



February 28, 2012

Mr. Kenneth Whyte
Editor-in-Chief, MacLean's
PO Box 840 Station Main
Markham, ON
L3P 8J5

Dear Mr. Whyte:

I am writing in support of the letters sent to you by Dr. Karen Cohen, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and Dr. Craig Turner, President of the Canadian Register Health Service Providers in Psychology (CRHSPP). Both Dr. Cohen and Dr. Turner address the issue of the restrictive use of the term Doctor by your publication.

This issue is of importance to Canadians. The restrictive use suggests to Canadians that medicine and medical practitioners are more effective than other treatments and health professionals. As such, this policy directly reinforces the current status quo in Canada which is a focus on medical care and not on health care. The latter is provided by a number of licensed health professionals, including registered psychologists.

This opinion is the legacy of little to no significant systemic change in Canadian Medicare in the past eighty years. It is particularly problematic in the fields of mental health and health psychology because these fields are not medicine dependent, yet research has proven that psychological treatments are the first choice treatments for many Canadians with, for example, depression and anxiety. Reinforcing the primacy of medicine does Canadians a serious disservice.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Piotrowski, CPsych
Chair, Practice Directorate

Dr. John Service, PhD
Director, Practice Directorate

The Council of the Canadian Psychological Association's Practice Directorate is comprised of a representative from CPA and the provincial and territorial psychology associations.

Cc. Dr. Karen Cohen, CEO of the Canadian Psychological Association
Dr. Craig Turner, President of the Canadian Register Health Service Providers in Psychology

Canadian Psychological
Association

Association of Psychologists
of NFLD & Labrador

Association of Psychologists
of Nova Scotia

Association of Psychologists
of the NWT

British Columbia
Psychological Association

College of Psychologists
of New Brunswick

Manitoba Psychological
Society

L'Ordre des Psychologues
du Québec

Ontario Psychological
Association

Psychological Association
of Alberta

Psychological Association
of Prince Edward Island

Psychological Society
of Saskatchewan

141, ave Laurier Ave. West
Suite 702
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1P 5J3
(613) 237-2144
1-888-472-0657
Fax: (613) 237-1674

E-mail/Courriel :
practiceadvocacy@cpa.ca

www.cpa.ca