

Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

**RE: Permanent Changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan**

Dear President Aylward,

Given the recently announced launch of a new round of negotiations with Treasury Board to update and strengthen the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP), we are jointly writing to thank you for placing the mental health and wellness of members at the centre of negotiations.

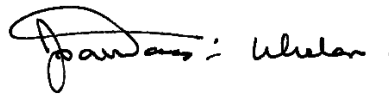
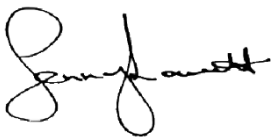
As background for you, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) and the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) nationally represent approximately 35,000 members, many who currently work directly in support of the mental health and wellbeing of public servants and their dependents across Canada.

We, like the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), want to make permanent the temporary changes to the PSHCP to include, without prescription, registered social workers, psychotherapists, counsellors and counselling therapists as eligible mental health practitioners. We also appreciate and fully support the bargaining position put forward to increase coverage to \$4000 per year.

As you are aware, allowing members of the public service to permanently bill costs related to registered social workers, psychotherapists, counsellors and counselling therapists would increase the range of treatment options and allow for appropriate access to healthcare that all Canadians deserve.

Again, we thank you, the other bargaining agents and the retirees for placing the mental health and wellness of members at the centre of negotiations and welcome the opportunity for further discussion regarding the importance of making this coverage permanent for all Federal Public Servants.

Sincerely,



Jenny L. Rowett, PhD, CCC-S, LCT  
President, CCPA



Joan Davis-Whelan, MSW, RSW  
President, CASW

**Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association**

The CCPA is a national bilingual association of professionally trained counsellors engaged in the helping professions. Since 1965, CCPA has provided leadership and promotion to the counselling profession.

**Canadian Association of Social Workers**

Established in 1927, CASW is a national association, with over 20,000 members, dedicated to promoting the social work profession and advancing issues of social justice.