

MEDIA RELEASE

Canadian Mental Health Association Alberta Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton, Alberta, March 20, 2007–

ALBERTA CMHA PLEASED BY COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The commitment of funding to the formation of a Canadian Mental Health Commission is a tremendous step forward in the advancement of mental health services across the country, says Jodi Cohen, President of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

“We are delighted to hear that the federal government has followed up on this key recommendation of the Senate Committee Report, *Out of the Shadows at Last*,” says Ms. Cohen. “The Commission will bring a newfound focus and financial support to mental health, which has always taken a very backseat position relative to other health concerns.

“This should result in a national mental health strategy and facilitate increased coordination between the many government and community-based organizations involved in mental health, as well as the social determinants of health impacting it.”

Ms. Cohen was also pleased that the Commission would be located in Calgary.

“Having the Commission located in Calgary is a wonderful bonus for those involved with mental health in Alberta,” she said. “We don’t know what the Commission will look like, but bringing together dedicated people for a common cause will undoubtedly create positive synergies, overall and particularly around the nucleus.”

The Canadian Mental Health Association operates across Canada, including nine regional offices and one provincial office in Alberta.

-30-

For further information, please call Tom Shand, Executive Director, CMHA, Alberta Division, at 780-482-6576 (bus.); 780-434-9199; or 780-964-0431 (cell).