

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

May 9, 2012

The Honourable Peter MacKay
Minister of National Defence
National Defence Headquarters
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Gen. Walter Natynczyk
Chief of the Defence Staff
National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

Dear Minister MacKay and General Natynczyk,

I am writing to you both in my capacity as the Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). The CPA watched with great interest your recent appeal for the country's mental health professionals to help the Canadian Forces improve the care provided to soldiers who experience post-traumatic stress, depression, or at risk of suicide.

The CPA is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. Psychologists work as researchers and as clinicians across many sectors and settings with the common goal of contributing to what is known and can be done to help people with problems related to their mental functioning and mental health.

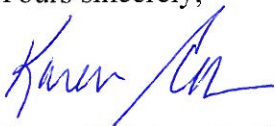
As Canada's largest group of regulated and specialized mental health care providers (outnumbering psychiatrists approximately 4:1), psychologists are a significant mental health resource for Canada. As you know, psychologists work within several federal government departments, including the military. The CPA has had contact with the Federal Healthcare Partnership in recent years through which we have become aware of the mental health needs and the supply problems that have been faced by federal departments, including the military.

CPA would be very glad to meet with and assist you in addressing the mental health needs within the Canadian Forces. We have several ideas and mechanisms at our disposal to reach our members and help develop the interest and expertise among them in applying their work to military populations.

In addition, this year's CPA Convention will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from June 14-16, 2012 at the World Trade and Convention Centre. Calian Technologies Ltd., a recruiter for Department of National Defence has had a presence at our national conventions in past years and we would welcome similar participation again this year.

Please do consider our invitation to be of assistance in this important matter. I can be reached through Kimberley Black at kblack@cpa.ca or 613-237-2144, ext. 323.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Cohen".

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