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ASSOCIATION



Canadian Executive Council on Addictions  
Conseil exécutif canadien sur les toxicomanies

September 17, 2002

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Prime Minister's Office  
Langevin Block  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to implement a national drug strategy this Fall as part of the Government's policy priority action plan. Each of the organizations signing this letter have had formal resolutions endorsed by their national membership calling on the Federal government to fulfill its Red Book III promise of a new national drug strategy. Our collective membership represents:

- Over 350 Police departments represented by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police;
- Over 28,000 police officers represented by the Canadian Police Association;
- Over 53,000 physicians represented by the Canadian Medical Association;
- Over 175 physicians and scientists specializing in the field of addiction medicine represented by the Canadian Society for Addiction Medicine;
- Over 50 municipal police governance bodies represented by the Canadian Association of Police Boards, that collectively govern over 20,000 police personnel;
- All addiction agencies operating under a legislative mandate or recognized as the provincial authority represented by the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions; and
- Canada's only national addiction agency being the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

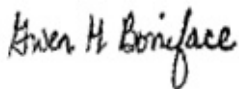
As you well know, the issue of substance abuse and addiction has a tremendous negative impact on individuals, families and communities across Canada. In addition, it exacerbates a strained health care system and is one of the greatest causes of crime and violence in Canada. Simply put, it is one of the most important, yet preventable, negative impacts on our society today and especially on the future generation of tomorrow.

The Liberal government's priorities in the area of First Nations, youth, health care and innovation are indeed critically important to the ongoing prosperity of this country. Nonetheless, it is recognized that substance abuse and addiction cut across each of these and that specific targeted strategies need to be addressed in step and as complementary to these other policy priorities.

Our collective vision is for the Federal government to implement a comprehensive and coordinated national drug strategy that acts as a catalyst to draw in all orders of government into a singularly focused national effort. We believe that Canada needs and deserves a national drug strategy that invests in research, prevention, treatment, enforcement and innovative programs. Canada possesses the knowledge and resolve to make this happen, however we require Federal leadership and engagement to make your vision a reality.

Our commitment to you Mr. Prime Minister, is the collective support, participation and engagement of each of our organizations. We are not asking the Federal government to deal with this alone. The impact of substance abuse and addiction on a daily basis demands a truly national Canadian Drug Strategy that is integrated, resourced and sustainable in order to make our country a safer and healthier place for all Canadians to live, learn, work and play.

Sincerely,




Commissioner Gwen Boniface  
President of the Canadian Association of  
Chiefs of Police  
Commissioner of the Ontario  
Provincial Police



Chief Barry King  
Chair of the Canadian Centre on Substance  
Abuse Board of Directors  
Chief of Brockville Police Services



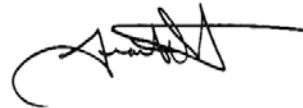
Dr. Bill Campbell  
President of the Canadian Society for  
Addiction Medicine



Herb Kreling  
President of the Canadian Association of  
Police Boards  
Councillor, City of Ottawa



Dr. Dana Hanson  
President of the Canadian Medical  
Association



Grant Obst  
President of the Canadian Police  
Association  
Member of the Saskatoon Police Service

Michel Perron  
President of the Canadian Executive  
Council on Addictions  
Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian  
Centre on Substance Abuse

c.c. The Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Martin Cauchon, Attorney General of Canada and Minister of Justice  
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Solicitor General of Canada  
Ms. Paddy Torsney, Member of Parliament for Burlington, Ontario