



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH ANNOUNCE 2024 MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK THEME – ACCESS FOR ALL: TIME FOR ACTION, TIME FOR CHANGE

June 13, 2024 (OTTAWA) — The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is proud to once again lead Canada’s annual Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW), a national public education campaign that aims to spotlight the barriers to accessing mental health and substance use health services for Canadians.

CAMIMH, alongside its member organizations and various advocates from across Canada, hosts MIAW during the month of October. This year’s theme, **"Access For All: Time For Action, Time For Change,"** highlights CAMIMH’s ongoing commitment to raise awareness about the impacts of mental and substance use health challenges, and push for positive change to address the inherent issues in the system. The campaign strives to cultivate a nation where everyone can access mental and substance use health care in a timely manner and free from any obstacles.

“Mental Illness Awareness Week sheds light on the lived experiences of our families, friends, and colleagues who cannot sufficiently access mental and substance use health resources. Canadians deserve a functional and barrier-free mental health system, ensuring that both mental health and substance use health is held to the same standards and level of importance as any other health service,” said Anthony Esposti, Co-Chair of CAMIMH.

Sourcing and promptly accessing publicly funded mental health care services is important to 90 per cent of Canadians, while 83 per cent agree that provincial governments should hire more mental health care providers to improve access to care. But as seen in CAMIMH’s second annual National Report Card survey, federal and provincial governments are getting a resounding ‘F’ from Canadians when it comes to providing mental health and substance use health care services.

“The theme for MIAW 2024 not only stresses the need for improved access to services, but it demands real action and a fundamental change to the mental and substance use health sector so every Canadian can receive quality evidence-based care,” said Florence Budden, CAMIMH Co-Chair. “Mental and substance use health is an after-thought, and it’s time to address the concerns that have long been raised. Access for all is imperative.”

CAMIMH encourages all Canadians to join the call for advancements in the mental and substance use health landscape, emphasizing the importance of removing the barriers that prevent Canadians from getting the timely help or support they need.

In honour of MIAW, CAMIMH will present the 2024 Champions of Mental Health Awards on Thursday, October 10th, at the Sir John A. McDonald Building in Ottawa from 11am to 2pm.

For more information on MIAW 2024, please [click here](#).

CAMIMH MEMBERS

Canadian Association for
Suicide Prevention

Canadian Association of Social
Workers

Canadian Association of
Occupational Therapists

Canadian Counselling and
Psychotherapy Association

Canadian Federation of Mental
Health Nurses

Canadian Medical Association

Canadian Mental Health
Association

Canadian Perinatal Mental
Health Collaborative

Canadian Psychiatric
Association

Canadian Psychological
Association

Canadian Consortium for Early
Intervention in Psychosis

Community Addictions Peer
Support Association

Medical Psychotherapy
Association of Canada

National Initiative for Eating
Disorders

National Network for Mental
Health

Psychosocial Rehabilitation
Canada

Schizophrenia Society of
Canada

The College of Family
Physicians of Canada

Established in 1998, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is an alliance of national mental health organizations comprised of health care providers and organizations representing persons with mental illness and their families and caregivers. CAMIMH's mandate is to ensure that mental health is placed on the national agenda so that persons with a lived experience of mental illness and substance use health and their families receive appropriate access to care and support.

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