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The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health congratulates the government on Funding announcements for Mental Health Organizations, Research and Services

(Ottawa, Ontario) April 23, 2015 - The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) congratulates the federal government on taking important steps to support the mental health of all Canadians with this week's federal budget. The budget addresses a number of gaps in services and supports for Canadians living with mental illness as well as their caregivers.

Most notable was the decision to renew the mandate for the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) for an additional ten years beginning in 2017-18. CAMIMH advocated for the creation of the Commission, and for the extension of the Commission's mandate.

"CAMIMH members congratulate the federal government on today's announcement and look forward, in the coming months, to meeting with Minister Ambrose to help shape the next mandate of the MHCC. The extension of the MHCC mandate beyond 2017 is of utmost importance to advancing the mental health agenda in Canada," said Dave Gallson, Co-Chair of CAMIMH.

Beyond the renewing of the MHCC mandate, CAMIMH is advocating for the establishment of a Five-Year \$50 million Mental Health Innovation Fund with a clear mandate to encourage the dissemination and implementation of best and promising practices for services, supports and resources to improve health outcomes, and establish and report on performance indicators.

"Since the federal government established the MHCC, Canada has become a world leader in mental health awareness and policy. The renewal of the MHCC provides an opportunity to now become a leader in the implementation," notes Gallson.

Economic Action Plan 2015 also includes support of mental health research and innovation, as well as an additional investment in First Nations and Veteran's Mental Health, including a commitment of \$2 million per year ongoing for wellness teams in First Nations communities.

Finally, CAMIMH applauds the funding announcement for caregivers of Veterans with a maximum allowable benefit annually of \$7,238. This would provide respite for caregivers who provide daily support for veterans with serious physical or mental health conditions.

"Mental Health should be a priority in Canada, and while there is much work to be done, we are pleased to see the steps taken this year to provide important services and supports for the one in five Canadians who will experience mental illness in their lifetime," concluded Gallson

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Established in 1998, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) is an alliance of 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.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Michael Hatch
CAMIMH Public Affairs
Tel.: 613-233-8906 | Email: mhatch@impactcanada.com