

November 10, 2020

Tim Houston, Leader
PC Party of Nova Scotia
1003 - 1660 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1V7

RE: Universal Mental Health Care Plan

Dear Mr. Houston:

On behalf of the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia (APNS), we are writing to commend you and your Party for the progressive work you have recently done on plans for improving the mental health and addiction system.

As one of the primary providers of care for people living with addictions or mental illness, psychologists in Nova Scotia are deeply invested in contributing to a transformation of the systems and services in our province. To that end, we developed a brief document (attached) over the past year to serve as a guide for our political leaders. Throughout our discussions, it became clear that the primary issues faced by our citizens are a lack of easy, timely, and equitable access for people who are ill, and early support for people who are not yet ill but starting to struggle.

The steps that your plan is suggesting have the potential to make a significant contribution to addressing these main concerns. We are particularly pleased to see that your plan will allow private practitioners to bill MSI for services provided to those without private insurance. This is an important step toward equity and toward eliminating the two-tiered system that is permitted to exist for those with mental health and addiction issues.

As always, APNS would welcome serving as an expert resource on all such issues. Please do not hesitate to call on us at any time for that purpose.

Again, we commend the work you and the PC Party have done, and we thank you for your commitment to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Shirley, R. Psych., President
Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia