



Canadian Psychiatric Association  
*Dedicated to quality care*  
Association des psychiatres du Canada  
*Dévouée aux soins de qualité*



CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Chair  
Council of the Federation  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041  
Station Provincial Government  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark,

The premiers are to be congratulated for holding the recent meeting hosted by Premier Selinger in Winnipeg to examine mental health issues in Canada. As the World Health Organization has so eloquently stated, 'there is no health without mental health'.

The Canadian Psychological Association, Canadian Psychiatric Association and the Canadian Mental Health Association applaud your focus on mental health promotion and mental illness prevention. As research so clearly shows, this can only be done effectively by putting substantial effort into addressing issues in childhood, adolescence and young adulthood. We would also urge you to include early identification and intervention in your discussions as a critical factor in reducing the incidence and prevalence.

We also applaud your 'all of government' approach. Mental health issues affect Canadians in all walks of life. Bringing increased collaboration and cooperation between publicly funded services and those that fall outside of this funding envelope will increase reach, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Another crucial issue is funding parity between mental and physical health services based on agreed upon data such as burden of disease, incidence and prevalence. This can be achieved over time with a plan that addresses the serious imbalance in realistic and measurable increments without disrupting other services. Parity will need a multi-year plan with annual funding targets to achieve this important goal.

Our three associations look forward to the results of the meeting and being part of the work that it stimulates. As national associations that work closely with our provincial/territorial association partners, we represent providers (both publicly and privately funded) across the continuum of care (e.g. family, peer and community based services, licensed practitioners, institutionally

based services). As such, we have much to offer you and your colleagues. In addition to the aforementioned, CMHA also represents Canadians who receive mental health services.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Karen Cohen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Saunders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alex Saunders

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Coleridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Peter Coleridge

Cc. Members of the Council of the Federation