



Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario New Democrats

www.OntarioNDP.com

Gordon Floyd
President and C.E.O
Children's Mental Health Ontario
40 St. Clair Ave East, Suite 309
Toronto, ON M4T 1M9

September 28, 2011

Dear Mr. Floyd,

Thank you for your September 28th letter concerning the Ontario NDP's position on Children's Mental Health. As you have noted, Ontario's New Democrats have a long and productive history working with your organization and we look forward to this continued relationship.

Ontario's New Democrats support the development of a coordinated system of mental health supports for children, youth, and their families. The failure to provide timely, preventive, and responsive mental health services for children and youth has led to enormous human and financial costs. We support any improvement in our mental health system and we will follow-through on the recently promised funding. However, we cannot stop there.

The Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions met for 18 months, and had representation from all three political parties. The Select Committee's final report, "Navigating the Journey to Wellness: The Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Plan for Ontarians" made 23 recommendations—including the creation of a single body responsible for the design, management and coordination of a mental health and addictions system—that could transform this system so that it finally meets the needs of Ontarians. It is unfortunate that the well-researched and crucial recommendations of this Committee have been largely ignored. Ontario's New Democrats support the Select Committee's final report and would act promptly on its recommendations.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our position on these important issues. You are right; the stigma around accessing mental health services needs to be addressed. Ontario's New Democrats look forward to working with Children's Mental Health Ontario, and other stakeholders, to provide the public education and advocacy needed to encourage timely treatment.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horwath
Leader, Ontario's New Democrats

