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Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health
House of Commons
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RE: Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Dear Minister Bennett,

The Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses (CFMHN) extends sincere congratulations on your historic appointment to the newly created and much needed role of Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Even before COVID, mental health, including substance use, has been burdened by misperceptions and lack of parity with physical health. Now, a parallel pandemic of mental distress and illness has unfolded alongside the viral COVID pandemic. We are grateful that serious consideration was given to the health of Canadians in the creation of this role, your appointment – the first winner of a Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) award! – and the planned Canada Mental Health Transfer.

As the national voice for psychiatric and mental health nurses of all designations across Canada, a specialty group of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), a member of CAMIMH, and a collaborator with the Mental Health Commission of Canada, we look forward to offering our expertise and perspective as we collaboratively strive to support the public and our profession towards recovery and health.

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses, again, congratulations!

Tracy Thiele, RPN, MN, CPMHN(C); President, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sarah Flogen, RN, PhD, CPMHN(C); President-Elect, Ottawa, Ontario

Florence Budden, BN.RN.CPMHN(C); Chair, Advocacy Portfolio, St. John's, Newfoundland