

Mr. Epp spoke about the expertise and commitment of both the professionals and the volunteers working in this field. "To succeed, all those who are a part of the solution must work in partnership so that all efforts dovetail into a comprehensive, practical program," added Mr. Epp.

Describing drug abuse as a problem that "cuts across all segments of society", the Minister announced a wide range of initiatives including:

- a public education campaign being developed with provinces,
- support for both prevention and treatment initiatives at the community level,
- increased federal funding for drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation,
- development of training programs and resources for professionals and volunteers,
- greater availability of information through such means as telephone information lines,
- new legislation to replace the Narcotics Control Act and the Food and Drug Act, and
- a Task Force to consider the creation of a national focus to ensure that expertise in the drug abuse field is shared for the benefit of all Canadians.

"Details of other initiatives will be announced over the coming week in centres across Canada by my Cabinet colleagues," Mr. Epp said.

In addition to the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is the lead Minister in the federal drug abuse effort, the week-long series of announcements also involves the participation of:

- Solicitor-General James Kelleher  
(Ottawa, May 26)
- Minister of State (Youth) Jean Charest  
(Montreal, May 26)
- Minister of National Revenue (Customs) Elmer MacKay  
(Halifax, May 27)
- Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark  
(Ottawa, May 28)
- Minister of Justice Ray Hnatyshyn  
(Ottawa, May 29)