



February 9, 2009

Mental Health Commission of Canada  
Suite 800, 10301 Southport Lane SW  
Calgary, AB T2W 1S7

Re: Invitation for Consumers to Participate in Regional Consultations

Dear Sir/Madame:

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) has provided funding for a comprehensive national environmental scan to support planning and policy work in housing. The project *Turning the Key: Assessing Housing and Related Supports for Persons Living with Mental Health Problems and Illnesses*, will inform the Commission on current housing and community support needs for people living with mental health problems and/or mental illness in Canada.

The Community Support and Research Unit of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) have partnered to conduct this multi-faceted environmental scan, in collaboration with the Commission, to inform the development of a mental health strategy for Canada. An integral component of the project is gaining an understanding of firsthand consumer experiences in regard to housing and related supports. These perspectives will inform the research team and help identify emerging best practices for adults living with mental health problems and illnesses across Canada. In an effort to glean such information, the research team has partnered with the National Network of Mental Health to host a series of online consumer consultations (e.g., webinars) in various regions across Canada. Webinars will be facilitated by the project's consumer consultant – Mr. David Reville. Webinars will be hosted on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup> and will run for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Participation will be limited to 12 per group.

As the research team is striving for comprehensive regional consumer representation across Canada, we are asking our various networks to assist us in circulating information letters to consumers.

Enclosed please find a separate document with an invitation letter for potential participants explaining the purpose and specific instructions in more detail.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study or would like to inquire further about the webinars, please do not hesitate to contact one of the research team members.

Canadian Council on Social Development:

Peggy Taillon, Telephone: (613) 236-8977 x 253, Email: [tallion@ccsd.ca](mailto:tallion@ccsd.ca)

Natasha Poushinsky, Telephone: (613) 842-0839, Email: [npoushinsky@copperskies.ca](mailto:npoushinsky@copperskies.ca)

Community Support and Research Unit, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health:

John Trainor, Telephone: (416) 535-8501 x 2071, Email: [john\\_trainor@camh.net](mailto:john_trainor@camh.net)

Nadia Palarchio, Telephone: (416) 535-8501 x 3157, Email: [nadia\\_palarchio@camh.net](mailto:nadia_palarchio@camh.net)

Emily VonderPorten, Telephone: (416) 535-8501 x2694, Email:

[emily\\_vonderporten@camh.net](mailto:emily_vonderporten@camh.net)

Mental Health Commission of Canada:

Gail MacKean, Telephone: Phone: 403-385-4061, Email:

[gmackean@mentalhealthcommission.ca](mailto:gmackean@mentalhealthcommission.ca)