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**PSYCHOLOGISTS TO MEET IN HAMILTON
SARS OUTBREAK HAS MINIMAL IMPACT ON 64TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

OTTAWA, JUNE 5, 2003 – Approximately 800 Psychologists from Canada and the United States will make the trip to Hamilton next week to attend the largest annual gathering in the field of psychology in Canada. Organizers report that the SARS outbreak and latest developments have had minimal impact to date on the Canadian Psychological Association's 64th Annual Convention to be held at the Hamilton Convention Centre, June 12 to 14, 2003.

“Out of more than 700 registrations received to date, only one cancellation related to SARS has been received. It raised a lot of concerns from our staff early on concerning the effect it might have on registration, but we are pleased to report that there is no negative impact,” said CPA Executive Director, Dr. John Service. “We believe that the way the situation was handled by local authorities and information circulated to our membership has definitely helped to dissipate any concerns that were out there.”

CPA helped prepare three documents on SARS for the Mental Health Support Network of Canada, which have been distributed widely by all MHSNC partners; *Dealing with stress or anxiety about SARS*; *SARS and*

health care workers: Dealing with stress; SARS and quarantine. These documents are available on the CPA website at www.cpa.ca.

Also available on the CPA website is a document called *SARS and the CPA convention in Hamilton*, which was created in order to better inform CPA Members and other psychologists who were considering making the trip to Hamilton. Essentially, CPA's position on the SARS issue has been that the conference will be going ahead as planned because the situation is under control. Moreover, the American Psychological Association (APA), who is also holding its Annual Convention in Toronto later this summer, has also decided to go ahead with their event.

"We are being vigilant and we have had consultations with other organizations and people in Hamilton to find out if we should take some special precautions. We are reassured that the situation has been well handled by local authorities in Toronto and we have basically advised our people that there is no danger of contracting SARS in Hamilton, in Toronto or at either of the Toronto airports," said Dr. Service.

"This is truly an exciting annual event, the most attended of its kind in Canada, where psychologists and aspiring psychologists can share information, learn about new developments in their related fields and keep abreast of our ever changing discipline," mentioned Dr. Service.

The Canadian Psychological Association is the national organization that represents the science, education and training, and practice of psychology in Canada. CPA has a membership of 5 200 psychologists and students in psychology from all Canadian Provinces and Territories. Its objectives are to lead, advance and promote psychology as a science and as a profession for the benefit of humanity; to provide leadership in psychology in Canada; to promote a sense of identity among psychologists; to promote the advancement, dissemination, and practical application of psychological knowledge; to develop standards and ethical principles for education, training, science and practice

in psychology.