



## Taking Over Parliament Hill to Advance the Mental Health Agenda

OTTAWA (October 2, 2017) The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is proud to recognize and participate in *Mental Illness Awareness Week* (MIAW). Across Canada, individuals and organizations will take part in the annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness. The week is coordinated by the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) in cooperation with all of its member organizations, including CCPA and many other supporters across Canada.

This year, MIAW runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. CCPA delegates will be in Ottawa to participate in several activities, including a Parliament Hill Day aimed to advance the policy discussion surrounding mental illness and health. CCPA CEO Barbara MacCallum and Deputy CEO Dr. Kim Hollihan will meet with decision-makers to speak on CAMIMH's mental health policy objectives.

"I am very eager to see how the discussions with the federal government will go this week. We will be advocating for increased funding for the provinces/territories and a five-year \$100 million Mental Health Innovation Fund, among many other items" said CCPA President, John Driscoll. "CCPA is very pleased to support, and be a part of the CAMIMH organization and we will also be actively participating in the Mental Illness Awareness Week activities."

One of CAMIMH's major public relations initiatives is the *Faces of Mental Illness* campaign, a national outreach campaign featuring the stories of Canadians living in recovery from mental illness. Thousands of posters, brochures, and bookmarks featuring the Faces are disseminated to hundreds of organizations across Canada to raise awareness and end the stigma associated with mental illness. To find out more about the Faces of Mental Illness Campaign, please visit: <http://www.camimh.ca/>

To find out more about CCPA's activities during MIAW, follow us on Twitter @CCPA\_ACCP or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCPA.ACCP>.

If you are looking for professional support, please visit [www.ccpa-accp.ca](http://www.ccpa-accp.ca), where you can search for a Canadian Certified Counsellor in your region. Members of the public can also find authoritative information about the profession of counselling and psychotherapy by visiting CCPA's public website, [www.talkingcanhelp.ca](http://www.talkingcanhelp.ca).

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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.*

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