

MEDIA RELEASE

Canadian Mental Health Association

Alberta Division
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENNIS ANDERSON AND FELLOW ALBERTANS DOMINATE AWARDS

St. John's, Newfoundland, August 10, 2000—

Today in St. John's, Newfoundland, Albertans captured the majority of seven national awards designed to recognize the most outstanding contributions to mental health service in Canada. **Dennis Anderson**, former Alberta Government Cabinet Minister and current Honorary Consul to the Government of Thailand, is being awarded the National Canadian Mental Health Association's pre-eminent C.M. Hincks Award for his contributions in the field of mental health.

This award, which honours the founder of CMHA, Dr. Clarence Meredith Hincks, is presented annually to an outstanding individual who has advanced the mental health cause in Canada with the spirit and commitment evidenced by Dr. Hincks.

Anderson, from Edmonton, is President and Chair of the CMHA in Alberta, the Association's third largest division. He has spearheaded the development of Canada's only province-wide alliance of mental health consumers, advocacy and professional organizations, chairs a national CMHA work group on government affairs and innovated a project to promote pet therapy.

The national organization's outstanding Volunteer Service Award goes to Calgaryian **Douglas Baxter**, a retired Vice-President with the Royal Bank of Canada. Mr. Baxter has provided fiscal leadership and accountability at provincial and national levels for more than a decade.

National CMHA awards will also be presented in the Work and Well-Being category to Alberta-nominated **Canadian National** for their Employee and Family Assistance Program, which has many innovations, including 300 "peers" who are trained to be helpers to people who need support or who suffer critical incidents relating to issues such as substance abuse, violence and depression.

The honour for Distinguished Service will be awarded to **Beth Sykes** of Ponoka for her efforts in developing community services for the mentally ill in central Alberta.

An inaugural award to Toronto's ARCH Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities was named in honour of **Aleck H. Trawick, Q.C.**, a Calgary lawyer and former Provincial Ombudsman. This newly-created award was established to highlight the importance of legal advocacy, and to recognize Trawick's lifelong and exemplary legal advocacy, along with his commitment to social justice.

For more information, contact:

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