



Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office

Bureau de l'intervention en faveur des patients des établissements psychiatriques

March 26, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

RE: Mental Health Funding

I am writing today to applaud your decision to both establish and fund the Canadian Mental Health Commission in your most recent budget. We believe that this is a positive step forward in the creation of a national mental health strategy that will address issues related to mental health, mental illness and addictions. Your appointment of Hon. Michael Kirby as the first chair is an excellent choice. His work with the Senate and his understanding of the issues that have an impact on the lives of those who experience mental illness and addictions is second to none.

We were also pleased to note that you have provided funding for Correctional Services of Canada to develop and implement a mental health strategy for individuals with mental illness in federal custody. We are hopeful that some of the funding will be utilized to provide inmates with access to independent advocacy services and stronger rights protection mechanisms, especially for those who receive treatment for their mental illness.

If our office can support the work of the Canadian Mental Health Commission and Correctional Services Canada in any way, we would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

David Simpson
Director (A)

c.c. Hon. Tony Clement
Minister of Health

Hon. Stockwell Day
Minister of Public Safety

Hon. George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care