



Canadian Coalition of Alternative Mental Health Resources

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Dear Coalition Members:

As you all may know, three of our colleagues have been appointed to the Mental Health Commission of Canada. They are Joan Edwards-Karmazyn, William Mussel and Chris Summerville. Joan and Chris are Directors on the Board and William is Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. On behalf of the Executive of the Canadian Coalition of Alternative Mental Health Resources, we congratulate them and support them wholeheartedly in this monumental opportunity both for themselves and the mental health system per se.

Chris, William and Joan are dedicated, concerned and earnest individuals who will represent the Consumer and Family perspectives from knowledgeable and experiential perspectives. We wish them and the Commission absolute success and many significant accomplishments for the enhancement of the mental health systems nation wide and the continued empowerment of the Consumer and Family roles within these systems. Most importantly, we are looking forward to a system that truly represents the needs of and provides the timely, essential care and support that individuals require in order to recover a quality of life that matches their personal goals.

In addition, there is another individual who has taken on a significant research initiative on Stigma for the Commission. This person is Neasa Martin. On behalf of the Coalition, we congratulate Neasa, as well. This was an intelligent choice and we hope to see her name on many reports down the road.

Together, these individuals speak to the success of our initiative as developed and sponsored by the National Network for Mental Health, Connie McKnight and the Board of Directors who saw the need of it and managed to 'pull it off'. I am sure there is more to come. I ask each of you to think upon what has been accomplished and what there is still to be done as we begin a new season and a new opportunity through the Mental Health Commission.

Congratulations again to Joan, Chris, William and Neasa,

Respectfully,
Laurie Albertini,
for the Executive of the CCAMHR