



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Canada's psychologists encouraged by the federal budget 2017 focus on mental health**

**Ottawa, ON (March 23, 2017)** – The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) welcomes the federal budget tabled in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Bill Morneau for its attention to mental health including:

- \$5 billion over 10 years to support mental health initiatives as part of the new Health Accord agreements;
- \$57.8 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, and \$13.6 million per year thereafter, to expand mental health care capacity for all inmates in federal correctional facilities;
- \$17.5 million over four years, starting in 2018–19, and \$9.2 million per year ongoing, to create a Centre of Excellence on PTSD and related mental health conditions for veterans and Canadian Armed Forces members; and
- \$828.2 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, to improve the health outcomes of First Nations and Inuit by enhancing timely access to medical and mental health care, including \$15 million in proposed funding for harm reduction measures as part of the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy.

“The federal government’s investments in mental health care are needed and welcome,” says Dr. David Dozois, President, CPA. “Psychological treatments are effective, first-line interventions for mental disorders, and policy decisions that make these treatments more accessible to those who need them are the right ones.”

“Psychological research and practice has contributed greatly to our understanding of the unique mental health needs and challenges faced by Canada’s diverse populations. The CPA and its members are eager to continue sharing their expertise and working with the government as it moves forward on its mental health investments,” adds Dr. Karen Cohen, Chief Executive Officer, CPA.

The CPA is also pleased with the government’s continued commitment to science, with the establishment of a Chief Science Advisor and Canada’s Fundamental Science Review. In 2016, the CPA made a submission to the panel overseeing the review that highlighted issues affecting psychology researchers in Canada. The budget noted that the panel’s report and recommendations will be made public in the coming months, and the CPA looks forward to seeing what structural and funding changes to research will be made as a result.

**About the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)**

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With over 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology. To learn more, visit [www.cpa.ca](http://www.cpa.ca).

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