



CANADIAN MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

Attn: Assignment Editors

**THE CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY BRANCH OPENS ITS DOOR EVEN WIDER WITH
\$1,000,000 OF RENOVATIONS COMPLETED**

Windsor, ON (March 4, 2005) – The Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch (CMHA-WECB) celebrated the completion of over \$1,000,000 in renovations today with an Open House. The event paid tribute to the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care's commitment to mental health services in Windsor and Essex County.

"Today, with the completion of this major renovation, we have been given an opportunity to look toward the future with a vision of expanded services and enhanced quality of care for individuals with mental illness in our community," said John Clark, President of the Board of Directors, CMHA-WECB. "In 2004, our Agency reached over 15,000 individuals and provided services for over 5600 people. We believe this investment will allow us to continue the work we do today and to be prepared for the challenges that may lie ahead."

A capital funds grant from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care enabled CMHA-WECB to transform workspace, creating a more effective environment for program staff and for services to be delivered. The renovation also included a new location for our on-site restaurant, Serendipity Café. As part of the Vocational Employment Program, the café offers an experiential work experience, and is open to the public Monday to Friday for lunch.

This capital project reflected the Ministry's ongoing commitment to ensure the continuation of mental health services to the Windsor-Essex community and to accommodate the needs of staff that are vital to the successful delivery of these services.

"Today is a celebration of a project that began four years ago," said Pamela Hines, CEO, CMHA-WECB. "Today, we are fortunate to have a building that affords continued growth that will soon include a satellite community health centre and expanded services including early intervention, justice and subsidized housing."

Initially, the move to 1400 Windsor in 1995 was a leap into larger space to provide for growing staff and services. The move also saved the Agency \$80,000 per year in operational costs by moving from rented space. Almost ten years later, the Agency is approaching 100 staff and the roster of programs now extends from children to adults, from mental illness to mental health. Prior to renovating, the once seemingly spacious 1400 Windsor Avenue was challenged to accommodate the growth and expansion. Today, the space can accommodate staff and services and has the capability for increased capacity and expansion.

(more)

CMHA-WECEB programs and services include:

- *Community Support Services*, a program to provide flexible one to one support for individuals living with persistent mental illness through a continuum of case management functions utilizing person-centred planning;
- *Prevention Services*, mental health services open to the general public including public education, bereavement programs and an unemployment stress program;
- *Resource Centre*, programs geared to specific populations or services for individuals with SMI including advocacy, outreach and justice;
- *Housing Services*, a program to provide housing for more than 135 individuals with a serious mental illness through a 24 Hour Home, 3 group homes and 110 independent rental units throughout Windsor-Essex;
- *Employment Services*, employment and workplace training programs that include property maintenance for all Agency assets and experiential learning via Serendipity Café;
- *Integrated Health Services*, A primary care clinic with 2 full-time nurse practitioners and additional medical support on a part-time basis including: 2 general practitioners, 2 psychiatrists and 1 psychologist. A new satellite community health centre to open on-site in 2005 that will see these services expanded and increased;
- *Workplace Health Services*, a contract or fee for service program geared to companies and organizations to provide support to their employees through an employee assistance program as part of their extended health benefits.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch was established in 1971 and is part of a national voluntary organization that provides mental health service to Canadians in 135 communities.

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