

## Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association is Proud to Announce the Inaugural Launch of Canadian School Counselling Week

OTTAWA (January 24, 2014) The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA), in collaboration with its School Counsellors Chapter, is proud to celebrate the first-ever Canadian School Counselling Week. Celebrated this year from February 3 to 7, this special week serves to promote awareness and understanding of the vital role school counsellors play in Canada's health care system.

"We are so proud to officially launch this special week," said Trent Langdon, President of the School Counsellors Chapter. "We have a vested interest in ensuring that all children and youth have access to trained school counsellors in every school, and we remain committed to raising the profile and building awareness of this important role."

School counsellors make vital contributions to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians. Through comprehensive and developmental guidance and counselling programs, early intervention and education, and ongoing support by trained professionals, school counsellors can make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth, both as independent professionals and as part of student support teams and referral agents.

"While mental illness and mental health issues pose substantial risk factors to today's school-aged children and youth, early intervention can have a significant impact by increasing opportunities for positive change and wellbeing, reducing the impact of critical incidents, interrupting the negative course of some mental illnesses and in some cases, lessening long-term disability in children and youth," added Blythe Shepard, President of CCPA.

CCPA invites all Canadians to spread the word and join the celebrations this year for its inaugural launch of Canadian School Counselling Week. For more information on how to get involved, please visit <a href="http://www.ccpa-accp.ca/en/chapters/schoolcounsellors/">http://www.ccpa-accp.ca/en/chapters/schoolcounsellors/</a>

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The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national bilingual association providing professional counsellors and psychotherapists with access to exclusive educational programs, certification, professional development and direct contact with professional peers and specialty groups. CCPA promotes the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians.

For further information, please contact:

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