



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Health Funding Offer Prioritizes Mental Health and Substance Use Health; Excludes Canada Mental Health Transfer

February 8, 2023 (OTTAWA)—The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is pleased to see that the federal government’s health-care funding proposal to the provinces and territories identifies mental health and substance use health as a high priority.

In negotiating a series of bi-lateral agreements worth \$25 billion over 10 years, thereby providing the provinces and territories with the flexibility they need, CAMIMH strongly encourages accelerated investments in mental health and substance use health programs, services and supports.

“As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the people of Canada will need more accessible and inclusive mental health and substance use health programs, services and supports, not less” said Ellen Cohen, CAMIMH Co-Chair.

CAMIMH is very disappointed that the deal does not deliver on the federal government’s 2021 election promise to establish a **Canada Mental Health Transfer**, valued at \$4.5 billion over five years. Without a Canada Mental Health Transfer, there is no funding mechanism to ensure that new federal dollars will be directly invested to improve and expand timely access to care for those in need of mental health care.

CAMIMH is pleased to see a more robust data governance structure, with the appropriate accountabilities, to ensure that the people of Canada are getting good value for money in terms of health outcomes and overall system performance.

CAMIMH is of the view that all governments must report annually to their residents on the progress they are making in improving access to mental health and substance use health programs, services and supports.

“Moving forward, strong collaboration and partnership by all governments is needed,” said Dr. Kim Hollihan, CAMIMH Co-Chair. “For too long, those suffering have faced too many barriers in accessing publicly funded mental health and substance use health care services. This must change. Our mental health matters!”

As one of the leading national mental health alliances in Canada, CAMIMH strongly advocates for parity in funding parity between mental health and substance use health, and physical health. In June 2021, CAMIMH released [*From Out of the Shadows and Into the Light...Achieving Parity in Access to Care Among Mental Health, Substance Use and Physical Health*](#), detailing what legislative steps the federal government can take to support this.

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

For more information on the activities of CAMIMH, please visit our website at 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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