



CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
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DE PSYCHOLOGIE

April 9, 2026

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, M.P. P.C.
Minister of Health
Health Canada Address Locator: 1801B
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Dear Minister Michel:

On behalf of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) I am writing in support of Bill S-5, the Connected Care for Canadians Act. In moving forward with this legislation, we appreciate and support the need for a state-of-the-art digital infrastructure with common standards that plays a foundational role in improving patient safety, delivering cost-effective health services that lead to better clinical outcomes and a healthier population.

In our view, a key challenge with this legislation is how to ensure that the flow of information can occur where services are provided across public and private payers and delivery models – which can be the case for individuals who are seeking mental health care services, including psychological care, and/or substance use health care services. In this context, S-5 could present an opportunity to look at how we capture system performance more broadly in the mental health and substance use health space and have a more complete understanding of what we spend.

As essential is the integrity of our publicly funded health care systems, a significant amount of mental health and substance use health care is outside of “Medicare” as we know it. While provincial and territorial governments are looking to expand coverage, they are not moving fast enough. As a consequence, the majority of the people of Canada in need are accessing care through their employer’s limited health benefit coverage, paying out-of-pocket, waiting for care through the public system, or accessing no care at all.

With the purpose of S-5 being: “...to enable easy, complete and secure access to and use and exchange of electronic health information and to prohibit data blocking by health information technology vendors, in order to promote a connected, secure and person-centred health system”; we believe it will be critical to engage a range of stakeholders who straddle the public and private health care systems, as well as other payers in addition to the provinces and territories. To not do so would leave approximately 30% of our health care systems on the outside looking in.

Knowing how important the capture and flow of information can play in the lives of those who need care, the CPA looks forward to working with you to ensure that we have high performing health systems that are connected.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you at your convenience. I can be reached at executiveoffice@cpa.ca. Best wishes in moving this piece of legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker
Chief Executive Officer
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