



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES
Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses, Toronto, October 25-28, 2011

I'm sorry I couldn't be with you today. I would have loved to applaud you in person for the important work you're doing in mental health, not just at this conference, but during the week when you are working with clients, families and the community.

Your gathering here this week is another significant contribution to bringing real change and attention to the issues around mental health.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is working towards those same goals.

We have a mandate to create the country's first-ever Mental Health Strategy, one that will provide leadership and contribute to systems change nationwide.

As a mental health nurse myself, I am incredibly proud that this Strategy will include **nursing** voices and we will continue to consult with you throughout the life of the Commission.

When we consulted on the draft Strategy this summer, the CFMHN and CNA were at the table providing feedback that was both detailed and passionate.

I am grateful for the support you've given us from our earliest days, and I'm thankful that you will be joining Canadians to stand up for the Strategy when it's released next year, along with recommendations for the federal and provincial governments.

Through my many years as a psychiatric nurse, and now as an administrator with the privilege of leading the Mental Health Commission of Canada, I've never seen so much enthusiasm for improving the mental health system. You have helped to spark that energy. And by continuing to work together, all of us can make a better system for our patients, friends, families.... and for each other.

I wish you the best in your deliberations during the conference and I look forward to seeing you, my colleagues and friends in other venues throughout the year.

Louise Bradley
President & CEO,
Mental Health Commission of Canada