

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Budget is a Missed Opportunity for Mental Health

April 20, 2021 (Ottawa) – The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) appreciates the significance of yesterday's federal budget, which identified a series of social, health and economic investments that can place Canada on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

CAMIMH was pleased to see a combination of mental health and substance use health measures that focus on a broad range of issues including: national standards for mental health services; projects for innovative mental health interventions for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19; investing in the Wellness Together Canada portal; addressing the opioid crisis and problematic substance use; and mental health in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.

While these investments are important and welcomed, CAMIMH remains concerned about the priority that must continue to be placed on timely access to mental health care and substance use health programs and services at the local level.

"Mental health matters," said Florence Budden, CAMIMH Co-Chair. "Knowing that the mental health of the people of Canada has been in decline for some time and the pandemic's likely impact has yet to be fully felt, CAMIMH remains concerned that more needs to be done to improve access to mental health and substance use programs and services."

"As we begin to emerge from COVID-19, we are aware that the mental health and substance use effects will remain for a considerable period of time," said Ellen Cohen CAMIMH Co-Chair. "Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that we have the resources and capacity to provide mental health care to the people of Canada when and where they need it."

CAMIMH would strongly encourage the federal, provincial and territorial governments to continue their discussions regarding an appropriate and sustainable level of funding for mental health and substance use care in Canada.

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About CAMIMH

CAMIMH is a non-profit organization comprised of health care providers as well as organizations which represent individuals with lived experience of mental illness. Established in 1998, CAMIMH is a volunteer run organization that provides mental health education to the public. A fundamental objective of CAMIMH is to engage Canadians in a national conversation about mental illness. By starting this conversation, CAMIMH hopes to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and provide insight into the services and support available to those living with mental illness.

Contact: Barbara Barrett
Impact Public Affairs
(343) 998-8906 barbara@impactcanada.com

CAMIMH MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses

Canadian Medical Association

Canadian Mental Health Association

Canadian Psychiatric Association

Canadian Psychological Association

Medical Psychotherapy Association of Canada

National Initiative for Eating Disorders

National Network for Mental Health

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