

James R. Bambrick, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Woodstock, Ontario

March 13, 2002

Tony Clement
Minister of Health

Dear Sir:

As a Psychologist in the Province of Ontario for the past twenty-two years, in private practice throughout that time, and at one time Chief Psychologist at the Woodstock General Hospital where the Psychology Department was eliminated in 1986, I was saddened and angered to hear of the recent closing of yet another Psychology Department in the Province of Ontario.

I will not reiterate what is clearly well known to you regarding the cost effectiveness of psychological intervention both in the short term and longer, for that would be disrespectful to your office. I am convinced that you must be abreast of the literature documenting these points. Further, I would be shocked if you did not see the fallacy in the recent argument that patients seen in the Psychology Department at St. Michaels' Hospital would be seamlessly absorbed into community services provided by Private Practice Psychologists.

As both a provider of clinical services, and as a voter and citizen of the Province of Ontario, I have confidence that the Provincial Government, and specifically the Ministry of Health, will begin to address the shortfall of Psychological services in this Province, and the situation of discrimination that exists with regard to Psychologists as Regulated Health Care Providers.

James R. Bambrick, Ph.D., C.Psych.