

June 2006

Dear Friends of the CCMHI

Farewell

This is the last CCMHI update. It has been an exciting two years as we crossed the country with our Charter consultations and met many people who exemplify innovation in collaborative mental health care. Our activities and achievements are documented in our [Final Report](#) to Health Canada and our [Web site](#) contains our research on the state of collaborative care, the practical toolkits for providers, consumers and educators, and the national Charter to support future activities.

Building on momentum

At the last Steering Committee meeting, the CCMHI's partner organizations committed to continue to meet with a view of expanding the dissemination of CCMHI materials and furthering collaborative mental health care in Canada. A proposal was made to Health Canada for funding in support of these activities until the establishment of the Canadian Mental Health Commission. A decision is expected shortly.

Senate Committee's recommendation for a Canadian Mental Health Commission

Earlier this month, the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology released its final report on mental health entitled *Out of the Shadows at Last*. Many references were made to the work of the CCMHI and the importance of consumer-centred care and the provision of mental health services in primary health care. The complete report is found on the [Senate Web site](#). We understand that the Federal government intends to proceed with establishing the Mental Health Commission. We hope that the government makes this an urgent priority and empowers the Commission to take responsibility for taking action on the other recommendations in *Out of the Shadows at Last*.

Shared Care Conference a success!

This year's conference, hosted by the Calgary Health and Chinook Health regions and sponsored by the CCMHI, proved to be a good forum for the exchange of ideas and for learning from one another. The conference provided a 'capstone' for the CCMHI and a venue to display and disseminate its research and toolkits. The conference also provided a spotlight for Senator Michael Kirby, who eloquently spoke about the work of the Senate Committee and proudly received on behalf of the people of Canada, the Canadian Collaborative Mental Health [Charter](#). Next year's conference will be held in Quebec City June 7-9, 2007. Be sure to bookmark the [Shared Care Web site](#) and follow back for more details.

Administrative Logistics

Although the CCMHI is formally over, pending transition funding, the CCMHI member organizations hope to continue their work and provide you with an occasional E-update. Once the new Commission is established, our contact list containing your e-mail/ mailing address will be transitioned. In terms of ensuring the results of the CCMHI continue to

be available, the CCMHI Web site will be available for at least another year. Downloading materials from the Web site is our most cost effective method of disseminating our information. However, if you would like hand copies, a Print-on-Demand service will be available for a fee. As well, a CD with all materials is also available if you do not have access to the Internet. [Click here](#) for more information.

Final thoughts

On behalf of the CCMHI Steering Committee and Secretariat, I would like to thank **you** for your support and interest over the past two years. I trust you will be able to put the CCMHI materials to good use. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the [Secretariat staff](#) who worked tirelessly to achieve the mandate of the CCMHI and the 22-member [Steering Committee](#) led by Dr. Nick Kates, who together with great wisdom guided the work of the CCMHI. Furthermore, I would like to thank **The College of Family Physicians of Canada** for providing a warm and supportive office environment, making for a very pleasant two years. And finally, this project would not have been possible without the funding support of **Health Canada**. On behalf of the CCMHI partners, I would like to sincerely thank those responsible for the [Primary Health Care Transition Fund](#) for their support.

As the project comes to a close, a new chapter in some of our lives begins. Project Manager Dr. Marie-Anik Gagné will be relocating to Ottawa and working with the Canadian Pharmacists Association as Director of Policy and Research. And while I have no fixed plan for the future, I will always be interested in the continuing evolution of collaborative mental health care. Our contact information is below. Please stay in touch.

Best regards

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