



Thirst for Resources on Opioid Substitution Therapy made obvious by CPSS conference success

SASKATOON, April 18, 2015 – On Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th, 2015, more than 175 health care workers, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses and counselors attended the Saskatchewan Methadone and Suboxone Opioid Substitution Therapy Conference, an educational conference on Methadone organized by the Opioid Advisory Committee and the Methadone Program of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (“the College”).

The conference is part of an effort to educate and provide valuable information to health care workers in the field of addiction. Experts from around the province, including physicians, psychiatrists and grassroots workers, shared their knowledge and experience. Attendees were also made aware of the new, updated version of the Saskatchewan Methadone Guidelines and Standards.

"The level of interest for this conference shows an obvious demand. We have had to turn people away," said Dr. Peter Butt, chairman of the Opioid Advisory Committee. "This conference is very much about providing services to people in need across the province. Treatment can work; people can have productive lives if we provide an appropriate level of service."

"The College has adopted an educational approach in ensuring that Saskatchewan residents receive quality care of the highest standards. It is important to provide information, resources and an opportunity for physicians and addiction workers from across the province to network, share and find support from colleagues in related fields to achieve these standards," said Dr. Karen Shaw, Registrar for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.

The conference is also an integral part of the education program required for physicians to obtain exemption from the government in order to prescribe methadone.

The Methadone Guidelines and Standards are available on the College's website at cps.sk.ca.

*The mission of the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan** is to serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care. It currently issues licenses to more than 2,500 physicians and surgeons in the province, as well as over 1,500 corporate permits.*

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Left to Right: Doug Spitzig (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan), Haley Thompson (Methadone Maintenance Therapy Program, Prince Albert Community Clinic), Dr. Morris Markentin (Methadone Program, CPSS and event organizer), Courtney Morin (SHR-MARS), Brenda Senger (Saskatchewan Medical Association).



Dr. Leo Lanoie, Physician, Prince Albert, and member of the Opioid Advisory Committee, (CPSS)



Dr. Peter Butt, chairmain of the Opioid Advisory Committee (CPSS) and event organizer



Kirsty Carlson, Pharmacist, Saskatoon



Left to Right: Dr. Stefan Brennan, Consultant Psychiatrist, Addictions
and Dr. Peter Butt, chairman of the Opioid Advisory Committee (CPSS) and event organizer