



A coalition of groups in the mental-health sector are calling on governments to improve Canadians' access to psychological health care.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ issued a statement Monday saying \_\_\_\_\_ services are out of reach for many Canadians.

"The services of psychologists are not funded by provincial health insurance plans, which make them inaccessible to Canadians with modest incomes or no insurance," Peter Coleridge, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association, said in a statement.

Highlighting that February is \_\_\_\_\_ in Canada, the groups said mental disorders cost the Canadian economy \$51 billion a year.

Recent moves in the United Kingdom and Australia to improve access to psychological services through the public-health system were pointed out.

"Psychological services are proven effective in helping Canadians to manage and overcome psychological problems and disorders," said Canadian Psychological Association CEO Karen Cohen.

"Canada's private health-care insurance plans and publicly-funded programs don't do enough to ensure Canadians have equal and adequate access to needed psychological service. Canada's governments and employers must do more to ensure all Canadians — regardless of income — can access the psychological care they need."

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