

The Telegram (St. John's)

Metro/Provincial News, Saturday, April 1, 2006, p. A4

Budget 2006

Budget reactions

"The Newfoundland and Labrador Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association applauds the provincial government on the funding initiatives announced in (the) budget. This budget indicates that government is moving forward on the commitments outlined in its policy framework entitled, Working Together for Mental Health.

"The Canadian Mental Health Association supports the allocation of \$1 million in funding to enhance primary mental health care services in the province. It is well documented that as citizens we use primary care services as a point of entry when needing mental health care. These funds will help to ease the pressures for service.

"Also, the \$1 million allocated for addiction treatment supports will address the needs of citizens who are struggling with addiction and the resulting negative impact on mental health. It is also very significant to see funds allocated for a suicide prevention initiative in order to address this serious problem in some aboriginal communities.

"This budget also addresses some of the social determinants of health, including income, with an increase for those people with mental health problems who are receiving social assistance, expansion of prescription drug coverage and potential educational opportunities."

Geoff Chaulk, Canadian Mental Health Association

Category: News

Length: Short, 165 words

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Doc. : news-20060401-ET-0029