

**Dr. William Newby, C.Psych.**  
379 Dufferin Avenue  
London, Ontario, Canada N6B 1Z5

March 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Clement:

As I imagine you are now well aware, St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto has closed its psychological services, and, two months before the end of their internship, has thereby destroyed the internship experiences of two psychology interns.

I write to express my deep concern, and to urge your government to take prompt action to rectify this situation and to put an end to what has become a trend under your watch. My concerns about St. Michael's action are these:

- 1) Hospitals provide one of the few publicly-funded points of access to psychological services, and the elimination of psychological services in hospitals moves us further into a two-tier health care system, to which I understand you have stated you are opposed;
- 2) The provision of psychological services, as I have documented in previous communications with your office, clearly reduce the use of other health care resources, and reduce overall costs to the system. They are demonstrably effective both with respect to treatment and prevention. The current funding structure for hospitals, which does not protect psychological services, encourages short-sighted and counterproductive planning, of which this is a good example;
- 3) Users of psychological services are not as likely as the users of other health-care resources to be advocates for their needs. Thus, we continue to disadvantage further those who are already disadvantaged; and
- 4) Hospital-based psychology provides important training, not just to people such as the interns mentioned above, but to physicians and other health care professionals. Again, we jeopardize the future of the health care system as we allow the degradation of health care services such as those at St. Michael's.

I look forward to your government's response to this clear example of irresponsible planning that is promoting the erosion of our health care system.

Sincerely

Dr. William Newby, C.Psych.