



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH LAUNCHES 2024 CHAMPIONS OF MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

*Annual campaign recognizing outstanding Canadians championing
mental health awareness across the country*

May 6, 2024 OTTAWA—The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is proud to announce the launch of nominations for the **2024 Champions of Mental Health Awards**. This annual campaign acknowledges the importance of accessible and inclusive mental health and substance use health services through increased awareness and education.

Nominations will be accepted via the [CAMIMH website](#) in the following categories:

1. **The Sharon Johnston Champion of Mental Health Award for Youth** - Any Canadian 21 years of age or younger who has shown leadership in their community in promoting mental health and/or substance use awareness, or any organization dedicated to providing services for youth.
2. **Media** - Any media personality or outlet who has contributed to public awareness of mental health, mental illness and/or substance use health.
3. **Workplace Mental Health** - Any employer or employee who has contributed to creating a mentally healthy workplace for staff.
4. **Community Organization** - Any organization that has provided great public service to community members experiencing mental illness and/or substance use.
5. **Community Individual** - Any person, who through personal commitment has increased awareness about mental illness and/or substance use services, or reduced stigma in their community.
6. **Parliamentarian** - Any provincial, territorial, or federal Parliamentarian who has advanced the mental health and/or substance use health agenda in Canada.
7. **Innovation- Researcher or Clinician** - An innovative person or organization who, through their work, has advanced the mental health and/or substance use health agenda.

“CAMIMH is thrilled to launch the Champions of Mental Health Campaign after its exceptional success in 2023. Champions provides individuals and organizations across Canada with the opportunity to collectively recognize the significance of accessible and

CAMIMH MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention

Canadian Consortium for Early Prevention in Psychosis

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses

Canadian Medical Association

Canadian Mental Health Association

Canadian Psychiatric Association

Canadian Psychological Association

Community Addictions and Peer Support Association

Medical Psychotherapy Association of Canada

National Initiative for Eating Disorders

National Network for Mental Health

Schizophrenia Society of Canada

Psychosocial Rehabilitation Canada

The College of Family Physicians Canada

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative

inclusive mental health services. This campaign celebrates Canadians whose work supports ongoing efforts to advance conversations on the importance of timely access to services and destigmatizing mental health and substance use problems,” said Florence Budden, CAMIMH Champions Chair.

“We are proud to honour seven outstanding Canadians every year who are dedicated to making improvements in the mental health sector as Champions of Mental Health. They are vital contributors to our mission of spreading awareness and creating innovative mental health support systems. These Champions spark real change through their active commitment to mental health and substance use health advocacy,” said Anthony Esposti, CAMIMH Co-Chair.

CAMIMH encourages Canadians to nominate their outstanding peers by completing the online nomination form on our website at www.camimh.ca/champions-form. Submissions will be accepted until **June 30, 2024**.

We thank all who apply and will contact the winners by the beginning of August.

As a national alliance, CAMIMH continues its advocacy work throughout the year to encourage federal investments in mental health, particularly achieving mental health and substance use health parity. For more information, please visit our website at www.camimh.ca.

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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 their families receive appropriate access to care and support.

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