

# Mental Health Solutions for Canada's Most Vulnerable Populations



## THE ISSUE

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The psychiatric profession has the ability to **help the federal government improve the mental health programs and services it provides to the specific populations for which it is responsible.**

Given the specific populations for which it is responsible, the federal government is often referred to as the **fifth largest health care delivery organization in Canada.**

There are opportunities for Canada's psychiatrists to help **improve the cost-effectiveness of mental health services and programs** to these defined populations and help make progress on health outcomes.

## WHAT PARLIAMENTARIANS CAN DO

**Take advantage of the CPA's extensive knowledge and our existing efforts to improve the mental health programs and services and health outcomes of those populations for which the federal government has specific responsibility (First Nations, Canadian Forces, Corrections, veterans, RCMP and public servants).**

- CPA has a Section on First Nations Health, where psychiatrists meet to discuss issues related to First Nations mental health.
- CPA recently created a Military and Veterans Section – and has been meeting with the Canadian Forces to discuss how psychiatry can contribute to mental health programming and how we can support the military's mental health strategy.
- CPA is supportive of the general theme of the jury's recommendations around the death of Ashley Smith, and has asked the Minister of Public Safety to move forward.
- Canada's psychiatrists stand ready to assist with workplace health and employee productivity within the federal public service.