



Sharon
Sutherland

Alliance Receives Three-Year Funding

The Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health has received confirmation that it will be receiving a three-year operating grant from the provincial government. This funding will ensure sustaining funding for the Alliance to continue its advocacy work.

The Alliance is made up of 11 provincial voluntary and professional organizations, along with several associate members, each with significant involvement in mental health services for Albertans. It played a key role in advising the government on recent amendments to the Alberta Mental Health Act, through Bill 31 (see story and link). It also provides ongoing input to various bodies doing mental health studies and looking at ways to enhance services.

The Alliance is hosted by the Alberta Division of CMHA, but until recently this grant had no staff and depended entirely on volunteered time from its members. This was not deemed to be a sustainable position and therefore it applied for provincial government support.

At a recent meeting, the Alliance Executive was rewarded for its strong performance in the past year by being re-elected by its membership. Executive members are: **Sharon Sutherland** (Schizophrenia Society of Alberta), President; **Pierre Berube** (Psychologists' Association of Alberta), Vice-President; and **Barbara Lowe** (College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta), Treasurer. In addition, **Tom Shand** of CMHA Alberta sits as a special advisor to the Executive, and **Orrin Lyseng** has been hired on a part-time contract as the Executive Director of the Alliance.

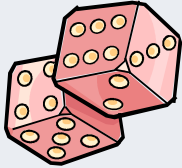
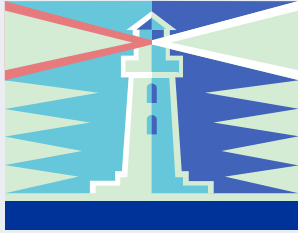
Healthy Vision

CMHA Alberta has joined HealthVision2020, a group of Alberta-based organizations advocating for the provincial government to form an arms-length health promotion foundation. It would add one percent to the health care budget to dedicate to promotion through the foundation.

All parties surveyed during the recent Alberta provincial election were in favour of increased support for health promotion and prevention, with all but the Conservatives endorsing the formation of a foundation to support this concept. Lobbying efforts are continuing post-election.

For updated information, see www.healthvision2020.ca .





Jodi Cohen

Nova Scotia to Host CMHA National

CMHA National's National Conference this year will be held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia – across the harbour from Halifax, from August 22 - 23. The theme will be *Making Waves for Change From Surviving to Thriving*, with a wide range of keynote speakers and workshops open to all registrants. Coinciding with the conference will be CMHA's National Annual General Meeting and various internal meetings of Board and staff.

For conference information and registration, see www.novascotia.cmha.ca .

Casino Coming in June

CMHA Alberta's casino will take place at Palace Casino at West Edmonton Mall on June 15 and 16. If you would like to volunteer, please phone the CMHA office at 482-6576.

Alberta Mental Health Act Amended

As one of its final acts before the end of the fall sitting, the Alberta Legislature gave final reading to [Bill 31](#) amending the Alberta Mental Health Act. CMHA and the Alliance actively participated in providing input to the changes and overall we were pleased with the process and the results. However, several key issues were left to be dealt with through regulations, and so they will be closely monitored to ensure that the best interests of Albertans living with mental illness are served. Updates will be provided at www.cmha.ab.ca .

My Mental Health

The *My Mental Health* campaign, developed by CMHA Calgary and introduced across Alberta over the past year, will be carried on by CMHA Alberta. It has not yet been determined whether the major media advertising will continue, but the web site (www.mymentalhealth.ca) and booklet will be maintained.

"This was a very successful initiative. We are indebted to CMHA Calgary and the sponsors of this project for their excellent work and we look forward to carrying the *My Mental Health* torch across Alberta and possibly beyond," said CMHA Alberta President **Kathleen Frei**.

Names in the News

John Stokdjik has resigned as Treasurer of CMHA Alberta and CMHA National as he has taken on a new financial position with the Mental Health Commission of Canada. **David Copus** is the new Treasurer/Vice President Finance of CMHA Alberta.

Copus will also be assuming the role as Division representative to the CMHA National Board of Directors, taking over from **Jodi Cohen**. After 11 years of service, she is stepping down from the National and Calgary CMHA Boards but will continue as Past President of the Alberta Division Board.



The Hon. Ron Liepert



CMHA Alberta wishes to commend MLAs **Dave Hancock** and **Fred Horne** for their thorough understanding and strong leadership in the area of mental health, while they were serving as Minister and his Assistant in the Ministry of Health and Wellness. In the recent Provincial Election, Hancock was re-elected but then switched cabinet positions with former Education Minister **Ron Liepert**. Horne was elected for the first time. Both Horne and Hancock were instrumental in garnering input and support for Bill 31.



We look forward to meeting with Minister Liepert to share perspectives on how we can work together to better serve Albertans with mental illness. We are pleased that he has indicated that expanding mental health and addiction services will be one of the priorities of his health plan for the province.



Ron Mulick was recently elected as President of the CMHA East Central Region. Rounding out the Executive will be: **Peter LeBlanc**, Past President; **Craig Martin**, Vice-President; **Joe McMorrow**, Treasurer; and **Betty Friesen**, Secretary.



Debbie Jabbour is the new President of the CMHA Edmonton Region, replacing **Valerie Wright**, who has moved to Fort McMurray.



Tom Shand, Executive Director of CMHA Alberta, has recently taken on two co-chair roles, one with **Aggy King-Smith** (AMHB) of the AMHB Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee, and the other on the CMHA National Fund Development Committee with **Nadia Power**, President of CMHA Newfoundland Division.



Our sincere thanks and congratulations to **Rachel (Yakimchuk)** and **Andrew Melnychuk**, who made a generous donation to CMHA in lieu of guest favours at their March 1 wedding.

Mental Health Week Strikes a Balance

This year's theme for Mental Health Week is *Work-Life Balance: Make it Your Business*. Sponsored nationwide by Desjardins Financial Security, it takes place from May 5 - 11. Look for activities in your CMHA Region.

Contact us! We're the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Division, at:

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