



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CAMIMH WELCOMES NEW MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING AND CALLS FOR FURTHER GOVERNMENT ACTION

**OTTAWA, April 17, 2024** — The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) welcomes the federal government’s announcement to establish a multi-year *Youth Mental Health Fund*.

This earmarked funding will assist in reducing wait times and expanding care options, enabling younger Canadians to access the essential mental health care they need. While supportive of this initiative, CAMIMH strongly urges the federal government to ensure sustained funding via a long-promised *Canada Mental Health Transfer* to: drive system innovations; align with a new [Mental Health and Substance Use Health Care For All Parity Act](#); and enhance overall public accountability and system performance to improve access to mental health and substance use health care services.

“We commend the introduction of this funding, but it’s clear that all levels of government must work together to ensure Canadians have timely access to the mental health and substance use health programs, services, and supports they deserve,” said Florence Budden, CAMIMH co-chair.

Recently, CAMIMH released the results of its second annual mental health and substance use health report card ([www.CAMIMH.ca](http://www.CAMIMH.ca)). The results reveal that Canadians continue to rate their provinces as failing to meet their mental health and substance use health care needs. Moreover, the recent decision by the federal government to cease funding and close the Wellness Together Canada (WTC) portal as of April 3, 2024, has eliminated a vital, low-barrier access point to these services, originally established in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

We look forward to working with the federal, provincial and territorial governments, and others to ensure that the people of Canada get the mental health and substance use health care they need, when they need it.

There is no health without mental health and substance use health.

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### **About CAMIMH**

*Established in 1998, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is a member-driven alliance of 18 national mental health organizations comprised of healthcare providers and organizations representing persons with lived and living experience, their families and caregivers. CAMIMH’s mandate is to ensure that mental health and substance use health is placed on the national agenda so that the people of Canada receive timely and appropriate access to care and support. For more information on our work, please visit our website at [www.CAMIMH.ca](http://www.CAMIMH.ca).*

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### CAMIMH MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention

Canadian Consortium for Early Intervention in Psychosis

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

Community Addictions 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

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