



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

September 22, 2003

The Honourable Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K9

Fax number: (613) 943-0044

Re: Health Council of Canada

Dear Minister:

The undersigned Associations represent over 100,000 health care professionals in Canada. We applaud the provincial and federal governments for agreeing in Halifax to expedite the formation of the Health Council of Canada.

Discussions are taking place at the present time among many stakeholders concerning the membership of the Health Council. We are writing to address what we believe is a fundamental principle of Council membership.

The undersigned organizations believe that an oversight body for health care in Canada can only be properly comprised if it includes representation from those who provide services in both the public and private sectors. It is a fact that health care in Canada involves multi-disciplinary teams of professionals. A full understanding and appreciation for health care can only be accomplished when all aspects of health care are considered.

The Health Accord speaks to the importance of primary care providers outside the hospital setting. The Accord speaks to the importance of multi-disciplinary teams combining hospital and non-hospital based resources. The Health Accord speaks to the importance of preventive health care to the overall health of Canadians. A large number of stakeholders have talked about the need for a comprehensive model of health care, a model that includes all primary health care providers within a multi-disciplinary health care system.

We understand that non-governmental membership on the Health Council will not be based on formal affiliation. However, no doubt there will be nomination guidelines established.

We are writing to respectfully suggest an important principle that we believe should be part of the Health Council membership nomination guidelines. There must be individuals on the Council that represent the undersigned professions and that speak for a comprehensive view of primary health care in Canada.

If this principled representation is not provided, Canadians run the very real risk of continuing to be faced with discussions, issues and deliberations based only on a partial and incomplete picture of healthcare, particularly primary health care. A lack of representation would pose serious challenges as we all work to design a more responsive, efficient, accessible and effective health system of the future, a system all Canadians want and deserve.

We believe that Canadians expect this comprehensive model of health care to be fully debated and considered. The fact that so many Canadians rely on the professions listed below for so many facets of their health care needs demonstrates the extent to which Canadians consider these professions to be an indispensable part of *their* health team.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you and your colleagues at any time.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

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