



Mood Disorders Society of Canada

Société pour les troubles de l'humeur du Canada

www.mooddisorderscanada.ca | www.troubleshumeur.ca

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MDSC encourages feds to maintain \$5 billion investment in targeted mental health funding

GUELPH, ONT., Dec. 21, 2016—Mood Disorders Society of Canada (MDSC) is pleased to see the federal government supporting targeted funding for mental health and strongly encourages Health Minister Jane Philpott to maintain the federal position of investing \$5 billion over the next 10 years to address an epidemic affecting all Canadians.

As a leader in innovative mental health services and programs, MDSC believes there is a dire need for a strong approach to address mental illness in Canada. The best approach is through a coordinated, targeted effort to ensure investments are implemented into the health care system effectively.

“MDSC is very encouraged to see the federal government’s recognition of the significant impact of mental illness in Canadians’ health requirements during this week’s effort to reach a consensus in the Health Accord negotiations,” says Phil Upshall, MDSC national executive director. “We know that mental illness costs the Canadian economy more than \$51 billion per year and that funding for mental health services and supports do not meet demand. Minister Philpott should continue to champion targeted investments for mental health services in future discussions with the provinces and territories.”

Mental health issues affect all Canadians. Seventy per cent of adults living with a mental illness have onset before the age of 18. Early intervention would have an immediate positive impact on the health of our youth. Investing in mental health services early would lead to more rapid recovery and symptom management, and would drastically reduce costs associated with chronic mental illness. A \$5 billion investment is a step in the right direction.

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For more information

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About the Mood Disorders Society of Canada

Mood Disorders Society of Canada was launched in 2001 to provide people with mood disorders, their families and caregivers a strong, cohesive voice at the national level on issues relating to mental health and mental illness. With particular regard to depression, bipolar disorder and other associated mood disorders, MDSC aims to improve access to treatment, inform research, shape program development and government policy to improve the quality of life for people affected by mood disorders.