

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Attn. General, Health, Education Reporters

Canadian Postsecondary Education Partnership – Alcohol Harms available to speak to media on measures needed to curb excessive drinking as campuses resume

September 7, 2017 – With the new academic year set to begin and orientation weeks underway at campuses across Canada, the [Postsecondary Education Partnership – Alcohol Harms](#) (PEP-AH) is concerned about levels of excessive drinking that could take place, leading to harms to students.

PEP-AH is available to speak to media about the dangers of alcohol, harm reduction techniques in place to protect students, and more.

- WHO:** Scott Duguay, co-chair PEP-AH, and Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Management, St. Thomas University
Catherine Paradis, co-chair, PEP-AH, and Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst, CCSA
- WHAT:** Will be available for media interviews September 1, 5 and 6
- WHERE:** Interviews can take place over the phone – English and French
- WHY:** The start of the academic year tends to see an increase in student drinking – and in resulting harms.

A survey of 43,780 students from 41 Canadian campuses, conducted by the Canadian Consortium of the American College Health Association in 2016, identified many of the challenges faced by institutions: the prevalence of binge drinking and associated harms, including physical injuries and assault. Over one-third of students (36.7% of respondents) reported drinking five or more drinks the last time they “partied” or socialized. Many report negative consequences from their drinking, most commonly:

- Doing something they later regretted (38%);
- Forgetting where they were or what they did (29.1%);
- Having unprotected sex (24.2%);
- Physically injuring themselves (18.4%); or
- Poor academic performance (4.4%).

PEP-AH (www.pedah.ca) is a partnership among Canadian universities and colleges, Universities Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA, formerly known as the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse). Members of PEP-AH are collaborating to share strategies and best practices specific to alcohol issues on campuses. The group is working with an evidence-based strategic framework for action developed by CCSA to support campus teams, made up of students, staff and faculty, that aim to reduce harms related to alcohol consumption.

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The views of PEP-AH are its own and do not necessarily reflect those of CCSA or Health Canada.