

Mood Disorders Society of Canada
Société pour les troubles de l'humeur du Canada

Pathways to Equity

A Roundtable to Discuss the Future of Access to Medications for Mental Illnesses

MAY 7, 2024

Land Acknowledgement

MDSC is headquartered on the traditional territory of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee, covered by the Williams and Upper Canada Treaties. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in the community and on this important traditional territory. We acknowledge our shared obligation to respect, honour, and sustain these lands and the natural resources contained within. MDSC staff, volunteers, and partners live and work from many territories across Turtle Island.



Sharing

#PathwaystoEquity



For Technical Issues

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Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time
Welcome, Territorial Land Acknowledgement Issues Background	Dave Gallson, National Executive Director, MDSC Nancy Zorzi, Program Manager, MDSC	12:00-12:25
Hearing from the Front Line – PWLE Perspective	Aimée Tran Ba Huy	12:25-12:32
Hearing from the Front Line – Psychiatrist Perspective	Dr. Diane McIntosh, University of BC, PsychedUp, SwitchRX, Telus	12:32-12:45
Brainstorm Breakout Rooms & Summary	Group A Group B	12:45-1:45
Interactive Chat Session	All	1:45-1:55
Next Steps, Close & Photo	Dave Gallson	1:55-2:00



Discussion, Pre-Survey



Mood Disorders Society of Canada

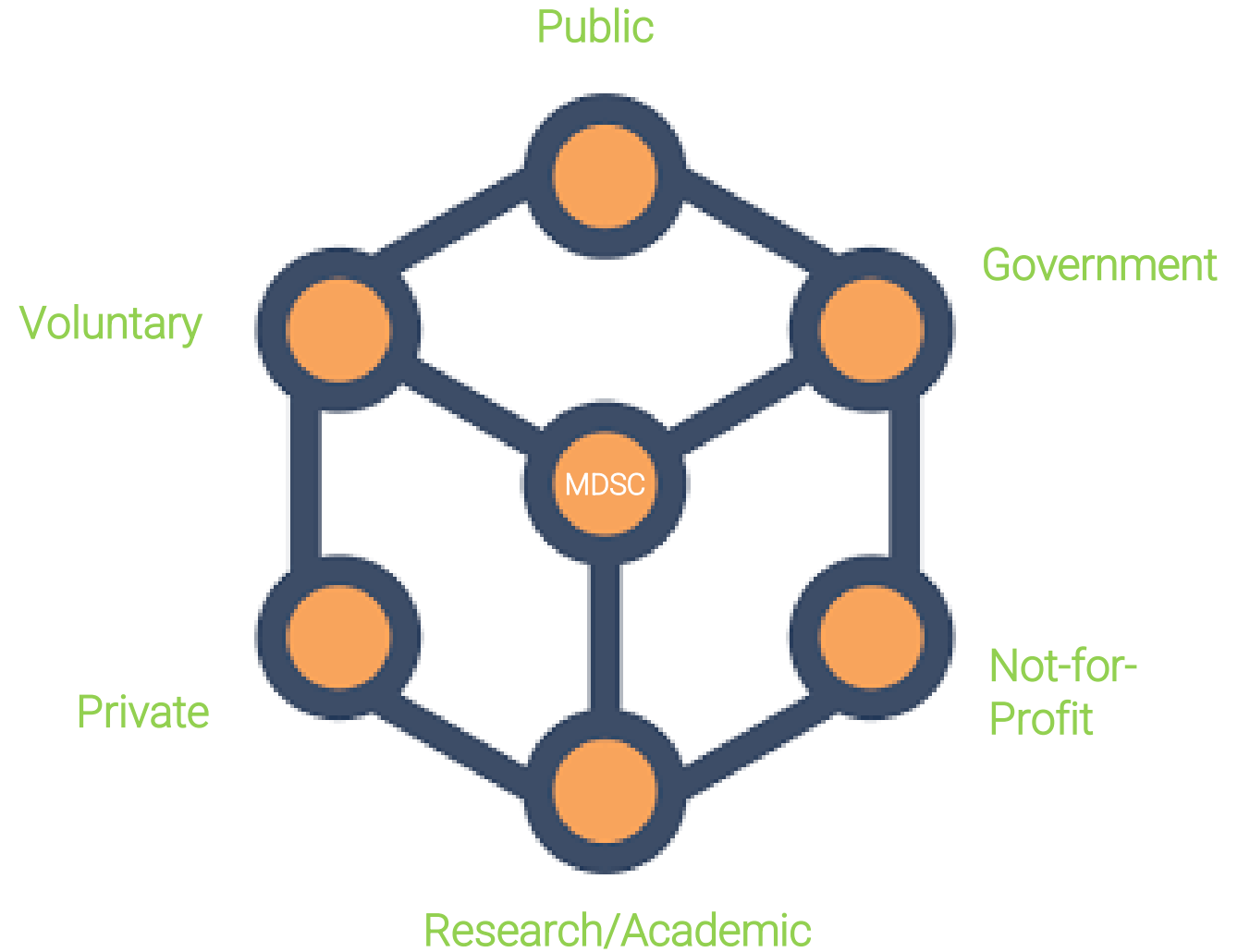
MDSC's overall objective is to provide people with mood disorders with a strong, cohesive voice at the national level by:

- **Raising awareness** that mood disorders are treatable medical issues and working towards eliminating barriers to full community participation in reducing discrimination and stigma, involving members of the public, government and treatment/service providers.
- Building a national **clearinghouse of information and resources** related to mood disorders.
- **Advocating** for the creation of adequate and accessible stigma-free programs for Canadians living with or suffering from mental illness.
- **Ensuring that the voices of PWLE and family members** are accurately understood and communicated on issues of national importance by building on existing networks and alliances.



MDSC

Collaboration & Partnership





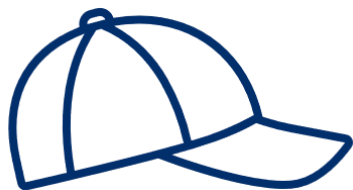
Partners and Funders

Representing People With Lived/Living Experience



Multi-Stakeholder Perspectives

10



Psychiatrists

Academics

Person with Lived/Living Experience & Caregivers



Community/Patient Organizations



Industry

Government – Elected Officials



Government – Public Payors



CDA (CADTH)



List of all 32 Participants Names & Titles were Shared

Meeting Purpose



Share key highlights from MDSC's report (*System Broken*) on Canada's reimbursement review process for psychiatric medications between 2012-2022



Gain multiple stakeholder insights and ideas on potential solutions to increase the patient and front-line clinician voice in the HTA process to improve the inequality in access to publicly funded medications for mental illnesses



Holistic Care



Psychotherapy &
Peer2Peer



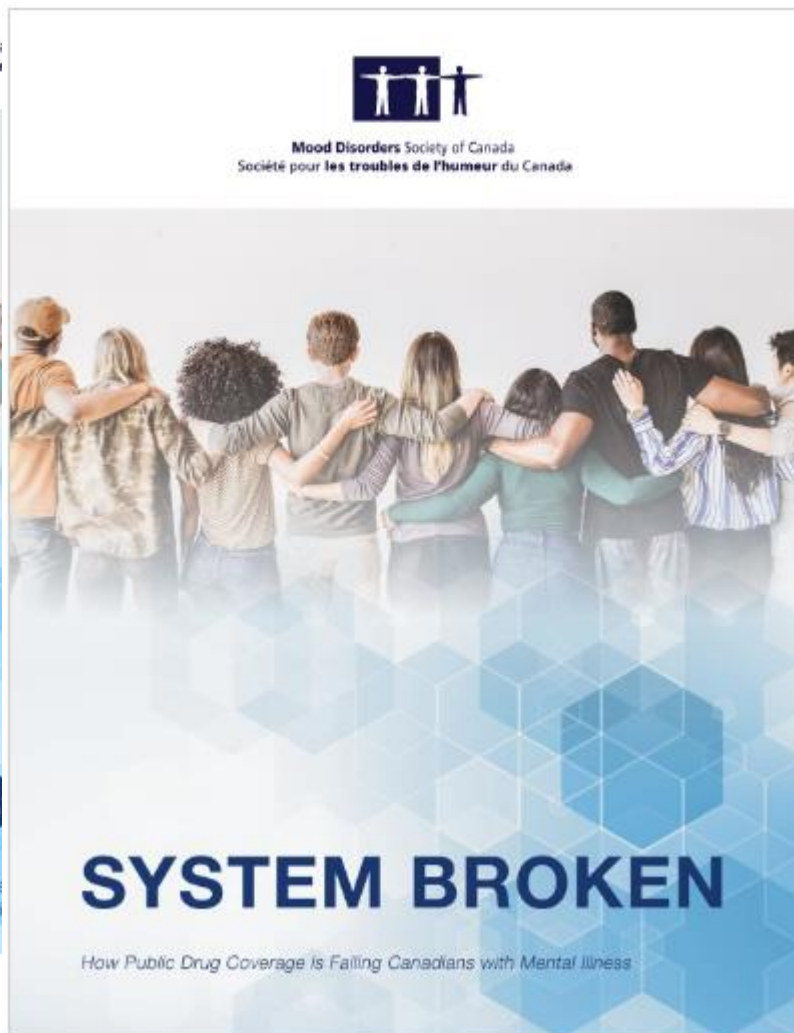
Exercise, Nutrition &
Education



Social Determinants
of Health

Decades of Improvements in Mental Health System





[accesstomedication.mdsc.ca](https://www.accesstomedication.mdsc.ca)

Report looked at original brand-name medications approved by Health Canada that underwent an initial or subsequent Health Technology Assessment between 2012 and 2022 in Canada by the **Canadian Drug Agency** (formerly Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)) and/or the *Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)*.

SYSTEM BROKEN

*Public Drug Coverage is Falling
Canadians with Mental Illness*



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The Facts

1

Average **“time-to-patient”** from Health Canada approval to public reimbursement is over 2.5 years



**2.5
years**



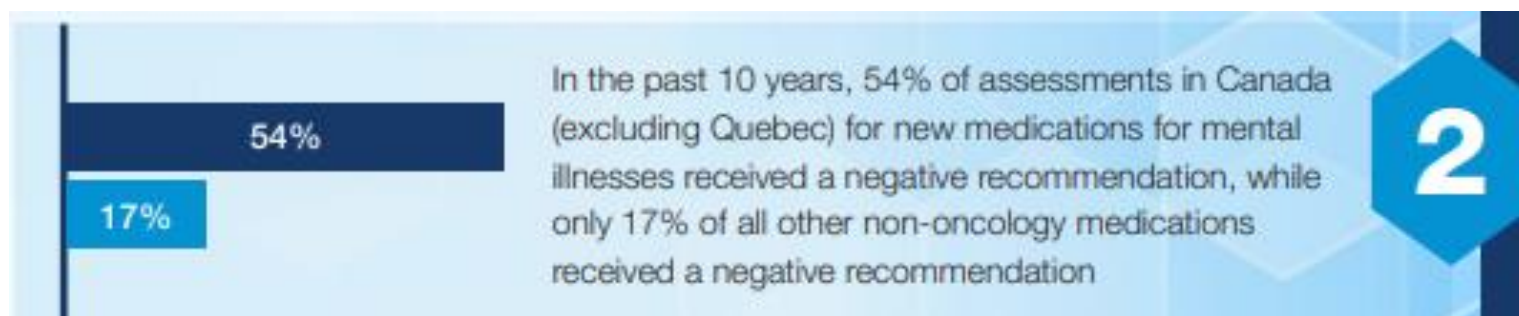
SYSTEM BROKEN

*Public Drug Coverage is Falling
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The Facts



SYSTEM BROKEN

*Public Drug Coverage is Falling
Canadians with Mental Illness*



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The Facts

Nearly 40% are not publicly reimbursed in any of Canada's four most populous provinces

- 62% not funded in Quebec
- 54% not funding in B.C. or Alberta
- 46% not funded in Ontario



British Columbia



Alberta



Ontario



Quebec



The topic is important to Canadians

19

Avantages

Le difficile accès aux traitements des maladies mentales

Les délais s'allongent
Par: Didier Bert | 16 novembre 2023 | 06:42

PARTAGER



Les Canadiens aux prises avec des maladies mentales font face à un accès de plus en plus difficile aux médicaments, selon une étude.
Le régime public d'assurance médicaments ne répond pas aux besoins des Canadiens atteints de maladies mentales, affirme la Société pour les troubles de l'humeur du Canada (STHC), en s'appuyant sur les résultats d'une étude qu'elle vient de mener.

ABONNEZ-VOUS
Bulletins Magazine

CONNECTEZ-VOUS

LA DERNIÈRE ÉDITION DU MAGAZINE EST DISPONIBLE!
CONSULTEZ LA ICI

CONTENU EN VELETTE
POINT DE VUE DES PARTICIPANTS
Consultez le dernier Point de vue des participants
À LIRE DES MAINTENANT
SONDAGE 2023 SUR L'AVENIR DU TRAVAIL

NATIONAL POST

Longreads Remembering Puzzles New York Times Crossword Comics Healthing Epaper

SYSTEM BROKEN
Publico drug coverage is failing Canadians with mental illness

Get the facts

This article is Advertisé by Mood Disorders Society of Canada

Health-Sponsored

Canadians with mental illness face delays and inequities in accessing medications through public drug coverage system

"Having mental health issues is not a flaw in personality, but a flaw in chemistry," says Chelsea Meldrum, third year university student living with mental illness.

Celeste Chiasson

Published Nov 17, 2023 • Last updated Nov 17, 2023 • 3 minute read

CTV NEWS

"... far too long ..."
"... inequitable access ..."

SYSTEM BROKEN

HEALTH NEWS

Patients treated for mental illness face more barriers for medication approval and access, study finds

MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS FACING LONG WAITS

10:58AM MT

TOP STORIES: Mother of 8-year-old boy who shot teacher faces sentencing for marijuana use while owning a gun

DEBATE MON-FRI & THET



NEWSTALK TONIGHT

MENTELL HEALTH

MENTELL HEALTH WITH MICHAEL AND COREY LANDSBERG - NOV 13, 2023

Chelsea Meldrum openly shares her reduce stigma and help others in ne

Chelsea Meldrum was 12 years old a by fear, crying uncontrollably, feelin Experiencing emotional highs and lo self-harmed frequently and repeate

GLOBAL NEWS VIA ZOOM

Report calls for better drug coverage for mental health

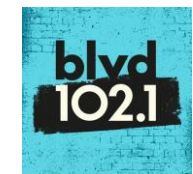
Global BC

CITY NEWS

PUBLIC DRUG COVERAGE IS FAILING CANADIANS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: REPORT

6:57 PM

DR. PIERRE BLIER
ROYAL OTTAWA MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE



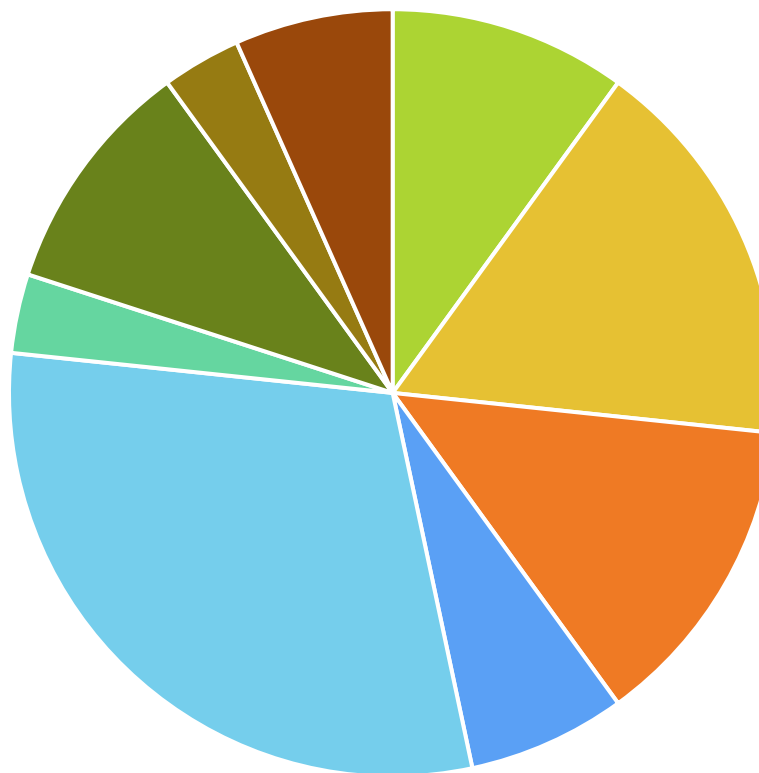
Dr. McIntosh Presented her Slides



Attendee Survey Snapshot

Pre-Roundtable Survey Insights

We distributed a survey to everyone before the roundtable discussion and received responses representing diverse perspectives.



- PWLE
- PAG
- HCP
- Public Payer
- Industry
- Academic
- HTA
- Other
- GOV

Areas of Agreement



People who have a mental illness, and their supporters, are **not** well represented in the decision-making process.

(Agree=18, Don't know=1, Disagree=0)



We should find ways to help access decision-makers more fully understand how prescribed medications for mental illness work in real-world settings, and how new treatments could provide critical benefits.

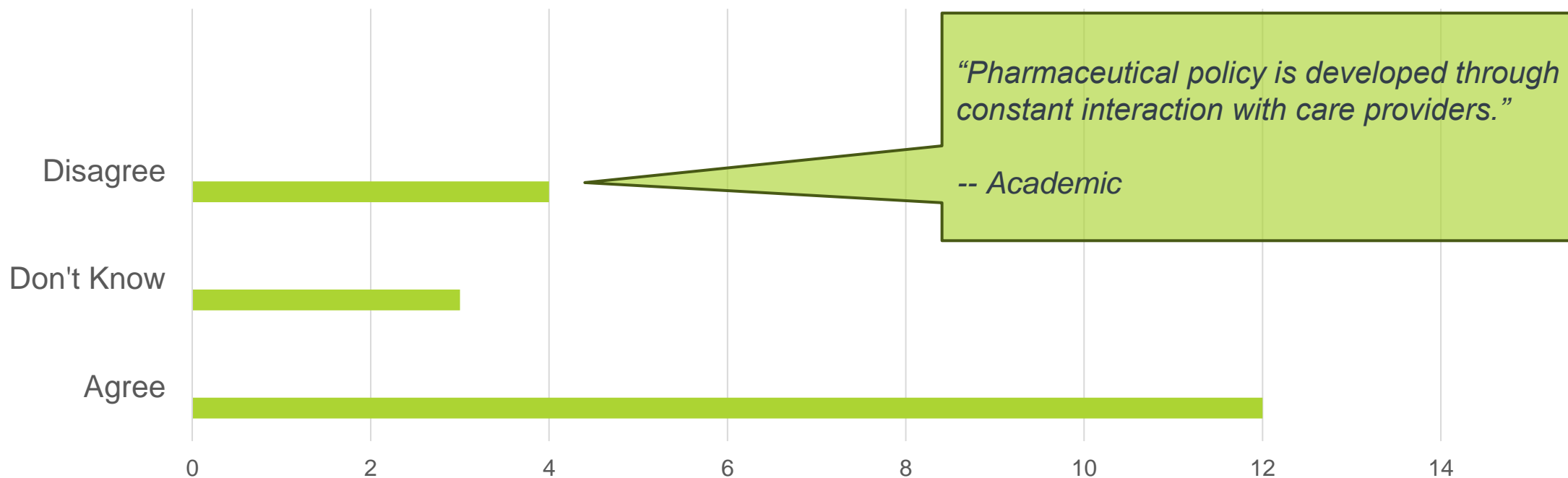
Enhancing Involvement of those with Direct Expertise in Mental Illness

The **most common benefits** noted for involving psychiatrists and people with lived/living experience in helping decision-makers improve equitable access to medications for mental illness:

- ▶ Demonstrate why more options are needed – *the heterogeneity in treating mental illnesses*.
- ▶ Demonstrate value to both individuals and society.
- ▶ What treatment success means in real-world terms.
- ▶ Transparency in decision-making.

Area of Disagreement

Access decision-makers don't fully understand how prescribed medications for mental illness work in real-world settings and how new treatments could provide critical benefits.



Brainstorm Session

Brainstorm Session

Two Breakout Rooms

Tailored mental health committee to leverage in HTA decision making

Other special considerations in the HTA process to increase the front-line voice in the review of medications for mental illnesses

Breakout #1 Chat Questions – Committee

- ▶ What are some **benefits** of this type of committee?
- ▶ What are some **negatives** to this type of committee?
- ▶ What role should **PWLE & clinicians** have on this committee?

Breakout #2 Chat Questions – Special Considerations

External to the standing committee:

- ▶ What **type of “expert”** should be brought in to provide perspective in the review of a psychiatric medication?
- ▶ Should a **PWLE** be one of the experts? Does the PWLE have to have **the specific mental illness**?
- ▶ How many “experts”?

Brainstorm Session

Two Breakout Rooms

Tailored mental health committee to leverage in HTA decision making

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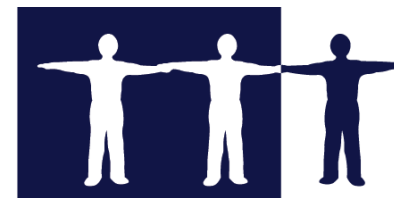
Lightening Chat Round

One idea/enabler you heard today that could make a committee or other considerations a reality?



Program Supporters & Funders

Improving Access to Medications for Mental Illness for Canadians



Mood Disorders Society of Canada
Société pour les troubles de l'humeur du Canada

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