



Hamilton Board of Health

Memorandum

To: Chair and Members
Hamilton Board of Health

Date: April 27, 2026

Report No: BOH26013

Subject/Title: Peter Boris Centre Knowledge & Translation Projects Update
(Outstanding Business List Item)

Ward(s) Affected: (City Wide)

Information

This memo is to inform the Board of Health of the outcomes of two knowledge translation projects that were supported by the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Program.

- **Brain Development, Gambling, and Gaming**

In 2023, the Peter Boris Centre for Addiction Research and the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program at Hamilton Public Health were funded by the Gambling Research Exchange Organization (GREO) to develop youth focused knowledge products to increase awareness about the connection between the brain, gaming and gambling. The project ran from November 2023 to November 2024. The project team included Peter Boris Centre for Addiction staff and students, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program social work staff, youth outreach workers and an external animation company.

Four knowledge products intended for youth, service providers, clinicians, and parents were developed during this project. The knowledge products created were co-developed by youth and young adults, who were recruited through the HamOntYouth Steering Committee and the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program. The knowledge products included a video and handout discussing young brains and video games, a clinical handout on gaming effects on young brains and a primer on brain connections and gaming. Knowledge products can be accessed at <https://brainconnections.ca/>. The funding grant did not include evaluation and to date these products have not been evaluated.

The project disseminated the materials through training to youth outreach workers with the Youth Gambling Awareness Program, through the Brain Connections web page, and two conference presentations.

- **Cannabis**

In 2023, the Alcohol Drug and Gambling Services program supported the Peter Boris Centre for Addiction Research on a knowledge translation project. The project, titled Bud Talks, focused on sharing emerging research findings on cannabis in an accessible way to the general public. The project team included researchers, clinicians, a learning design specialist, and an external animation company. The project was completed on March 31, 2025.

This project developed three knowledge products that focused on cannabis and older adults, cannabis use disorder and cannabis use among veterans.

Knowledge products from this project can be accessed from <https://cannabisresearch.mcmaster.ca/bud-talks/>. Dissemination of these products included the above website, conference presentations, an e-learning module on the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, and use by the Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services clinical staff.

Overall, participation in these two projects supported the development of knowledge translation products to help youth, young people, older adults and the general public understand the risks associated with substance use and behaviours such as gambling and gaming. Throughout these two projects, the Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services program were successful in collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams to develop and disseminate the products to clinicians, youth, older adults and the general public. The resource development was strengthened through purposeful co-development of resources with youth and young adults to enhance the utilization of the products. Looking ahead, health promotion around risks associated with gambling, gaming and cannabis continues to be relevant and will be a focus for the program and Hamilton Public Health moving forward.

Background

At its meeting on October 2, 2023 the Public Health Sub-Committee provided the following direction in response to Report BOH23034 – Alcohol Drug and Gambling Services Program and Peter Boris Centre for Addiction Research Knowledge Translation Projects Funding:

- (a) (iii) That staff be directed to report back to the Public Health Committee on what was learned from the project, at its conclusion.

With the submission of this memo, the item respecting Alcohol Drug and Gambling Services Program and Peter Boris Centre for Addiction Research Knowledge Translation Projects Funding, can be removed from the Board of Health Outstanding Business List.

Previous Reports Submitted

- [BOH23024](#) - Alcohol Drug and Gambling Services Program and Peter Boris Centre for Addiction Research Knowledge Translation Projects Funding

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Not Applicable.

Prepared by:

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