

**Dr. Paul A. Jerry  
Medecine Hat, Alberta**

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Colette Cassidy  
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Dear Colette Cassidy,

I was distressed to learn of the closure of the psychology department at St. Michael's hospital. While it may seem like a simple solution in the short run to save money, research clearly shows that ongoing psychological treatment in conjunction with medical health care reduces costs, typically in the areas of need for additional services, returns to hospital beds, decreased use of the emergency room, greater adherence to treatment regimens, and improvement in overall quality of life.

Before taking such a drastic measure, please reconsider the feasibility of studying the health benefits of psychology at this hospital. I believe you will find that the contributions of psychology far outweigh its costs.

Please also consider the value that we as Canadians hold for access to a publicly funded health-care system. Speaking as a former Ontario resident who now lives in Alberta, I see first-hand the effects of the two-tier system on those who cannot pay. This is not a road that Ontario wants to travel.

Dr. Paul A. Jerry, Assistant Professor  
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