

Federal Government must invest in Mental Health and Addictions and Primary Care, says Canada's health care community

For Immediate Release

(Ottawa, Ontario) December 2, 2014 – The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is glad to support a consensus statement released today by the Health Action Lobby (HEAL). The statement calls on the federal government to work with Canada's stakeholders in health to bring about changes to Canada's health systems.

The statement outlines the issues that need to be at the top of the health priority list for government and all political parties as we approach the next federal election. CPA particularly welcomes HEAL's recommendation for a National Innovation Fund and a Community-Based Health Infrastructure Fund that can support innovation and implementation of evidence based services in mental health and addictions and within primary care.

"We need to do a better job meeting the mental health needs of Canadians. To do that we need to revision how care is funded and how it is delivered," states CPA President, Dr. Kerry Mothersill.

"Mental health is increasingly, a top priority for workplaces, communities, families and individuals. Less than half of people who need mental health care receive it," says CPA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Karen Cohen. "Canada has done well in recent years redressing the stigma of mental illness. It is now time to make psychological services and supports available to those who need it. By shifting funding and models of care in ways that put patients at the center we have an opportunity to deliver better care to Canadians," added Cohen.

The HEAL statement is an unprecedented level of agreement among the health care community about what needs to be done and how the federal government can play a role in doing it. The CPA, and Canada's psychologists, look forward to contributing to the implementation and spread of innovations that deliver on better health, better care and better value for our citizens and communities.

For further information:

- The Consensus Statement is available at www.healthactionlobby.ca
- The results of a HEAL commissioned Nanos survey can be accessed at www.healthactionlobby.ca or at www.nanosresearch.com

About: *The Canadian Psychological Association is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With almost 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest professional association for psychology.*

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