



November 26, 2021

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Associate Minister of Health
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bennett:

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 appointment as Canada's inaugural Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and Associate Minister of Health.

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 expanding timely access to mental health care programs and services. Now, more than ever, the people of Canada need ready access to care.

As the national voice that represents the largest group of specialized, regulated mental health care professionals in this country, the CPA understands that your national leadership will be crucial in moving the conversation forward with Canadians and the provinces and territories. We look forward to working with you and all Parliamentarians to ensure federal investments accelerate innovations in mental health delivery that move beyond hospitals and physicians and improve timely access to the evidence-based mental health care that people need.

As we emerge from the global pandemic, we also believe that investments in psychological science can play a crucial role in better understanding how COVID-19 has impacted the mental health and well-being of Canadians and the steps needed to support a resilient and prosperous country. We look forward to working with you and the Minister of Health about the contributions of psychological research.

There can be no health without mental health, and we must continue to invest in our most important assets...people. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss how we can assist in supporting and improving the mental health and well-being of the people of Canada. 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 Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health