

Request for Proposals

Supporting Indigenous Cannabis Research, Education and Awareness in a Legalized and Regulated Environment

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is funding a review of the literature on the relationship between cannabis and mental health for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Background

Budget 2018 allocated \$10 million over five years to the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to help assess the impact of cannabis use on the mental health of Canadians, and \$10 million over five years to the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) to support research on cannabis use in Canada. The budget specified that “these two investments will help inform future policy development, building on earlier significant public education investments of \$46 million that have helped inform Canadians”.

There are pronounced gaps in knowledge concerning the negative impacts of cannabis use on mental health outcomes, the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids, the influence of mental health problems and illnesses on patterns of cannabis use, and the experiences and needs of diverse populations who live with cannabis use disorder and/or a mental illness. The MHCC is well positioned to draw from its expertise in a range of areas and views these investments as an opportunity to engage diverse populations, including Indigenous peoples, youth, emerging adults, seniors, 2SLGBTQ+, and immigrant, refugee, ethnocultural, and racialized (IRER) populations.

Over the next five years (2018-2023), the MHCC will be investing in short- and long-term research initiatives to help fill these research gaps, strengthen the evidence base in Canada, and expand cannabis research specific to mental health, including the relationship between cannabis use and mental health outcomes, the potential harms and/or benefits of cannabis and cannabinoid use on the mental health of people living in Canada, and the social determinants of health of target populations.

Purpose of this project

The MHCC is looking to fund a preliminary literature scan that identifies existing efforts, gaps and opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis-led research, education and awareness efforts with respect to cannabis and mental health. The MHCC is committed to a process of reconciliation and learning, recognizing that communities are leading efforts to address their mental wellness needs. The MHCC is aiming to fund respectful research that not only builds our understanding of Indigenous realities and informs our actions, but research that is above all relevant to First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

This literature scan will help to inform MHCC’s investment in longer-term, multi-year, community-based research projects in priority areas assessing the impacts of cannabis use on the mental health of people living in Canada.

Work Requirements

The MHCC is seeking a consultant to conduct a review and scan of existing research (both published and unpublished) related to mental health and cannabis use specific to First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This scan will explore research specific to cannabis and mental health for First Nations, Inuit and Métis, including the relationship between cannabis use and mental health outcomes, the potential harms and/or benefits of cannabis and cannabinoid use, and the social determinants of mental health and wellness. Proponents are welcome to utilize methodologies and epistemologies of their choosing, but these aspects should be justified within the proposal. This work will help to inform other research

strategies¹ and new work MHCC and other researchers will undertake across the country following the legalization and regulation of cannabis in October of 2018.

Deliverables

1. Literature scan
2. A standalone executive summary of the report
3. A PowerPoint presentation based on the contents of the report

Evaluation Criteria

1. Indigenous-led project team.
2. Established relationships with Indigenous research networks in Canada.
3. Letter of support from an Indigenous community or organization (i.e. from a Tribal Council, Friendship Centre, National Indigenous Organization, etc.).
4. Strong understanding of First Nations, Inuit and Métis contexts (through work experience and/or research).
5. Explanation of how the project aligns with and considers First Nations, Inuit and Métis health research priorities, such as the National Inuit Research Strategy and the First Nations Health Transformation Agenda.
6. Strong background in substance use and/or mental health policy and research.
7. Experience in developing comprehensive research summaries (such as environmental scans).
8. Appropriate methodology for the project and recognition of the distinctions between First Nations, Inuit and Métis.
9. Excellent written communication skills and demonstrated experience in consolidating research findings into plain language.

We thank all those who apply; however, please note that preference will be given to Indigenous applicants.

Proposals and Budget

Proposals to complete the deliverables will be accepted until 5PM ET on March 1st, 2019 and should include the following:

1. A statement of how the project will be undertaken (no more than 5 pages, including a description of and justification for the proposed methodology);
2. A list of names, CVs, and roles of project team member(s);
3. Letter of support (if required);
4. A proposed timeline for deliverables;
5. A detailed budget and cost proposal.

The budget shall not exceed \$50,000 (including GST, PST, and HST, where applicable).

Feel free to email us with any questions about the project in general or the RFP specifically, and send completed proposals to us at: cannabis@mentalhealthcommission.ca

¹ This work will contribute to research strategies already in place, including, but not limited to, the Integrated Cannabis Research Strategy (Canadian Institute of Health Research), [National Inuit Strategy on Research](#), [National Research Agenda on the Health Impacts of Non-Medical Cannabis Use](#) (Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction).