

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

**Minister's Message
National Social Work Month (March 2018)**

March is National Social Work Month, a time to recognize the important contributions that social workers make in the lives of Canadians across the country. It is also a time to recognize the exceptional dedication that social workers show while serving their communities.

As Minister of Health, I appreciate the hard, and often unseen, work done by social workers. They work in our schools, hospitals and housing developments as well as in private practice, helping people and families during times of need. They help Canadians improve their mental well-being; they help people in need access social resources and health care; and they support individuals, families and communities in crisis.

Social justice underpins the work of all social workers. Every day, social workers encounter issues of social inequality, such as uneven access to health care and gender-based violence, and they work to address them and to reduce their impact.

As a former registered social worker myself, I can attest to the challenges of social work. Social workers often feel emotionally connected with the individuals and families they assist, experiencing the ups and downs of their struggles with them. But the rewards are also immeasurable, like seeing a family reunited, watching the relief on someone's face when they are connected with housing, or witnessing the joy of adoptive parents welcoming a child into their home.

I'm proud of the contributions social workers make to the lives of Canadians, and I'm happy to support them in their mission. I hope that you will join with me this month in recognizing the vital role that social workers play in our communities and in thanking them for their hard work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ginette Petitpas Taylor".

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C., M.P.