

## Introduction to CRISM

The Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM) is a five-year initiative of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- CRISM can identify and develop effective clinical & community-based treatment and prevention interventions
- CRISM can provide evidence to enhance treatment & prevention services
- CRISM can support efforts to improve quality of care and quality of life

To ensure nationwide coverage and regional responsiveness, four Nodes comprise the network: BC, Prairies, Ontario, and Quebec-Atlantic

## CRISM Prairies & Reconciliation

CRISM Prairies is applying what team members learned from the *Honouring Our Strengths: Indigenous Culture as Intervention in Addictions Treatment* research project. We are doing this because reconciliation is not about a single research project, it is about the research processes we engage together and how we conduct ourselves everyday. Reconciliation can be seen in the partnerships we form and in the relationships we prioritize for this work together.

**Reconciliation** “is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour” (TRC Commission 2015),

- CRISM Prairies leadership participated in the initiating Pipe ceremony and Sweatlodge with our guiding Elders. Engaging ceremony is part of our research process and knowledge collaboration.
- Elder JoAnn Saddleback shared her perspective and teachings with all network members at our initiating team meeting. We are listening and adapting our practices to reflect new knowledge.
- We are collaborating to share the importance of relationships through a CRISM video series that will be released in 2017.
- We are forming an Indigenous Advisory Council to further guide the work of CRISM Prairies

...and we won't stop there!

## National Project

### The OPTIMA Trial

#### Optimizing Client-Centered Care

- Prevention and treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) in Canada has become an urgent public health priority. The available maintenance treatment of methadone and suboxone have been associated with several adherence challenges.
- The OPTIMA national trial seeks to examine the relative benefits of buprenorphine/naloxone and methadone, within a realistic model of care.

## Who we are

The CRISM Prairie Node is comprised of members from the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan interested in substance misuse. Our team is comprised by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Researchers, Front line service providers, Clinicians, and Community groups.

Node Leadership Includes: Elders JoAnn & Jerry Saddleback & Terry Daniels. Knowledge Keeper Shane Patterson. Nominated Principal Investigator: Dr. Cam Wild (UofA) Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Colleen Dell (UofS) & Dr. David Hodgkins (UofC) Node Manager: Dr. Denise Adams Communications Manager: Dr. Barbara Fornssler



## Node funding

- The CRISM Prairie Node provides support for its members to develop new projects. Ad-hoc request of members may be considered for up to \$15,000 one-time funding.
- Funds are to be used to support research and/or knowledge exchange activities in the area of substance misuse interventions
- 9 members have received funding to date!

## Examples of Member Projects

- *Treating Drug Addiction with Animal Assisted Therapy* builds on a study titled Social Work Practice & Human-Animal Interaction Survey across the prairie provinces (AB, SK, MB) of Canada.
- *Implementing harm reduction services in acute care: patient and health care provider experiences* describes one of Canada's first needle and syringe exchange programs for acute care inpatients in order to generate evidence to enhance this program's delivery.
- *Adding Contingency Management to On-Line Treatment as for the Treatment of Disordered Gambling*

## Regional projects

### Motivating client engagement in SM treatment

- Researchers and service providers recognize that drop-out is perhaps the most common outcome of specialty substance misuse (SM) treatment regardless of type of intervention offered or service context.
- To tackle this, the Node's first demonstration project focuses on motivational client engagement and contingency management interventions in SM treatment.

### Building Online capacity for community-based SM screening and brief interventions

- Only a small proportion of substance misusers are ever diagnosed. Many people exhibiting moderate-to-low problem severity prefer, and can benefit from, exposure to low-intensity and self-directed interventions.
- Additional research is needed to examine the impact of interventions that link SM screening with brief internet-based interventions.

## Contact us

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