

Community Newsletter

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

November 2025



National Coordinating Centre Organized CRISM's annual meeting 2025 in Banff, Alberta

Here at the CRISM-IEP, we've been busy with planning and organizing for both the yearly IEP advisory meeting in September and the National CRISM leadership meeting in October.

During the NCC leadership meeting this past month, the CRISM lead researchers, node managers, and representatives from Health Canada, CIHR (Canadian Institute for Health Research) and community advocate and activist Dean Wilson, were present.

Conversations around node updates, platform establishment for clinical trials network, training, and national projects were unveiled and introduced. We also heard important updates from both Health Canada and CIHR for what is on the radar of government and our primary funding agency. We appreciated their time and input into the conversations as well as the willingness to listen to firsthand experiences, grassroots initiatives, and the realities of community-based research.



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Fall Advisory Council Meeting Highlights: Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa IEP Council Meeting

The CRISM-IEP gathering in Ottawa brought together representatives from all five CRISM nodes to share updates and strengthen cross-regional collaboration. Atlantic Node highlighted their work with Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch on community-led ethical guidance and a youth cannabis research initiative. Quebec Node shared progress on culturally safe care pathways and maternal health projects, while Ontario Node emphasized their involvement in the Sparrow Ascent Device trials and the potential of Thunderbird's research network. The Prairies Node celebrated a successful systems-level grant and introduced innovative programming like the Speakeasy podcast and micro-credit harm reduction courses. BC Node continues to seek Indigenous community support and shared resources like the FNHA and anti-racism toolkits.

Discussions also focused on the CIHR Cannabis team grant call and the IEP's role in shaping Indigenous-led research contributions. Elder Jo-Ann offered teachings on humility, ceremony, and protocol, and is preparing to host a Naming Ceremony in Elk Island this October.

Key action items include planning the Spring 2026 meeting in Montreal/Kahnawake, establishing working groups on Indigenous methodologies and researcher vetting, and expanding the IEP's evaluative toolkit with video content from node engagements. The CRISM-IEP website is now live, and the quarterly newsletter schedule has been set, with the next issue due in November. Members are encouraged to submit stories, resources, and edits to support ongoing knowledge sharing.

The meeting reinforced the importance of community-led research, ethical engagement, and intergenerational collaboration. With new funding, tools, and partnerships underway, CRISM-IEP continues to build a strong, culturally grounded network that supports Indigenous researchers and communities across Canada.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Moms Stop the Harm

MSTH now offers a national hotline to call in Canada.

We proud to now offer a national peer support phone line - a safe and confidential space for anyone impacted by substance use or loss due to overdose.

When you call, you'll be met with understanding, non-judgmental support, and connection with trained peers who truly understand this journey because they've lived it. Whether you're a parent, family member, or friend supporting someone who uses substances, or you're navigating the profound grief that follows loss, you don't have to face it alone.

The national support phone line will operate: Thursdays and Fridays, from 3:00–9:00 PM PT / 5:00–11:00 PM CT / 6:00 PM–12:00 AM ET.

Call 1.866.355.MSTH (6784) to connect with a trained peer supporter.

They also offer peer support groups at Holding Hope:

<https://www.holdinghopecanada.org/find-a-group> and bereavement support at Healing Hearts: <https://www.healingheartscanada.org/find-a-group>



Grants & Conferences

- Research Impact Graduate Scholarship new funding- \$2-3,000
- Telus Funding for Community: \$5-\$25,000 grants for Indigenous-led projects
- Health Canada Emergency Response Research Funds
- CIHR REDI Mentorship funds for early career researchers
- Canadian Drug Agency Conference: <https://www.cda-amc.ca/> April 22-24, 2026



Training & Webinars

- Catie- Hard Reduction FREE training
- French language webinar: Trauma & Violence informed Approach to Addictions & Homelessness- <https://dependanceitinerance.ca/>
- BRICC - Community-based research cultural sensitivity training- First Nations University
- CRISM Prairies webinar series: <https://crismprairies.ca/crism-addiction-rounds/>

COMMUNITY NEWS



Updates

The IEP has settled on a new logo for branding with blue, green, and red as the colours for our logo. In it, there is symbolism of growth through the inner rings of a mature tree, with the cedar branch of healing, ceremony, and community care. Community is also represented in the rings of the circle of equal voice, representation, and involvement with the IEP Council, 4 intergenerational Circles, CRISM and outer community in which we live and work.



We also have a new website that went live in October. Please check it out at www.crism-iep.ca

A Few Notes To Remember

- The first week of May has been earmarked for our spring meeting with our advisory circles, CRISM members and council.
- If you would like to be a part of our newsletter or are interested in presenting your research or project through the CRISM-IEP, please get in touch with Heather.



Naming Ceremony

Our naming ceremony has been set for the spring during the season growth & renewal. Our Elder Jo-Ann will keep us updated on appropriate next steps.



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EMAIL:
IEPCOORDINATOR@USASK.CA
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If you are interested in being a CRISM research member, learn more by reaching out to your regional node! CRISM.ca