

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Budget Falls Short For Mental Health

**April 3, 2023 (Ottawa)** – The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) remains deeply disappointed that the federal government chose not to include a promised Canada Mental Health Transfer as part of Budget 2023.

Given the critical importance of one’s mental health in reaching our individual and collective potential, CAMIMH is puzzled why the federal government would not follow through on its promised mental health transfer valued at \$4.5 billion over the next five years. “This protected funding could have played an important role in assisting the provinces and territories in improving and expanding access to accessible and inclusive mental health and substance use health services,” said Ellen Cohen, CAMIMH Co-Chair.

While Budget 2023 provides \$2.5 billion to the provinces and territories over each of the next 10 years, there is no clarity on how much will be invested in mental health and substance use health programs, services and supports.

While CAMIMH will watch with interest as the federal-provincial-territorial negotiations over the \$25 billion unfold, it is pleased to see \$505 million over the next five years has been allocated to better monitor, manage and measure health system performance.

“Given that the people of Canada recently [gave the provinces a failing grade](#) when it comes to accessing mental health services, all governments need to up their game to improve and expand timely access to mental health and substance use health programs across the country,” said Dr. Kim Hollihan, CAMIMH Co-Chair.

To support these discussions, CAMIMH continues to call on the federal government to introduce new legislation called the [Mental Health and Substance Use Health Care For All Parity Act](#).

CAMIMH – which includes 16 national organizations representing people with lived and living experience, their families and caregivers, as well as health care providers – stands ready to work with governments and others to make this a reality.

There is no health without mental health.

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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.*

### 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 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

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