



November 26, 2021

The Honourable David Lametti P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Lametti:

On behalf of the country's psychologists who are members and affiliates of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing to congratulate you on your recent re-election and re-appointment as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada.

As we approach the opening of Canada's 44th Parliament, we commend your government for committing to several important public policy initiatives that focus on building safer communities and a fairer justice system.

Mental health and one's state of mind are important components of your portfolio, particularly as relates to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation and the assessment of fitness-to-stand trial and criminal responsibility as set out in the *Criminal Code of Canada*. The CPA and its membership have undertaken considerable activity in both areas about which we would welcome an opportunity to speak with you.

As the national voice that represents the largest group of specialized, regulated mental health care professionals and psychological researchers in this country, Canada's psychologists play important roles in the mental health and wellbeing of Canadians, and research regarding Canada's criminal justice system. Members of our Criminal Justice Psychology Section have been recognized world-wide for their work at the interface of mental health, criminal justice, and psychological research.

The CPA is committed to assisting government and other stakeholders in building a fairer and more accessible justice system. I can be reached at executiveoffice@cpa.ca.

Best wishes for a successful session in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Karen R. Cohen, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association

Copy to: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions