

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Canadian Mental Health Association**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ALBERTAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

**Edmonton, Alberta, August 23, 1999—**

Mr. Bill Gaudette of Calgary was elected President of the Canadian Mental Health Association's National Board of Directors on the weekend. The convention and meetings were attended by more than 700 consumers (clients), family members, professionals and volunteers from across Canada.

The new President is a psychologist, lawyer and educator, currently working with the University of Athabasca.

Gaudette, who has volunteered with CMHA for almost twenty years, has previously served as the Divisional President of the CMHA in Alberta and Vice-Chair of the Provincial Government's Mental Health Board. His many awards include the Government of Canada's prestigious *Certificate of Merit*.

Bill and his wife Kerry are parents to eight children.

Mr. Gaudette succeeds Mr. Tom Walters of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Other Alberta residents on the 25-member National Board are former Provincial Cabinet Minister Dennis Anderson from Edmonton, retired banking executive Doug Baxter from Calgary and business owner Bonnie Thiessen of Coalhurst.

The CMHA is one of Canada's oldest and largest national voluntary organizations. With regions and branches in most parts of Canada, the Association is dedicated to public education, advocacy, applied research and community services in the broad areas of mental health and illness. In Alberta alone, the Association has more than a thousand volunteers and spends more than 7.7 million dollars annually.