

**CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS  
CANADIAN REGISTER OF HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**Press Release**  
For immediate delivery

---

Canadian Psychological Association  
151, rue Slater Street, Suite 205  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3  
Website: <http://www.cpa.ca>

CONTACT:  
Ivan Parisien, Communication Co-ordinator  
Tel: (613) 237-2144 ext. 25  
1-888-472-0657 ext. 25  
E-mail: [iparisien@cpa.ca](mailto:iparisien@cpa.ca)

---

**“ORPHAN” OF CANADIAN HEALTH CARE  
PSYCHOLOGISTS URGE FIRST MINISTERS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK  
AT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES’ BENEFITS**

**OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 3, 2003** -- Representatives of twenty-one provincial, territorial and national psychology organizations are calling on Canada’s First Ministers to take concrete action to ensure mental health services are a central partner in health care renewal.

“We have over 13,000 psychologists in Canada who are eager to be part of the solution of the national health care crisis,” stated Dr. Abraham Ross, President of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). “But governments continue to ignore findings showing that psychological interventions reduce suffering and costs to the health care system.”

Research shows that psychological services work. The problem is too many Canadians do not have adequate access. Services are all too often not available in the public system or cost too much for lower and middle income Canadians in the private system. Mr. Romanow called mental health the “orphan” of Canadian health care.

“We can’t keep forgetting our most vulnerable citizens” stated Dr. Joe Rallo, Chair of the Council of Provincial

Associations of Psychologists (CPAP). “It costs Canadians too much in unnecessary suffering, lost productivity, inflated health care costs, long-term disability and death. Too many children suffer lifelong consequences because of a lack of access to necessary psychological services.”

Psychological services help many people; children, people with physical diseases and disabilities, Canadians with mental illness, workers, families, seniors with dementia, etc. “It is essential we get the right patient to the right professional or service at the right time,” stated Dr. Luc Granger, President of the Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology (CRHSPP). “We need to put human behaviour at the heart of health care in Canada.”

Provincial, territorial and national psychology organizations represent over 13,000 psychologists and meet regularly to discuss issues of national interest.

-30-

## **PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL AND NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS**

Canadian Psychological Association  
Société canadienne de psychologie  
Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists  
Conseil des sociétés provinciales de psychologues

- ◆ College of Alberta Psychologists
- ◆ Psychologists Association of Alberta
- ◆ College of Psychologists of British Columbia
- ◆ British Columbia Psychological Association
- ◆ Psychological Association of Manitoba
- ◆ Manitoba Psychological Society
- ◆ College of Psychologists of New Brunswick  
Collège des psychologues du Nouveau-Brunswick
- ◆ Newfoundland Board of Examiners in Psychology

- ◆ Association of Newfoundland Psychologists
- ◆ Association of Psychologists of the NWT
- ◆ Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology
- ◆ Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia
- ◆ College of Psychologists of Ontario
- ◆ Ontario Psychological Association
- ◆ PEI Psychologists Registration Board
- ◆ Psychological Association of PEI
- ◆ Ordre des psychologues du Québec
- ◆ Saskatchewan College of Psychologists
- ◆ Psychological Society of Saskatchewan
- Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology  
Répertoire canadien des psychologues offrant des services de santé