

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

28 July 2005

Senator Michael Kirby,
Chair
Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Senator Kirby,

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) would like to thank you and the Senate Committee for your thorough examination of mental health in Canada. Your efforts are deeply appreciated and have significantly contributed to a serious and renewed interest in mental health by all levels of government.

As you know, CPA has presented and made submissions to the Senate Committee. In addition, you have received information and testimony from psychologists and our colleagues in other professions. We have included with this letter a document to provide you with some additional ideas. Several of them have been discussed with Mr. Howard Chodos. We think these ideas hold the promise of significant and fundamental change that, most importantly, is sustainable over time. In the context of this document, our references to mental health include mental health, mental illness, behavioural health and addictions.

We sincerely hope that our ideas are of interest to you. The mandate of our Association, as well as a principal research and practice activity of our members, is to collaborate in order to improve the psychological health of Canadians.

I will contact the office of the Committee in early September to determine if you would like to discuss these issues further. In the interim, do not hesitate to contact me or our Associate Executive Director, Dr. Karen Cohen. We are pleased to offer our help to your very important work at any opportunity.

Sincerely,

John Service, PhD
Executive Director

Cc The Honourable Usjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State for Public Health
Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer
Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists
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