



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investing in Mental Health Must be a High Priority for First Ministers

February 6, 2023 (OTTAWA)—Knowing that First Ministers will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the future of health care in Canada, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) calls on all leaders to ensure that investments in mental health and substance use health services remain a high priority. This means:

- That the federal government establish a **Canada Mental Health Transfer** with an initial value of \$4.5 billion over the next five years
- That such funding is linked to the appropriate priorities and accountabilities to ensure that Canadians are getting good value for money, and
- That all governments report to their residents on an annual basis the progress they are making in providing increased access to mental health and substance use health services.

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

“This is a unique opportunity for all governments to get on the same page and clearly say to the people of Canada that mental health matters,” said Dr. Kim Hollihan, CAMIMH Co-Chair. “For too long, those suffering have been unable to access publicly funded mental health and substance use health care programs, services and supports. This must change. There can be no health without mental health.”

As one of the leading national mental health alliances in Canada, CAMIMH strongly advocates for parity in funding between mental health, substance use health and physical health care. 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.

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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CAMIMH MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention

Canadian Consortium for Early Intervention 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

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