

**Todd Kettner, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Nelson, British Columbia**

March 27, 2002

Mr. Jeffrey Lozon, CEO
St. Michael's Hospital
30 Bond Street, Toronto, ON M5B 1W8

Dear Mr. Lozon:

I was shocked and alarmed to read about St. Michael's decision to close their psychology department in the March 8, 2002 issue of the Toronto Star. Although I currently live and practise in British Columbia, I am concerned about any loss of psychological services to patients anywhere in Canada.

At a time when Canadians, especially those from middle or lower income brackets and children, are in desperate need of greater access to psychological services, this proposed elimination of services is doing just the opposite of what Canadians need. Not only will the patients previously served by your service be unlikely to access psychology services privately, but eliminating your internship training component will add to the already critical shortage of psychologists in this country.

I am a Canadian citizen and was raised in Canada. But I studied and worked in the United States. Although our neighbours to the south have their own problems with their health care system, American hospitals and publicly funded clinics generally provide greater access to critical psychological services than their Canadian counterparts. We cannot let Canada fall further behind in providing quality health care to our citizens. We should instead take pride in our health care system and work to increase access to empirically validated, well-researched and cost-effective psychological assessments and treatments.

Please resist the pressure to take short-term cost saving measures that will result in increased overall health care costs and decreased quality of life to the citizens of Toronto and Ontario.

Sincerely,

Todd Kettner, Ph.D., R. Psych.