

**Anne Israeli, Ph.D.
Halifax, NS**

March 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Clement and Mr. Lozon,

My name is Anne Israeli, Ph.D., and I recently completed my pre-doctoral internship in Clinical Psychology at the CAMH-Clarke Site in Toronto, ON, and doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. I have no doubt that you are familiar with me, as I was featured in Mclean's Magazine in 1997 as one of Canada's "Leaders of Tomorrow: 100 Canadian's to Watch".

I am deeply dismayed to hear that you are considering a closure of the Psychology Department at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Unlike other health professions that do not rely on systematic empirically driven clinical services, psychological services are proven effective! Research shows psychological services reduce suffering, save time and save money; psychological factors and human behaviour are at the core of health and health care across the continuum of care; research shows psychological services reduce the use of emergency rooms, hospitalization, pharmaceuticals and physician services (system utilization); access to psychological services for all Canadians and not just the upper income groups.

Given these substantiated FACTS, I urge you to refrain from closing St. Michael's Department of Psychology. In fact, the long term economic and health care burden incurred by such an impulsive and unwise decision will be significant, and will outweigh the short-term gains (if they exist at all).

Sincerely,

Anne Israeli, Ph.D.