



Canadian Psychiatric Association

Dedicated to quality care

Association des psychiatres du Canada

Dévouée aux soins de qualité

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The Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa ON K1A 0K5

Dear Minister Philpott:

Next week presents an important opportunity for Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health to meet and discuss the future of health care in Canada. The Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) sees this as a unique moment in time for both levels of government to demonstrate leadership on an issue that is a high priority for Canadians, while working collaboratively to improve the functioning and performance of our health system.

The CPA is strongly supportive of the emphasis that the federal government has placed on improving access to mental health services. If there is to be a health accord, we would expect that mental health would be identified as a shared priority.

Last month, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH), of which the CPA is a member, released a policy document **Mental Health Now!** which is enclosed for your review. The document presents a five-point plan for targeted federal investments to improve access to mental health services.

For far too long, funding for mental health services has been neglected. Given the statistics that speak to the impact of mental illness, the time for concrete action is now. We hope that **Mental Health Now!** provides an approach to mobilize the capacity of the mental health system while improving the overall integration of services and programs.

The time for action is now and the CPA stands ready to work with you to advance the mental health of Canadians.

We wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

MS Renuka Prasad, BSc, MBBS, DGM, MRCPsych, FRCPC
President

Enclosure

cc: The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health
Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Finance