

**ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE 2009**  
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**Presentation Abstract**

**Presentation title:**

Building a Knowledge Translation and Exchange Bridge with Agencies Serving Women with Substance Use Issues: Findings from Key-Informant Interviews.

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**Presentation abstract:**

Before determining the size, shape and type of a bridge, engineers consider environmental constraints, the distance to be spanned, the types of building materials available and the forces that will act on the bridge.

Similarly, before developing a Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE) strategy, researchers consider: (i) environmental constraints, (ii) theoretical distances the strategy will need to span, (iii) available information to inform the strategy and (iv) forces that will act on the strategy.

In order to understand these factors in the addictions treatment field, we conducted 30 key-informant interviews with clinicians, managers and executive directors working in agencies across Canada that provide services to women with substance use issues and their children.

Interview findings will be presented in an interactive manner using illustrative quotes and concrete examples in order to generate discussion which will further inform our KTE strategy. Session participants will be asked to weigh different sources of information and trade-off different priorities and constraints for receiving evidence.

Discussion topics will include: (i) what constitutes evidence (ii) what information and factors influence how decisions are made about the implementation of services, (iii) the extent to which evidence informs decisions, (iv) barriers and facilitators at the individual, organizational and political levels which impact the ability to locate, assess, and then use evidence in decision-making, and (vii) useful strategies for communicating new evidence to individuals working in addictions agencies.

Session participants will be asked to brainstorm strategies to facilitate collaboration between the Connections researchers and individuals working in the field.