



**University  
of Victoria**

Canadian Institute for  
Substance Use Research

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

## 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



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## 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



## Message from the Director

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

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## Directors and Faculty

**Dr. Timothy Naimi**

Director, Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)



Timothy Naimi



Jaime Arredondo



Cecilia Benoit

**Dr. Jaime Arredondo**

Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)



Russ Callaghan



Marilou Gagnon



Mikael Jansson

**Dr. Cecilia Benoit**

Scientist (Emerita, Sociology)

**Dr. Russ Callaghan**

Scientist (Northern Medical Program, UNBC)



Marjorie MacDonald



Scott Macdonald



Bernie Pauly

**Dr. Marilou Gagnon**

Scientist (Nursing)

**Dr. Mikael Jansson**

Scientist (Sociology)

**Dr. Marjorie MacDonald**

Scientist (Emerita, Nursing)



Dan Reist



Adam Sherk



Tim Stockwell

**Dr. Scott Macdonald**

Scientist (Emeritus, Health Information Science)

**Dr. Bernie Pauly**

Scientist (Nursing)

**Dan Reist**

Assistant Director for Knowledge Exchange



Karen Urbanoski



Bruce Wallace



Jinhui Zhao

**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

**Fariha Alam**  
Research Associate

**Stephanie Arlt**  
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**Shawn Belcourt**  
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**Cedar Bowers**  
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**Meaghan Brown**  
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**Piotr Burek**  
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**Fred Cameron**  
Community Research  
Associate

**Dr. Connie Carter**  
Research Manager

**Laura Cartwright**  
Peer Research  
Associate

**Sam Churchill**  
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**John Dorocicz**  
IT Support and  
Programming

**Amanda Farrell-Low**  
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Officer / Assistant to  
the Director

**James Fraser**  
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**Sybil Goulet-Stock**  
Research Coordinator

**Brittany Graham**  
Research and CoP  
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**Daniel Gudiño**  
Research Assistant

**Priscilla Healey**  
Research Assistant

**Katherine Hogan**  
Research Assistant

**Abby Hutchison**  
Research Assistant

**Jeremy Kalicum**  
Research Assistant

**Jenn Keogh**  
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Community Research  
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**Celeste Macevicius**  
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**Jenny McDougall**  
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**Phoenix Beck McGreevey**  
Peer Research Associate



Jarred Aasen



Piotr Burek



Sam Churchill



Sybil Goulet-Stock



Priscilla Healey



Jenn Keogh



Stephanie Arlt



Fred Cameron



Amanda Farrell-Low



Brittany Graham



Katherine Hogan



Susan Martin



Meaghan Brown



Connie Carter



James Fraser



Daniel Gudiño



Abby Hutchison



Phoenix Beck McGreevey



## Staff (Victoria), cont'd

**Becky McLeod**  
Peer Research  
Associate

**Sydele Merrigan**  
Research Associate

**Lacey Mesley**  
Research Assistant

**Megan Mills**  
Research Assistant

**Zakkaery Moebes**  
Research Assistant

**Emily Nichol**  
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**Alayna Payne**  
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**Joshua Pelletier**  
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**Bella Priore**  
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**Deidre Rautenberg**  
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**Emmett Sihoe**  
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**Ben Stevenson**  
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**Ginger Sullivan**  
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**Taylor Teal**  
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**Alexandra Trifonidis**  
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**Joanne Thompson**  
Administrative Officer

**Roísín Unsworth**  
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**Kate Vallance**  
Research Associate

**Dr. Thea van Roode**  
Research Coordinator

**Laura Vetrone**  
Research Assistant

**Nicole Vishnevsky**  
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Lacey Mesley



Alayna Payne



Deidre Rautenberg



Heather Strosher



Ginger Sullivan



Michaela Smith



Taylor Teal



Joanne Thompson



Alexandra Trifonidis



Roisin Unsworth



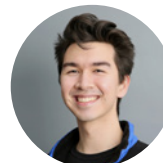
Kate Vallance



Thea van Roode



Laura Vetrone



Emmett Sihoe

## Staff (Vancouver)

**Dr. Tim Dyck**  
Research Associate

**Dr. Trudy Norman**  
Research Associate



Tim Dyck



Trudy Norman

## 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)



Gillian Kolla



Jennifer Robinson



Marion Selfridge

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## Advisory Board

**Dr. Michael Prince, Chair**  
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



Michael Prince



Mark Asbridge



Brian Emerson



William Kerr



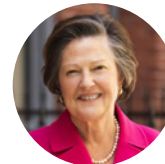
Dwayne McDonald



Cynthia Milton



Rita Notarandrea



Sandra Richardson



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## 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**

Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria

**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**

Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria

**Dr. Sana Shahram**

Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, UBC Okanagan

**Dr. Amanda Slaunwhite**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of New Brunswick

**Dr. Gerald Thomas**

Director, Alcohol & Gambling Policy, Healthy Populations and Development, BC Ministry of Health



Brittany Barker



Jeffrey Brubacher



Jane Buxton



Erin Hobin



Nathan Lachowsky



Bonnie Leadbeater



Doug Magnuson



Lenora Marcellus



Sana Shahram



Amanda Slaunwhite



Gerald Thomas

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## 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

**Alissa Greer**

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

**Andrea Mellor**

Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria

**Kathleen Perkin**

Manager, Harm Reduction Policy, BC Ministry of Health

**Dr. Rachel Phillips**

Executive Director, Peers Victoria Resources Society

**Dr. Diane Rethon**

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

**Ashley Wettlaufer**

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

**Dr. Erica Woodin**

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria



Clifton Chow



Alissa Greer



Andrea Mellor



Kathleen Perkin



Rachel Phillips



Diane Rethon



Kara Thompson



Zach Walsh



Ashley Wettlaufer



Erica Woodin

## Graduate Students

### Stephanie Arlt

Social Dimensions of Health Program (MA), UVic

### Katrina Barber

Social Dimensions of Health Program (MA), UVic

### Meaghan Brown

School of Nursing (PhD), UVic

### Jenny Cartwright

Masters of Public Health, Lakehead University

### Hannah Dalton

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### Samantha Davis

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### Kayla Gruntman

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### 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 Alcohol 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



## KEY RESULTS AREA 1: *To Build Capacity*

"To build Canadian infrastructure and capacity to conduct research and knowledge exchange that will increase understanding and support more effective responses to substance use."



# HIGHLIGHTS

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  
Social Planning Council of BC's Homelessness Community Action Grants, \$91,200, 2022
- 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

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## 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

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## 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

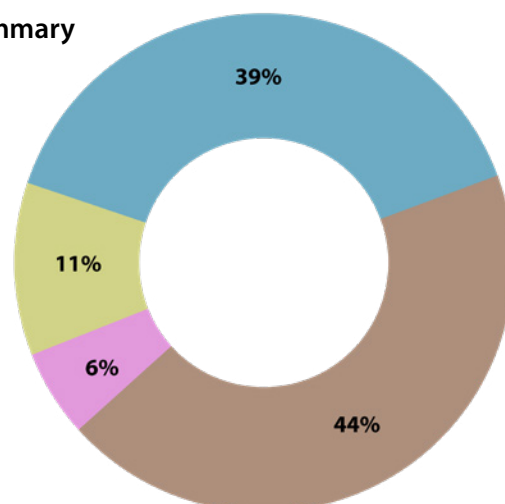


Table 1. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 1: Building Capacity

	OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1.1	To maintain or increase the number of substance use research projects through grants and contracts	<p>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</p> <p>2020/2021: (a) 7 (b) 6  <b>2021/2022: (a) 13 (b) 5</b></p>
1.2	To maintain or increase national and international funding for substance use and health research at CISUR	<p>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</p> <p>2020/2021: (a) \$1,772,496 (b) \$1,779,776  <b>2021/2022: (a) \$2,054,590 (b) \$2,608,048</b></p>
1.3	To maintain or increase funding for knowledge exchange concerning substance use and health promotion at CISUR	<p>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</p> <p>2020/2021: (a) \$246,598 (b) \$223,197  <b>2021/2022: (a) \$291,400 (b) \$179,990</b></p>



# FEATURE

## Borders and barriers in harm reduction

By Amanda Farrell-Low

**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.

## 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 pan-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,” explains Arredondo. “Just as fentanyl was first introduced in Canada, other new substances in the local drug supply could represent future challenges for the health of the North American region. This is why fostering programs across countries, with lessons about their success and failures, becomes an important topic to put on the table.”

This article originally appeared in UVic’s *Ring* newspaper.

“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.

“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

<b>Cecelia Benoit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize for the Social Sciences and Humanities</li> <li>• 2022 Richard Green Founding Editor Essay Award: “The Prostitution Problem: Claims, Evidence, and Policy Outcomes”</li> </ul>
<b>Gillian Kolla</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Banting Post-Doctoral Fellowship</li> </ul>
<b>Marjorie Macdonald</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Qualitative Nursing Research – award for Best Paper of 2021 in the empirical category (with co-authors Laura Tomm Bonde and Rita Schreiber)</li> </ul>
<b>Bernie Pauly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Nurse and Nurse Practitioner Association of BC: Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge and Research Award</li> <li>• 2021 Dr. Nancy Hall Public Policy Leadership Award (CMHC BC Division)</li> <li>• 2021 Fellow, Canadian Academy of Nursing</li> </ul>
<b>Bruce Wallace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 UVic President’s Chair</li> </ul>

**Table 2. Performance Indicators for Key Result Area 2: Engaging Academic Expertise**

	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>
<b>2.1</b>	To attract and retain high quality researchers from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field	Maintain or increase number of (a) doctoral level researchers within CISUR each year and (b) postdoctoral fellows with CISUR  2020/2021: (a) 12 (b) 4 <b>2021/2022: (a) 18 (b) 4</b>
<b>2.2</b>	To attract and retain high quality students from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field	Maintain or increase number of CISUR graduate students under supervision per year  2020/2021: 26 <b>2021/2022: 31</b>





## Canada Council prize for sociologist's advocacy

By Richard Dal Monte

### 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.



## ‘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’kmaq 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 or 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.”

# HIGHLIGHTS

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 &amp; 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

**Investigators:** Stockwell, T. (PI), Alam, F., Churchill, S., Naimi, T., Shi, Y., & Zhao, J.

**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





## EDUCATIONAL, LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY STRATEGIES

### 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
- 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., Benoit, C., Lachowsky, N., & Urbanoski, K.

**Funding body:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Duration of Support:** 2016-2021
- 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
- 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

## 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-PIs); 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., & Zwitter, 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
- **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., & Stroscher, H.  
**Funding body:** Island Health Authority Catalyst Grant  
**Duration of support:** 2022-2023

## B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS

- **HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTION FOR SEVERE DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS**  
**Investigators:** Parkes, T. (PI), Pauly, B., Anderson, I., Fotopoulou, M., Matheson, C., Budd, J., Liddell, D., Wallace, J., Carver, H., Burley A., MacLennan G. (Co-Is), Allan, H., & Bowes, A.  
**Funding body:** National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme  
**Duration of Support:** 2018-2021
- **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

## 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**

**Investigators:** Urbanoski, K. (PA), Milligan, K. (Co-A), Cummings, K., Goodman, D., Gordon, S., Patricelli, S., & Cheung, C.  
**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**

**Investigators:** Pauly, B., Urbanoski, K. (PIs), Hobbs, H., Sullivan, G., Cameron, F., Stuart, H., McCall, J., & Ranger, C. (Co-Is)  
**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., Vallance, 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**

**Investigators:** Irvine, M.A., Krebs, E. Nosyk, B., **Slaunwhite, A.K.** (Co-PIs), Coombs, D., Lock, K., Otterstatter, M.C., Palis, H., **Pauly, B., & Urbanoski, K.**

**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**

**Investigators:** Werb, D. (NPA), Boyd, J., Brunelle, C., Hyshka, E., Kennedy, M.C., Bertrand, K., **Kolla, G.**, Bowles, J., Strike, C., Guta, A., **Pauly, B., Urbanoski, K.** (Collaborators), Herder, M., Gomes, T., Touesnard, N., & Bonn, M.

**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**

**Investigators:** Ezard, N., **Stockwell, T.**, Haber, P., Baldry, E., Day, C., Dobbins, T., Peacock, A., **Pauly, B.**, Lintzeris, N., & Dolan, K.

**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 CRISES 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

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS & CONTEXTS OF SUBSTANCE USE

### 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)**  
**Investigators:** Pauly, B. (PI), Urbanoski, K., Stockwell, T., Reist, D., Wallace, B., Shahram, S., Lachowsky, N., Sherk, A., & Buxton, J.  
**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., Straton, 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**  
**Investigators:** Bourgeault, I. (NPA), Benoit, C., Atanackovic, J., Corrente, M., & McMillan, M. (Co-PIs)  
**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**

	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>
<b>3.1</b>	To conduct research on the patterns, distribution, determinants and consequences of substance use in Canada and internationally	<p>Number of epidemiological projects initiated, ongoing and/or successfully completed each year in this area.</p> <p>2020/2021: 15 <b>2021/2022: 8</b></p>
<b>3.2</b>	To conduct research that is valued by stakeholders as being of high quality, responsive to emerging issues and relevant to public policy and practice in Canada and internationally	<p>Number of CISUR special reports and commissioned reports focused on policy and practice.</p> <p>2020/2021: 8 <b>2021/2022: 29</b></p>
<b>3.3</b>	<p>To conduct research in the following other key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimize alcohol and other drug-related harms</li> <li>Development and evaluation of more effective community prevention programs</li> <li>Development and evaluation of more effective treatment systems and programs</li> <li>The influence of structural determinants of social contexts of drug use on the implementation of harm reduction strategies</li> <li>Research and evaluation of effectiveness of knowledge translation and exchange activities and strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of research projects ongoing and completed 2020/2021: 5 <b>2021/2022: 8</b></li> <li>Number of research projects ongoing and completed 2020/2021: 15 <b>2021/2022: 7</b></li> <li>Number of research projects ongoing and completed 2020/2021: 15 <b>2021/2022: 15</b></li> <li>Number of research projects ongoing and completed 2020/2021: 5 <b>2021/2022: 9</b></li> <li>Number of research projects ongoing and completed 2020/2021: 5 <b>2021/2022: 7</b></li> </ul>





## KEY RESULTS AREA: *Dissemination*

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

# HIGHLIGHTS

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.



CISUR Director Tim Naimi on Global News discussing alcohol the increase in alcohol consumption in BC during the pandemic.

## Media coverage

### CISUR top ten media topics, 2021/22

Topic	# of Stories
Alcohol consumption	347
Drug policy	189
Safe supply	184
Cannabis legalization	167
Overdose crisis	131
COVID-19	116
Alcohol labelling	84
Alcohol and cancer	81
Alcohol policy	66
Drug checking	57

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.

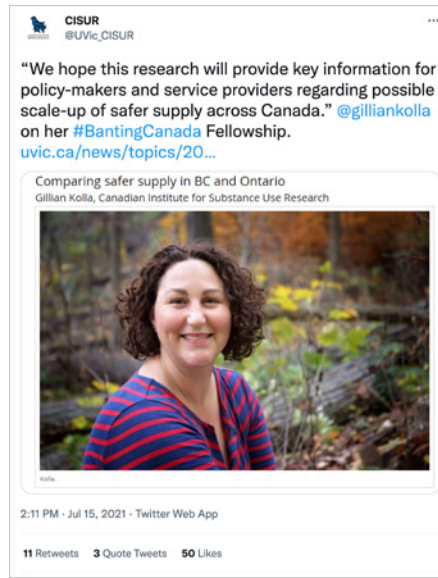
### CISUR overall media coverage, 2021/22

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

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## 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

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

### CISUR's top ten most downloaded files, 2021/22

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



## 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 updates 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.





# FEATURE

## 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.

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## 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.

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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.

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Scientist Bernie Pauly and peer research associates Phoenix Beck-McGreevy, Joshua Pelletier, and Heather Spence at the SFU Community-Engaged Research Initiative conference

## CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: BERNIE PAULY (SCIENTIST)

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.

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**Wallace, B.**, MacKinnon, K., **Stroscher, H.**, **Macevicius, C.**, Gordon, C., Raworth, R., **Mesley, L.**, **Shahram, S.**, **Marcellus, L.**, **Urbanoski, K.**, & **Pauly, B.** (2021). Equity oriented frameworks to inform responses to opioid overdoses: A scoping review. *JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports*, 19(8), 1758-1759. <https://doi.org/10.11124/JBIES-20-00304>

**Wallace, B.**, **van Roode, T.**, Pagan, F., Hore., & **Pauly, B.** (2021). The potential impacts of community drug checking within the overdose crisis: Qualitative study exploring the perspective of prospective service users. *BMC Public Health*, 2, 1156. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11243-4>

**Wallace, B.**, Varcoc, C., Holmes, C., Moosa-Mitha, M., Moor, G., Hudspith, M., & Craig, K. (2021). Towards health equity for people experiencing chronic pain and social marginalization. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 20(53), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-021-01394-6>

Wild, C., Koziel, J. Anderson-Baron, J., Ashbridge, M., Belle-Isle, L., Dell, C., Elliott, R., Hathaway, A., MacPherson, D. McBride, K., **Pauly, B.**, Strike, C., Galovan, A., & Hyshka, E. (2021). Public support for harm reduction: A population survey of Canadian adults. *PLOS One*, 16(5). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0251860>



Xavier, J., **Greer, A., Pauly, B.**, Loyal, J., Mamdani, Z., Ackermann, E., Barbic, S., & **Buxton, J.** (2022). "There are solutions and I think we're still working in the problem": The limitations of decriminalization under the good samaritan drug overdose act and lessons from an evaluation in British Columbia, Canada. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 105, 103714. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2022.103714>.

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Young, M. M., De Moor, C., Kent, P., **Stockwell, T., Sherk, A., Zhao, J.**, Sorge, J., Farrell, S., **MacDonald, S.**, Weekes, J., Biggar, E., & Maloney-Hall, B. (2021). Attributable fractions for substance use in relation to crime. *Addiction*, 116(11), 3198-3205. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15494>.

**Zhao, J.**, Ma, Y., & Sun, H. (2021). Drinking alcohol increased the possibility of self-rated poor health and mortality risk among middle-aged and seniors: A longitudinal study conducted in China. *China Population and Development Studies* 5(3), 229-263. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42379-021-00092-8>.

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## Books

**Benoit, C.** (2021) (Ed.). *Understanding exploitation in consensual sex work to inform occupational health & safety regulation*. Basel, Switzerland: MDPI. [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special\\_issues/sex\\_work](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special_issues/sex_work)

Macionis, J. J., **Jansson, M., Benoit, C.**, & Burkowicz, J. (2021). *Society, the basics* (Eighth Canadian edition). Scarborough, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada.

**Magnuson, D., Jansson, M., & Benoit, C.** (2021). *The experience of emerging adulthood among street-involved youth*. New York, USA: Oxford University Press.

## Book Chapters

**Benoit, C., Jansson, M., Phillips, R.**, Hallgrimsdottir, H., & **Vallance, K.** (2022). Social determinants of injection drug use among a community sample of sex workers: Intersections of structure and agency across the life course. In M. Morrow, O. Hankivsky, & C. Varcoe (Eds.), *Women's Health in Canada: Challenges of Intersectionality* (2nd ed.). University of Toronto Press.

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.

Gruben, V., Hyshka, E., & **Gagnon, M.** (In Progress). Public health law and harm reduction. In U. Ogbogu, T. Sheldon, & J. Shelley (Eds.), *Public Health Law & Policy in Canada (5th edition)*. LexisNexis.

**Reist, D., Dyck, T.**, Anwar, B. & Arora, K. (In press). Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses (HM|HC): Promoting mental well-being among postsecondary institutions in BC. In M. Zangeneh & M. Nouroozifar (Eds.), *Post-secondary Education Student Mental Health: A Global Perspective*. CDS Press.

**Smith, M. & Benoit, C.** (2021). How social inequities in maternity care impact marginalised groups. *The FIGO continuous textbook of women's medicine; Volume 1: Pregnancy and Society*. London: King's College.

**Urbanoski, K.** (2021). Substance use among older adults: Epidemiology and implications for health promotion. In I. Rootman, M. Edwards, F. Grunberg, & M. Lavis (Eds.), *Promoting the health of older adults: The Canadian experience*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

## Commissioned and Special Reports

Andreasson, S., Chikritzhs, T., Dangardt, F., Holder, H., **Naimi, T., Sherk, A., & Stockwell, T.** (2021). *Alcohol and society 2021: Alcohol and the coronavirus pandemic: Individual, societal and policy perspectives*. Stockholm: Swedish Society of Nursing, SFAM, SAFF, CERA, The Swedish Society of Addiction Medicine, SIGHT, Movendi International & IOGT-NTO.



## CISUR IMPACT STATEMENTS: MARILOU GAGNON (SCIENTIST)

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 forces with M-J Milloy to shine a light on the raids and fines faced by BC's community-level cannabis access points -- and explain why these access points should be protected and integrated into a safe supply responses to the overdose crisis.

- Benoit, C.,** Atchison, C., Casey, L., **Jansson, M.,** McCarthy, B., **Phillips, R.,** Reimer, B., **Reist, D.,** & Shaver, F. (2022) (updated). *Working paper for building on the evidence: An International symposium on the sex industry in Canada.*
- Benoit, C., Mellor, A.,** & Premji, Z. (2022). *Research brief: Structural interventions to reduce harms & promote the capabilities of girls experiencing multiple complexities.* BC Representative Children and Youth.
- Benoit, C. & Mellor, A.** (2022). *Brief to the standing committee on justice and human rights house of commons: Review of the protection of communities and exploited persons act.* Government of Canada: Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights House of Commons.
- 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.
- Dyck, T.** (2022). *Recommendations in regard to evaluation of VCC's mental health and well-being framework and its implementation.* Vancouver Community College.
- Dyck, T.** (contributing author) (2022). *Vancouver Community College Mental Health and Well-being Framework.*
- Gomes, T., Murray, R., **Kolla, G.,** Leece, P., et al. (2022). *Patterns of medication and healthcare use among people who died of an opioid-related toxicity during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario.* Toronto: Ontario Drug Policy Research Network.
- Gomes, T., Murray, R., **Kolla, G.,** Leece, P., et al. (2021) *Changing circumstances surrounding opioid-related deaths in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Toronto: Ontario Drug Policy Research Network
- Firestone, M., Bayoumi, A. M., Steer, L., Khoe, K., Akahomhen, A., Lee Soh, B., Holness, L., Nisenbaum, R., . . . **Kolla, G.,** Mohamed, A., O'Campo, P., & Pariseau T. (2021) *COVID-19 isolation and recovery sites evaluation.* Toronto, Ontario: MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital. [https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/CIRS\\_MARCO-JAN-2022.pdf](https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/CIRS_MARCO-JAN-2022.pdf)
- Friesen, E. L., Kurdyak, P. A., Gomes, T., **Kolla, G.,** Leece, P., et al. (2021). *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on opioid-related harm in Ontario.* Science Briefs of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. <https://doi.org/10.47326/ocsat.2021.02.42.1.0>
- Khorasheh, T., **Kolla, G.,** Kenny, K., & Bayoumi, A. (2021). *Impacts of overdose on front-line harm reduction workers in the city of Toronto.* Toronto: MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. <https://maphealth.ca/impacts-of-overdose>
- Khorasheh, T., **Kolla, G.,** Kenny, K., Bannerman, M., et al. (2022). *Experiences of overdose among people who inject drugs in the city of Toronto.* Toronto: MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. <https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/IOO-Brief-Report-2-Jan-25-2022.pdf>
- Kolla, G.** & Perri, M. (2022). *TNG Crystal Meth Program Evaluation Report.* Toronto: The Neighbourhood Group.
- Kolla, G.,** Kenny, K., Khorasheh, T., Khoe, K., Perreault, Y., et al. (2022) *Experiences of overdose among people who inject drugs and have experienced homelessness in the city of Toronto.* Toronto: MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. <https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/IOO-Brief-Report-3-2022-04-19.pdf>
- Kolla, G.,** Long, C., Perri, M., Bowra, A., & Penn, R. (2022). *Safer opioid supply program: Summary report.* London: London Intercommunity Health Centre. <https://lihc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-LIHC-SOS-Program-Summary-Report.pdf>
- Kolla, G.,** Long, C., Perri, M., Bowra, A., & Penn, R. (2021). *Safer opioid supply program: Preliminary report.* London: London Intercommunity Health Centre. <https://lihc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-SOS-Evaluation-Full.pdf>
- Kolla, G.,** Long, C., Rucchetto, A., Worku, F., Fagundes, R., et al. (2021). *Evaluation of the substance use services at the COVID-19 isolation and recovery site in Toronto.* MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. [https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/SUS\\_MARCO-JAN-2022.pdf](https://maphealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/SUS_MARCO-JAN-2022.pdf)
- Mamdani, Z., Fan, J., McKenzie, S., **Pauly, B., & Buxton, J. A.** (2021). *Evaluation of the peer engagement in the Peer2Peer project.* BC Centre for Disease Control.
- Mamdani, Z., **Pauly, B., & Buxton, J.** (2021, May). *Evaluation of the peer support and peer navigator at SOLID Outreach Society.* Vancouver, BC: BC Centre for Disease Control. <https://towardtheheart.com/assets/uploads/1624558789jl2z9ipuAEQUYfVqkZitpYMzSmTp51vKGfRz-3kG.pdf>

**Pauly, B.** (2021). *Expert Report, SCS Alberta.*

**Pauly, B.** (2021). *Expert Report, Beacon Hill Park.*

**Pauly, B.** (2020). *Expert Report, Vancouver Port Authority versus Christine Brett. CRAB Park injunction.*

**Pauly, B.** & Fraser, J. (2021). *Alternatives to criminalization.* Victoria, BC: University of Victoria. [Prepared for City of Victoria].

**Pauly, B., Merrigan, S., & Urbanoski, K.** (2021). *From the ground up: Evaluation of the BC provincial peer network. Final report.* Prepared for the Overdose Emergency Response Centre/BC Centre for Disease Control.

**Reist, D.** (2022). *A quick guide to developing responsive evaluation questions.* For BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information.

**Reist, D. & Norman, T.** (2021). *A practical guide to developing your evaluative process.* For BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information.

**Reist, D. & Norman, T.** (2022). *BC partners evaluation-2021/22 annual report.* For BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information.

Shield, K. D., **Churchill, S., Sher, A., Stockwell, T., Levesque, C., Sanger, N., & Edalati, H.** (2021). *Lifetime risk of alcohol-attributable death and disability.* Prepared for the Canadian Guidelines of Alcohol and Health panels via CCSA: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction.

## CISUR Reports and Bulletins

**Farrell-Low, A., Johnston, K., Naimi, T., & Vallance K.** (2021). *Policy report: Not just a walk in the park: Unsupervised alcohol consumption on municipal properties in BC.* Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada.

**Gozdzialksi, L., Wallace, B., Stege, U., & Hore, D.** (2021). *Linear programming for spectral mixture analysis: Determining the composition of drugs using Raman spectroscopy.* Wiley Analytical Science. <https://analyticalscience.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/was.00050199>

**Naimi, T., Vallance, K., Churchill, S., Callaghan, R., Stockwell, T., & Farrell-Low, A.** (2021). *Sales and revenue from regulated cannabis products: British Columbia, October 2018-December 2020.* Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.

**Norman, T. & Reist, D.** (2022). *Cannabis and schizophrenia. How can I support someone who has schizophrenia and is using cannabis?* Vancouver, BC. Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. Developed in partnership with the BC Schizophrenia Society.

Ranger, C., Hobbs, H., **Cameron, F., Stuart, H., McCall, J., Sullivan, G., Urbanoski, K., Slaunwhite, A., & Pauly, B.** (2021). *Co/Lab practice brief: Implementing the Victoria SAFER Initiative.* Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.

**Wallace, B., Villanueva, J., & Chudley, M.** (2021). *Time for a check-up: The Victoria Cool Aid Dental Clinic. Evaluation Report Series.* Victoria, BC: Victoria Cool Aid Society Community Health Centre.

## Infographic

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

## Opinion Editorials and Letters to News Outlets

**Benoit, C.** (2021). Editorial: Understanding exploitation in consensual sex work to inform occupational health & safety regulation: Current issues and policy implications. *Social Sciences* 10(7), 238. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socs-ci10070238>

**Gagnon, M.** (2021). 'We need concrete actions, now'—A letter from Victoria front-line healthcare and service workers. *Capital Daily.*

**Pauly, B. & Ranger, C.** (2020, September 12). Comment: Having a home is a basic human right. *Times Colonist.* <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-having-a-home-is-a-basic-human-right-1.24202005>



**Pauly, B.** & Ranger, C. (2020, April 15). COVID-19: Let's prevent, not chase, the illness for those who are unsheltered and inadequately housed. *The Georgia Straight*. <https://www.straight.com/news/covid-19-lets-prevent-not-chase-illness-for-those-who-are-unsheltered-and-inadequately-housed>

**Pauly, B. & Gagnon, M.** (2020, April 3). Comment: Governments failing to embrace measures for virus, homeless. *Times Colonist*. <https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-governments-failing-to-embrace-measures-for-virus-homeless-1.24111834>

**Pauly, B., Slaunwhite, A., Urbanoski, K., & Nosyk, B.** (2021, November 26). Re: First do No Harm. Evidence not Anecdote [Letter to the Editor.] *Globe and Mail*. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/letters/article-nov-26-safe-supplys-role-is-to-keep-patients-alive-is-safe-supply-the/>

## 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.**, Opoku, H., Chamberland-Rowe, C., Freeman, A., Gregory, K., Khalikova, R., Neiterman, E., Onyechie, K., Thiessen, K., Simkin, S., & Bourgeault, I. (2021). *Mental health, leaves of absence and return to work in the midwifery profession: Findings from a pan Canadian survey of Canadian midwives and midwifery trainees*. Canadian Association of Midwives conference.

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 Annual Conference.

Barnett, T., **Selfridge, M.**, Drost, A., Guarasci, K., Lundgren K., Fraser C. (2022, May 13-15). *Impact of COVID-19 on EPIC: Evaluation of Pharmacy-based Identification and Treatment of Hepatitis C in Victoria, British Columbia*. Canadian Liver Meeting Conference. Ottawa, Canada.

Barnett, T., Guarasci, K., Lundgren, K., Roy, H., **Selfridge, M.**, & Fraser, C. (2021, October 12-15). *Treating people in COVID-19 sheltering sites: Nurse-led Hepatitis C (HCV) micro-elimination project during dual public health emergencies for people who inject drugs in Victoria, Canada*. International Symposium on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users. Online

Barker, B., **Pauly, B., Slaunwhite, A., & Urbanoski, K.** (2022, May 16-17). *Mixed methods evaluation of risk mitigation measures to address the dual public health crises of COVID-19 and overdose*. BCCSU Substance Use Conference. Online

**Benoit, C., Mellor, A., & Premji, Z.** (2022). *Structural interventions to reduce harms & promote the capabilities of girls experiencing multiple complexities*. Annual CAHSPR Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. Online.

**Benoit, C. & Mellor, A.** (2022). *Sexual rights of people with disabilities: Promoting sexual health equity through promising policies and practices*. 24th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion. Montreal, Que. Online.

**Benoit, C.** (2022). *Understanding exploitation in consensual sex work to inform occupational health & safety regulation*. Seminar on Sexuality, Psychology and Sex Work. Birbeck, University of London, England.

**Benoit, C. & Mellor, A.** (2021). *Access to sexual rights for people living with disabilities: Assumptions, evidence and policy outcomes*. Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Online.

**Benoit, C.** et al., (2021). *The chief science advisor's open science dialogue*. Office of the Chief Science Advisor, Government of Canada. Ottawa, Ontario.

**Benoit, C.** (2021). *Multiple influences of stigma on the health of one marginalized group: Sex workers*. Social Dimensions of Health program. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.

**Benoit, C.**, Thiessen, K., Atanackovic, J., Neiterman, E., Freeman, A., Chamberland-Rowe, C., Gregory, K., & Bourgeault, I. (2021, September 28). *HPW midwifery case study team*. Healthy Professional Worker Partnership Conference. University of Ottawa, Ontario.

**Benoit, C.** (2021). *Commercial sex: A problem of gender or social inequality?* Masterminds Lecture Series. University of Victoria, BC.

Chamberland-Rowe, C., Atanackovic, J., **Benoit, C.**, Thiessen, K., Neiterman, E., Freeman, A., & Bourgeault, I. (2021, May 19). *Delivering on the quadruple aim in midwifery care: Stakeholder perspectives on the mental health, leave of absence and return to work experiences of Canadian midwives*. Annual Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference. <https://youtu.be/7Tp5Xfx387E>

**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.

**Dyck, T., Asgari, M., & Munro, C.** (2021, November). *Our mental health & well-being framework: What is it and how can we together put it into practice?* Workshop session for Vancouver Community College VCC Day. Online.

**Dyck, T. & Munro, C.** (2021, November). *How do VCC's mental health & well-being framework commitments relate to concerns of its Education Council?* Workshop session for Vancouver Community College Educational Council Planning Day. Online.

**Dyck, T., Munro, C., & Pedersen, E.** (2021, December). *VCC's mental health & well-being framework*. Presentation to the Vancouver Community College Board of Governors. Online.

**Gagnon, M., Guta, A., Upshur, R., Murray, S. J., & Bungay, V.** (2021, May). *"It gets people through the door": A qualitative case study of the use of incentives in the care of people at risk or living with HIV in British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for HIV Research. Online.

Glegg, S., McCrae, K., **Kolla, G.**, Mayer, S., & Fairbairn, N. (2021, June 21) *Safe supply prescribing in Canada during COVID-19: A national environmental scan*. College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CDPP) Annual Meeting. Online.

Goodyear, T., **Gagnon, M.**, Sedgemore, K. (2021, February). *Involuntary stabilization care of youth who overdose: More harm than good*. Canadian Public Health Association and the Harm Reduction Nurses Association. Online.

**Goulet-Stock, S., Brown, M., Pauly, B., & Stockwell, T.** (2022, May 16-17). *Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs): History, evidence, & evolution in a global pandemic*. BCCSU Substance Use Conference. Online.

Gregory, K., **Benoit, C.**, et al. (2022). *Production of common mental health problems: A case study of physicians and midwives and their decisions regarding leaves of absence*. Annual CAHSPR Conference. Ottawa, Ont. Online.

Javier Pico-Espinosa, O., Hull, M., Fisher, K., Mohammed, S., Tengra, Z., Chris, A., Clarke, B., **Selfridge, M.**, et al. (2021, October). *PrEP cascade among HIV-negative gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) in Ontario and British Columbia. Baseline data from the PrEP implementation Project (PRIMP)*. European AIDS conference. Online.

Javier Pico-Espinosa, O., Hull, M., Mohammed, S., Tengra, Z., Chris, A., Clarke, B., **Selfridge, M.**, et al. (2022, April). *PRIMP PrEP Cascade Results: Only a minority of healthcare encounters among PrEP-eligible gbMSM lead to PrEP initiation*. Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference. Online.

**Kolla, G., Bowles, J., & Werb, D.** (2021, September). *Impacts of the COVID pandemic on access to opioid agonist treatment, safer opioid supply and harm reduction services among people who use drugs in Toronto*. META:PHI Conference 2021. Online.

**Kolla, G.** (2022, February 23). Panelist, *The Opioid Crisis in Oshawa and Beyond*. Ontario Tech University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S57eD-pxC4>

**Kolla, G.** (2022, January 20). Panelist, *London InterCommunity Health Centre's SOS Program Evaluation Report*. National Safer Supply Community of Practice webinar. <https://www.nss-aps.ca/lihc-sos-evaluation-report>

**Kolla, G.** (2022, January 18). Panelist, *Opioid-related toxicity deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Public Health Ontario Grand Rounds. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsWz5\\_zu6cQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsWz5_zu6cQ)

**Kolla, G.** (2021, May 5). Panelist, *At the Intersection of Multiple Pandemics: Colonialism, Racism, Overdose Crisis, Gender-Based Violence, and COVID-19*. Canadian Association of HIV Research Conference 2021. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1M\\_9tdu8QI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1M_9tdu8QI)

**Naimi, T.** (2021, October). *Alcohol policy scales: Research findings and policy implications*. Alcohol Action Network. Washington, DC. Online.

- Naimi, T.** (2021, September). *Alcohol and COVID-19: A harmful, bi-directional relationship*. Alcohol Action Network. Washington, DC. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, July). *Alcohol policy scales in the U.S. and Canada: Rationale, development, uses & challenges*. Pan American Health Organization. Washington, DC. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, July). *Alcohol's Impact on states and municipalities: Public health and clinical perspectives*. Law and Mental Health Conference. Portland, USA. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, June). *Research on state alcohol and cannabis policy environments: What have we learned?* Research Society on Alcoholism. Texas, USA. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, June). *Alcohol, COVID-19 and policies*. Health Canada. Ottawa, Canada. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, June). *Sales and revenue from regulated cannabis products: British Columbia, October 2018 – December 2020*. Government of BC. Victoria, Canada. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, June). *US dietary guidelines and labeling*. Consumer Federation of America. Washington, DC. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, June). *Alcohol and cannabis involvement in motor vehicle crash fatalities in the United States, 2000-2018*. 46th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettli Bruun Society. Helsinki, Finland. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, May). *Alcohol and the coronavirus pandemic: Individual, societal and policy perspectives*. Swedish Medical Society. Sweden. Online.
- Naimi, T.** (2021, February). *Is "moderate" drinking good for health? Challenges for guideline development*. Purdue Nutrition Grand Rounds. Indiana, US. Online.
- Netierman, E., Atanackovic, J., Chamberland-Rowe, C., **Benoit, C.**, Thiessen, K., & Bourgeault, I. (2021). (Re) constructing narratives: Midwives' experiences of mental health issues in COVID-19 pandemic. Qualitatives.
- Norton, A., Giesinger, W., Wood, S., Cadieux, K., Meilleur, L., **Urbanoski, K.**, **Pauly, B.**, & Barker, B. (2022, May 16–17). *Impacts and outcomes of a provincial prescribed safer supply program among Indigenous people who use drugs in BC's Northern region*. BCCSU Substance Use Conference. Online.
- Norton, A., Wood, S., Giesinger, W., Mitchell, A., Meilleur, L., **Slaunwhite, A.**, **Urbanoski, K.**, **Pauly, B.**, & Barker, B. (2021, May 19-21). *Evaluating pharmaceutical alternatives to the toxic drug supply: Experiences of Indigenous people who use drugs in BC's northern region*. Annual Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Conference. Online.
- Nosyk, B. & **Pauly, B.** (2021, June 18). *Risk mitigation provincial evaluation update*. Presentation at the BCCSU Conference. Online.
- Pauly, B.**, **Cameron, F.**, Stuart, H., Hobbs, H., Ranger, C., McCall, J., **Sullivan, G.**, **Urbanoski, K.** (2021, May 19-21). *Developing an effective SAFER supply program: Findings from a concept mapping study*. Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Conference. Online.
- Pauly, B.** (2021, October). *Equity oriented overdose monitoring and responses during dual public health emergencies*. Part of Symposium on Opioid Overdose Responses with Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Ontario MOH and Heather Orpana, Public Health Agency of Canada at the Canadian Public Health Association.
- Pauly, B.** (2021, May). *Island health scholar in residence in action*. Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Conference. Online.
- Pauly, B. & CMAPS Team** (2022, March 24). *Managed alcohol, history, evolution and evidence during COVID*. Pacific AIDS Network, Island Health.
- Pauly, B. & CMAPS Team** (2022, February 23). *Managed alcohol programs: History, evidence and evolution in Canada*. SHAAP Seminar, International Knowledge Exchange on Managed Alcohol Programs (UK and Canada).
- Pauly, B. & Brown, M.** (2022, February 15). *Managed alcohol programs: History, evidence and evolution*. CFCS and Northern Health. Online.
- Pauly, B.** (2022, February 14). *Managed alcohol programs: History, evidence and evolution*. Yukon Mental Wellness Summit. Online.
- Pauly, B.**, **Stockwell, T.**, Graham, B., **Brown, M.**, & **Goulet-Stock, S.** (2021). *Alcohol Harm Reduction Webinar for Harm Reduction International*.
- Pauly, B.** (2021, November 4). *Infrastructure for harm reduction for emergency shelters and substance use centres*. Health Care Excellence Learning Together Series: Learning Huddle. Online. <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/what-we-do-together/learning-together-emergency-shelters-and-substance-use-centres/virtual-learning-together-series/>

**Pauly, B.** (2021, September). *Health equity lens and determinants of substance use harms and benefits*. Presentation to Manitoba NDP Health Critic.

**Pauly, B.** (2021, June 18). *What is the role of harm reduction and housing first in ending homelessness?* Presentation at Come as You Are: Transformational Housing. Lexington, Kentucky.

**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.

Perri, M., Kaminski, N., Bonn, M., **Kolla, G.**, Guta, A., Bayoumi, A., Challacombe, L., **Gagnon, M.**, Touesnard, N., McDougall, P., & Strike, C. (2021, May). *Spotting – opportunities and challenges to prevent overdose, HIV transmission and other drug-related harms*. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for HIV Research. Online.

Perri, M., Guta, A., Chan, C., **Gagnon, M.**, & Strike, C. (2021, May). *Peripherally Inserted central catheters during hospital admissions: Clinical and public health considerations from interviews with health care providers and people living with HIV/HCV who use drugs*. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for HIV Research. Online.

**Selfridge, M.**, Barnett, T., Drost, A., Guarasci, K., Lundgren, K., Roy, H., & Fraser C. (2022, May 13-15). *Closing the loop: Ongoing nurse-led Hepatitis C (HCV) micro-elimination projects in supportive housing sites and shelters for people who use drugs in Victoria, Canada*. Canadian Liver Meeting Conference. Ottawa, Canada.

**Selfridge, M.**, Barnett, T., Guarasci, K., Lundgren, K., Roy, H., & Fraser C. (2022, April 27-29). *Impact of COVID-19 on sexually transmitted infections and nurse-led HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) initiation and retention at cool aid community health centre for men who have sex with men*. Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference. Online.

**Selfridge, M.**, Cunningham, E., Barnett, T., Drost, A., Gray-Schleithauf, C., Guarasci, K., Lundgren, K., Milne, R., Grebely J., & Fraser C. (2021, October 12-15). *Reinfection following successful direct-acting antiviral therapy for HCV infection among people attending an inner-city community health centre in Victoria, Canada*. International Symposium on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users. Online.

**Sherk, A.** (2022, March 23). *Substance use, harms and costs in Canada*. Invited presentation to the Royal Military College. Online.

**Sherk, A.** (2021, October 27). *Alcohol policy webinar series* presented by CPHA/Canadian Cancer Society/Canadian Partnership Against Cancer/CCSA. Invited panel presentation. Online.

**Sherk, A. & Stockwell, T.** (2021, September 9). *Estimating alcohol harms using the International Model of Alcohol Harms and Policies: Using InterMAHP in PAHO member nations*. Special webinar to the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization. Online.

**Sherk, A.** (2021, June 8). *Estimating alcohol harms using the International Model of Alcohol Harms and Policies*. Presentation to the University of Sheffield School of Health and Related Research. Online.

**Sherk, A.** (2021, June 2). *The public-private dilemma for alcohol retail systems: Examining the health, social and economic implications of differential systems in Finland*. Kettil Bruun Society International Conference. Helsinki, Finland. Online.

**Sherk, A.** (2021, May 27). *National drinking guidelines: Considerations, certain health conditions and choice of reference group*. Presentation to scientific panels of Canadian Guidelines on Alcohol and Health. Online.

**Sherk, A. & Stockwell, T.** (2021, September 21). *Estimating alcohol-caused harm and modelling alcohol policy scenarios in PAHO member states*. Webinar to Pan American Health Organization and member states. Online.

**Stockwell, T.** (2022, February). *Does alcohol in moderation provide health benefits?* Presentation to Texas Alcoholism Research Society.

**Stockwell, T.** (2021, November). *Alcohol sales in Canadian liquor outlets as a predictor of subsequent COVID-19 infection rates: A time series analysis*. Issues of Substance conference hosted by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction.

**Stockwell, T.** (2021, May 18-19). *Reducing alcohol-related harms by effective regulation of affordability and availability*. Presentation to Nova Scotia Alcohol Policy Forum.



- Stockwell, T.** (2021, June 22-25). *The Yukon alcohol labeling experiment: Impacts on alcohol sales despite industry Interference*. Presentation to the Third WHO Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, April 8). *Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol: A feasible and cost-effective public health policy*. Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, May 30-June 3). *Alcohol sales in Canadian bars as a predictor of subsequent COVID-19 infection rates: A time series analysis*. Plenary presentation to the 46th Annual Meeting of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol. Helsinki, Finland. Online.
- Stockwell, T. & Shi, Y.** (2021, June 22). *Do Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) reduce harms from long-term alcohol use?* Presentation to the Federal / Provincial / Territorial Prevention Working Group on Problematic Substance Use and Harms.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, February 23). *Do Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) reduce harms from long-term alcohol use?* CMAPS Webinar. Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria. Online.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, March 4). *Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol: The most cost-effective alcohol harm reduction strategy of all?* Presentation to Carolina Community Coalition, University of South Carolina.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, March 11). *Impact of COVID-19 on alcohol use and related harms: Implications for public health policies*. Presentation to BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society.
- Stockwell, T.** (2021, June 14). *COVID-19, alcohol use and related harms in BC: Implications for public health policies*. Presentation to BC Cross Government Social Responsibility ED Committee.
- Urbanoski, K.** (2021, June 16-17). *Navigating recovery: Understanding diverse experiences of addictions care*. Invited panel presentation at BC Substance Use Conference 2021. Online.
- Urbanoski, K.,** Burmeister, C., Beck McGreevy, P., Thomson, E., **Hogan, K., Card, K., Selfridge, M.,** Barker, B., **Slaunwhite, A., & Pauly, B.** (2021, May 19-21). *A mixed methods evaluation of risk mitigation measures to address the dual public health crisis of COVID-19 and overdose*. Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Conference. Online.
- Urbanoski, K.** (2021, April 23). *Access and equity in substance use service systems*. Invited keynote plenary at Enhancing connections: Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies Conference 2021. Sydney, Australia.
- Wallace, B., Larnder, A., Burek, P., & Hore, D.** (2021, March). *Substance: Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project*. Presentation to Comox Valley Community Action Team.
- Wallace, B. & Hore, D.** (2021, May). *Invited keynote: Navigating dual public health crises: Overdose research in a pandemic*. Canadian Association of Research Ethics Board 2021 Conference. Online.
- Wallace, B.** (2021, April 17). *Canadian dental policy and the current state of dental care in Canada*. Video presentation with the Coalition for Dentalcare and the Federation of Canadian Dentistry Student Associations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6D75PUJ33U>
- Xavier, J., Kievit, B., Ackermann, E., **Greer, A.,** Ferguson, M., Mamdani, Z., Loyal, J., Palis, H., **Slaunwhite, A., Pauly, B.,** Skye, B., & **Buxton, J.** (2021, Nov. 23). *Attitudes, knowledge and implementation around the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act among police officers and people who are at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose in BC, Canada*. Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's Issues of Substance 2021 Conference.
- Young, S., **Kolla, G.,** Campbell, T., McCormack, D., Strike, C., Srivastava, A., Leece, P., Antoniou, T., Bayoumi, A. M., & Gomes, T. (2021, October 21-23). *Trends in daily dispensed immediate release hydromorphone prescribing across Ontario: A descriptive analysis from 2016-2020*. Canadian Society for Addiction Medicine 2021 Scientific Conference. Online.
- Zhao, J., Stockwell, T., Pauly, B., Wettlaufer, A., & Chow, C.** (2021, May 30-June 3). *Participation in Canadian Managed Alcohol Programs and associated risk of emergency room presentation, hospitalization and death: A retrospective cohort study*. 46th Annual Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol. Helsinki, Finland. Online.

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

	OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
4.1	To publish research findings in international peer reviewed journal articles	<p>Number of articles published each year by CISUR researchers and students in peer reviewed journals</p> <p>2020/2021: 93 <b>2021/2022: 117</b></p>
4.2	To publish research findings in book chapters, books and research monographs	<p>Number of book chapters, books or research monographs published by CISUR researchers and students each year</p> <p>2020/2021: 8 <b>2021/2022: 9</b></p>
4.3	To disseminate research findings through reports, systematic reviews and other resources, nationally and internationally	<p>Number of reports, systematic reviews or other resources published each year</p> <p>2020/2021: 47 <b>2021/2022: 36</b></p>
4.4	To achieve a high academic impact for CISUR addictions-related research so that it is well known, frequently requested and often cited internationally	<p>Number of citations in peer reviewed journals of research by CISUR scientists and graduate students per year</p> <p>2020/2021: 540 <b>2021/2022: 582</b></p>
4.5	To conduct seminars, workshops, lectures and occasional conferences on related policy, practice and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of public research seminars, symposia, workshops or conferences convened or co-convened by CISUR</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p>2020/2021: 6 / 74 <b>2021/2022: 6 / 95</b></p>



# FEATURE

## Drug checking as community building, service and research

By Amanda Farrell-Low (Photo: Jay Wallace)

### 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

**“** Often, community-engaged research looks at how we can get communities more engaged in our research in respectful ways. I think it's more about how we can get the university and the researchers more engaged in community

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."

# HIGHLIGHTS

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



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

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

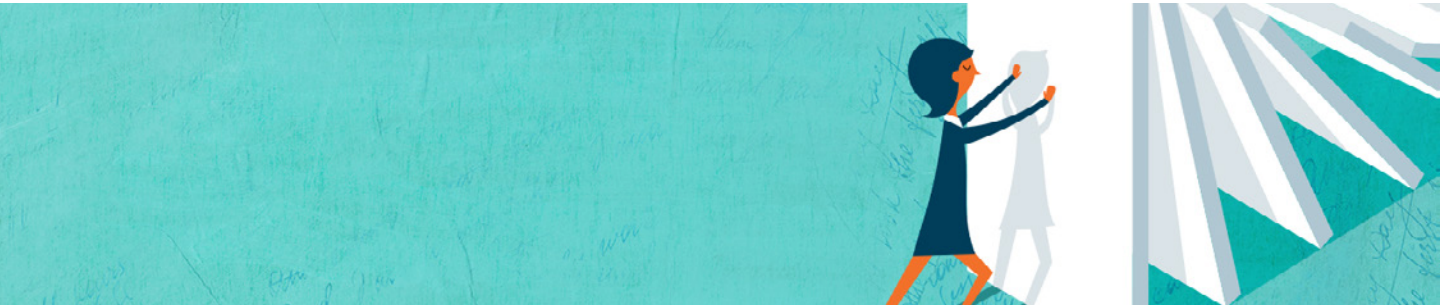
**Duration of support:** ongoing

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
  - » Primary authorship and final draft submission of an invited chapter, Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses (HM|HC): Promoting mental well-being among postsecondary institutions in BC, for inclusion in the forthcoming book, M. Zangeneh & M. Nouroozifar (Eds.), *Post-secondary education student mental health: a global perspective*. CDS Press.
- 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](#)



## • 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.





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## 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)

- Urbanoski, Karen**
- Member, Canadian Public Health Association
  - Member, Evaluation and Implementation Working Group, Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project, BC Ministry of Health/Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
  - Member, Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Substance Use Provincial Peer Training Curriculum Project, BC Government/BC Campus
  - Member, Core Group, Mental Health and Addictions Research Agenda. BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
  - Affiliate Member, Women's Health Research Institute, BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, University of British Columbia
  - Member, Primary and Community Care Research Advisory Committee, BC Ministry of Health
  - Member, Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research
  - Co-Chair, National Treatment Indicators Working Group, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
- Wallace, Bruce**
- Registered (RSW), British Columbia College of Social Workers
  - Member, Canadian Public Health Association/Public Health Association of BC
  - Member, Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD)
- Zhao, Jinhui**
- Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol

## 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**

	OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
5.1	To ensure access to relevant knowledge while working in partnership with policy-makers and practitioners in planning and implementing projects to address substance use in Canada and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of projects in which CISUR members collaborate with policy makers or practitioners</li> <li>Number of provincial or national committees, advisory boards, communities of practice or other such bodies on which CISUR members are active</li> <li>Number of community groups and organizations CISUR researchers engaged in their work</li> </ul> <p>2020/2021: ~35 / 68 / n/a  <b>2021/2022: ~30 / 71 / 16</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of resources completed in any one year</li> </ul> <p>2020/2021: ~40  <b>2021/2022: 48</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of visits to CISUR websites each year</li> <li>Number of media interviews or citations resulting from CISUR activities each year</li> </ul> <p>2020/2021: 90,054 / 1,021  <b>2021/2022: 93,447 / 13 / 1,062</b></p>





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