



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CANADIAN ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES
NEW CO-CHAIRS**

June 21, 2023 (Ottawa) — The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is pleased to announce Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee, Florence Budden and Ellen Cohen. Budden is the newly appointed Co-Chair bringing her exceptional expertise to the forefront of CAMIMH's mission. She will return to this leadership position alongside Cohen, who will be continuing her second year of her term as Co-Chair, embodying continuity and commitment.

CAMIMH is the national voice for 18 health associations, engaging in year-round advocacy and educational campaigns focused on improving mental health services and policy. Together, Cohen and Budden will work towards CAMIMH's strategic objectives to engage Canadians in a national conversation about mental illness, mental health services, and substance use.

Budden works in Nursing Education in St. John's, NL, and represents the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses (CFMHN) at CAMIMH. She has extensive expertise in hospital and healthcare environments and in non-profit leadership. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and wisdom gained from her long-standing involvement with CAMIMH, including her past role as Co-Chair.

"I am excited to once again be a Co-Chair for this incredible organization and to continue working alongside my Co-chair. I'd like to thank Kim Hollihan for her service as past Co-Chair and I look forward to furthering our mandate to ensure that mental health is firmly placed on the national agenda," said Budden. "Canadians with mental health and substance use health issues and their families deserve timely, accessible and inclusive mental health care programs, services, and supports."

Cohen continues her role as CAMIMH Co-Chair with her abundance of experience and knowledge in increasing access to mental health services. Cohen works as National Coordinator of the National Network for Mental Health (NNMH) with a focus on inclusive access to services for Canadians with disabilities.

"Now, more than ever, we need improved access to accessible and inclusive mental health care programs, services and supports," said Cohen. "Our goal as Co-Chairs is to make it clear that there can be no health without mental health. CAMIMH is dedicated to working towards mental health parity."

Budden is also currently the Chair of CAMIMH's Champions of Mental Health, a campaign that recognizes seven Canadians whose work has advanced the mental health and substance use health agenda across the country. She and Cohen are passionate about the movement and are looking forward to another successful

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

campaign this year. CAMIMH is currently accepting nominations for the 2023 awards through its [Champions website found here](#).

CAMIMH will continue to work towards placing mental health policy on the national policy agenda so that persons with lived and living experience of mental illness, and their families, receive appropriate and timely access to care and support.

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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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