



November 26, 2021

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duclos:

On behalf of the country's psychologists who are members and affiliates of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing to congratulate you on your recent re-election and appointment as Canada's Minister of Health.

As we approach the opening of Canada's 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament, we commend your government for committing to several important public policy initiatives that focus on improving the health and wellness of Canadians, and the effective functioning and architecture of our health systems.

The CPA is the national voice that represents the largest group of specialized, regulated mental health care professionals in this country. We look forward to working you, Minister Bennett and all Parliamentarians to ensure federal investments accelerate innovations in mental health delivery that move beyond hospitals and physicians and expand and improve timely access to evidence-based mental health care programs and services people need.

The need for mental health services extends beyond mental disorders. The management of other pervasive and chronic health conditions like heart disease, diabetes and substance misuse requires attention to mental and behavioural health factors. As has been made clear by the ongoing pandemic, the successful management of health crises depends on human behaviour. The investments to which this government has committed are important steps to delivering on mental health parity – ensuring that we recognize the equivalent value and impact of mental and physical health.

There can be no health without mental health, and we must continue to invest in our most important assets...people. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss how we can assist in supporting and improving the mental health and well-being of the people of Canada. I can be reached at [executiveoffice@cpa.ca](mailto:executiveoffice@cpa.ca).

Best wishes for a successful session in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

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

Copy to: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions