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## Clinical Trial Application Submitted to Health Canada for Experiential, Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy Training

PRESS RELEASE PR  
Newswire (/author/pr-newswire)

Aug. 17, 2021, 06:00 AM

ATMA Journey Centers have applied for Health Canada approval to provide experiential training to mental health professionals interested in learning how to provide psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy

CALGARY, AB, Aug. 17, 2021 /CNW/ - ATMA Journey Centers Inc. ("ATMA"), an Alberta-based company focused on delivering innovative psychedelic-assisted therapies internationally, announced today their submission of the first experiential-based clinical trial to Health Canada to train mental health professionals interested in learning to provide psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.

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CLINICAL TRIAL APPLICATION  
 SUBMITTED TO HEALTH  
 CANADA FOR EXPERIENTIAL,  
 PSYCHEDELIC-ASSISTED  
 PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING

psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy, and the need to provide accessible and robust training experiences for therapists is a crucial objective as the need for psychedelic-assisted treatment continues to grow. ATMA is committed to building out infrastructure for the psychedelic therapy industry by addressing obstacles to accessibility for Canadians seeking psychedelic treatment. ATMA Co-CEO Vu Tran sees the importance of preparation without delay. "We are laying the foundation through didactic and experiential training that will allow for the highest accessibility of these psychedelic treatments for all Canadians who are desperately seeking it."

ATMA was the first private company in Canada to conduct legal psychedelic-assisted therapy with psilocybin under a Section 56 Exemption granted by Health Canada, and continues to work to provide psilocybin-assisted therapy care to Health Canada-approved palliative care patients for compassionate reasons.

ATMA is pleased to announce the completion of its first clinical trial application (CTA). The phase II open-label single arm study, led by psychiatrist Dr. Ravinder Bains, aims to assess the safety and psychological outcome of psilocybin when administered to healthy participants enrolled in a psychedelic assisted therapy

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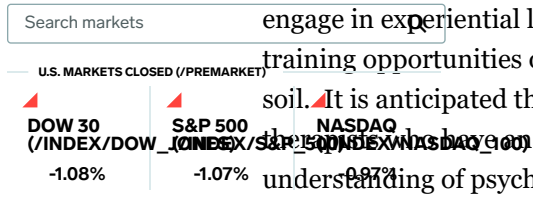
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training program offered by ATMA. Physiological outcome will be assessed by documenting vital signs including heart rate, blood pressure, and body temperature during the administration of dried mushrooms (psilocybin) over a 6-hour experimental session, while the psychological outcome will be documented by pre-and post-session self-assessment, including the QIDS-SR16 and MEQ30 questionnaires. With growing interest in clinical applications of psilocybin to treat depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse disorders, the physiological data gleaned from this study will provide much-needed 'healthy control' information. "There have been several recent publications from top-tier medical journals that demonstrate psilocybin therapy is effective and potentially surpasses current pharmacological treatments for a variety of mental health issues," states ATMA co-CEO David Harder. "ATMA believes it is critical, from both the patient and health care provider perspective, that therapists have direct knowledge of the effects of psilocybin." This perspective is not unique to David or the team at ATMA; ATMA currently has a waitlist of 400 mental health care providers enlisted in its therapist training program.

Mental health care providers who want to complete experiential learning with psychedelic medicines are currently tasked to travel out of Canada to seek these experiences. There have not been experiential learning opportunities made available to therapists in Canada. If ATMA's application to

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Health Canada is successful, therapists will now be able to engage in experiential learning and training opportunities on Canadian soil. It is anticipated that this will increase our experiential understanding of psychedelic medicines will demonstrate increased efficacy in providing psychedelic-assisted psychotherapies.

In partnership with Wayfound Mental Health Group, ATMA aims to create the framework and groundwork for all mental health professionals seeking to adopt psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. ATMA Co-CEO Vu Tran sees the importance of competency in this offering. "If the goal is to make psychedelic therapy accessible to as many Canadians seeking as possible, then the solution must be to support regulated health care professionals to do so in a safe, ethical, and streamlined fashion."

Wayfound Mental Health CEO Megan McElheran expressed: "We are committed to supporting mental health professionals to access a high standard of clinical training in psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy, as we understand how crucial mental health professionals will be to the continued development of the psychedelic industry. We want to stay ahead of the tide and engage as many mental health professionals as possible in training opportunities with psychedelic medicines and psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. Hence, the mental

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health industry is ready should  
legalization of the psychedelics

The Trial application's Principle  
Investigator, Dr. Ravinder Bains,  
understands this philosophy. "We  
are experiencing a mental health  
crisis on the front lines, and having  
these effective tools at our disposal  
must come with qualified  
therapists with first-hand  
experience who know how to use  
them."

ABOUT ATMA JOURNEY  
CENTERS INC.

ATMA is a Canadian company  
focused on delivering practical and  
innovative healing and  
transformative experiences that  
leverage the potential of  
psychedelic medicine to awaken  
the inner healer and allow a deeper  
connection with self, with others,  
and with the beauty of our world.

ATMA was the first private  
company in Canada to conduct  
legal psychedelic-assisted therapy  
with psilocybin, one of the active  
hallucinogens found in 'magic  
mushrooms. For more information,  
visit **www.atmajourney.com**

**(<https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=3261411-1&h=74464282&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atmajourney.com%2F&a=v>)**

ABOUT WAYFOUND MENTAL  
HEALTH GROUP

Wayfound Mental Health Group  
Inc., and its predecessor  
companies, have been proudly  
serving the community in Calgary  
since 1999. Wayfound has grown  
to become a national mental health  
service provider and, in addition to  
work in psychedelic training, is  
focused on innovation in mental  
health program development and  
delivery. The mental health

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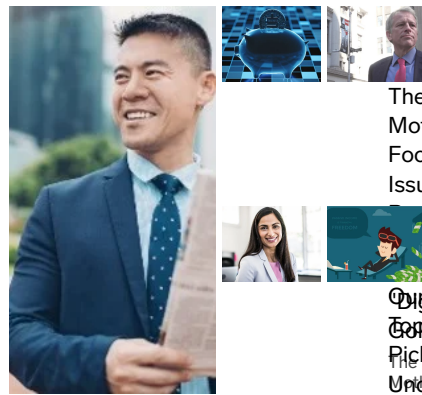
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professionals at Wayfound bring years of experience working with clients across the lifespan and suffering from various mental health conditions. Wayfound for first responders and public safety personnel who have suffered operational stress injuries in the line of duty. The organization believes that access to mental health care should be a right, not a privilege, and they advocate for the importance of mental health care being as commonplace as physical health care.

SOURCE ATMA Journey Centers Inc

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 SPOT (/stocks/spot-stock)	205.44	-0.57

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