Co-Chair, Alcohol Policy 19 conference
- Member, Review Panel for Canada’s Low Risk Drinking Guidelines, led by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions
- Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
- Member, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Pauly, Bernie
- Member, Decrim Research and Evaluation Committee, MMHA
- National Advisory Board Member, Canadian Homelessness Researcher Network
- Member, Harm Reduction Nursing Association
- Member, International Harm Reduction Association
- Registered Nurse, College of Registered Nurses of B.C.
- Editorial Board, Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy
- Special Section Editor, Alcohol Harm Reduction, Harm Reduction Journal
- Founding Editorial Board Member, Witness Journal
- Member, BC Support Unit for Patient Oriented Research Advisory Council
- Member, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Research and Scholarship Committee
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, SUAP Advisory Committee member
- Member, RN RPN Prescribing Consultation and Education Committee

Selfridge, Marion
- Registered Social Worker, BC College of Social Workers
- Associate Member, Canadian Sex Research Forum
- Member, Canadian Anthropology Society

Sherk, Adam
- Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
- Member, Review Panel for Canada’s Low Risk Drinking Guidelines, led by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions

Stockwell, Tim
- Member, Review Panel for Canada’s Low Risk Drinking Guidelines, led by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions
- Fellow, Royal Society of Canada
- Affiliate of the BC Centre on Substance Use and the BC Node of the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM)
- MESAS (Monitoring and Evaluation of Scotland’s Alcohol Strategy) Governance Board
- Fellow, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- Affiliate Investigator at VCH (Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute)
- Member, WHO Technical Advisory Group on Alcohol and Drug Epidemiology
- Member, National Drug Surveillance Advisory Committee, Health Canada
- Research Scientist (Affiliate Status), Social Factors and Prevention Interventions Section at Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Ontario.
- Member of the Advisory Board, Alcohol Research Group, National Alcohol Research Centre, Berkeley, CA
- Adjunct Professor, Curtin University, National Drug Research Institute, Perth, Western Australia
- Member, Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
- Member, Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (APSAD)
CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: SCOTT MACDONALD (SCIENTIST)

Scott Macdonald, now retired, has been involved in continuing projects and has been asked and agreed to be an expert witness on several occasions. The main continuing project is the Youth Experiences Project. Alissa Greer and Marion Selfridge have taken the lead on two published papers from the data collected in this project. He also has a refereed paper from a student. In terms of being an expert witness, in 2019 he wrote a book Cannabis crashes: Myths and Truths and a second edition was released on Lulu Press in 2021. A free PDF copy is available on the CISUR website. With the recent legalization of cannabis, many employers are questioning the accuracy of drug tests to detect impairment – an issue addressed in this book. All his cases have involved drug testing in the workplace with emphasis on cannabis.
### Table 5. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 5: Knowledge Mobilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
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| 5.1 To ensure access to relevant knowledge while working in partnership with policymakers and practitioners in planning and implementing projects to address substance use in Canada and internationally | - Number of projects in which CISUR members collaborate with policymakers or practitioners  
- Number of provincial or national committees, advisory boards, communities of practice or other such bodies on which CISUR members are active  
- Number of community groups and organizations CISUR researchers engaged in their work  
  
2020/2021: ~35 / 68 / n/a  
2021/2022: ~30 / 71 / 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5.2 To develop and promote resources with the potential to make direct contributions to policies, programs or service delivery systems in Canada and internationally | - Number of resources completed in any one year  
  
2020/2021: ~40  
2021/2022: 48                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5.3 To provide broad access to balanced factual information on substance use and related harms and health promotion approaches through a variety of knowledge exchange strategies | - Number of visits to CISUR websites each year  
- Number of media interviews or citations resulting from CISUR activities each year  
  
2020/2021: 90,054 / 1,021  
2021/2022: 93,447 / 13 / 1,062                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |