



Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Ontario government on behalf of our 30 community branches across the province. For the 2018 Ontario budget, we offer the following recommendations:

01

Invest Locally to Support Ontarians Where They Live

CMHA Ontario recommends a three per cent base budget increase for our 30 community branches which are part of a community mental health and addictions sector which provide front-line service to nearly 500,000 Ontarians. The branches have gone without budget increases in as many as eight years. Any new investment is almost always tied to delivery of a specific program and not to overall operations. As a result, branches struggle with staff retention, rising hydro costs and administrative expenditures that impact service delivery.

02

Increase Overall Funding to Reduce Wait Times

The mental health sector is chronically underfunded compared to physical health services. Of the \$54-billion health budget, mental health and addictions receives \$3.5 billion, or 6.5 per cent. CMHA Ontario supports the Mental Health Commission of Canada's recommendation to increase spending on mental health and addictions to nine per cent from seven per cent of the overall provincial health care budget.

03

Provide Greater Access to Supportive Housing

CMHA Ontario supports the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council's recommendation to expand the supportive housing system for people with mental health and addictions conditions with the creation of 30,000 new units in the next decade, building at a rate of 3,000 units every year. The estimated annual costs to expand supportive housing to adequately meet demand in Ontario is \$278 million in the first year, rising cumulatively to \$721 million by 2027.

For further discussion, please contact:

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2018 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

FACTS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS



\$54B
2017 Health
budget



\$3.5B
Mental health and
addictions share



170,000
households are waiting
for affordable housing

**Cost to house a person in the
community with support**



\$72 /day

**Cost to keep a person in
psychiatric hospital**



\$486 /day

Burden of mental illnesses:

1.5x of all
cancers
combined

7x of all
infectious
diseases

About Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario

Incorporated in 1952, CMHA Ontario provides community-based programs and services across the province to meet the needs of individuals seeking support with their mental health and addictions. Our 30 local CMHA branches are part of a community-based mental health sector which serves approximately 500,000 Ontarians annually.

CMHA Ontario is a trusted advisor to government and we actively contribute to health systems development by recommending policy options to improve the lives of all Ontarians. Through leadership, collaboration and the continual pursuit of excellence in community-based mental health and addiction services, CMHA works to achieve the vision of a society that embraces and invests in the mental health of all people.