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The Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre
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[CAMH](#) (Centre for Addiction & Mental Health)

BULLETIN

*Information for consumer/survivors of the mental health system,
those who serve us, and those who care about us.*

December 1st, 2005

Bulletin 312

C/S INFO CENTRE DROP-IN HOURS: 1-4 Monday-Friday. PHONE HOURS: 9-5 Monday-Friday
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Peer Support at its Best --- Help for the Holidays

It's another call for submissions !!!!!

For some, this is a difficult time of the year.

How do you cope with the holidays? Share your strategies with others. We'll print what we receive in the December 15th issue of the Bulletin. Call us, write us, or email us, just send in those ideas and tips. Send them anonymously or tell us your name. If you do identify yourself, we'll enter your name for a drawing of a fabulous prize, as yet to be determined, hmmm. What can I think of? Gift certificate at a coffee shop of your choice. No wait, probably keeping the caffeine intake down is one of the strategies. I'll think of something.

Regards, Helen.

Newsbytes

By Glen Dewar

Local Health System Integration Act introduced in Ontario On November 24, 2005, the Minister of Health introduced in the Ontario Legislature new legislation giving more power to the 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) across the province. For information, please go to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web site at www.health.gov.on.ca and read both the press release and backgrounder which may be found on the home page under the link "McGuinty Government Gives Local Communities Real Power Over Delivery of Health Services." The link to the backgrounder, which gives more details about the legislation, is at the end of the press release.

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Federal Minister of Health Dosanjh announces establishment of national mental health commission Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh today announced that the government of Canada will establish a Canadian Mental Health Commission, in consultation with the provinces and territories and stakeholders. The Canadian Mental Health Commission will enable greater collaboration among governments and stakeholders in order to better address mental health and mental illness in Canada.

"The Government of Canada recognizes that mental health and mental illness are complex issues that have a profound impact on Canadians," said Minister Dosanjh. "I am pleased to announce the establishment of a Commission. It will assist federal, provincial and territorial governments and non-governmental organizations to explore opportunities for collaboration on promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental illness. The Commission is an important step in the Government of Canada's response to the issue of mental health." The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology has undertaken a review of mental health, mental illness and addictions in Canada. However, together with mental health stakeholders, the Senate Committee is calling for the establishment of a national commission to address mental health issues in Canada.

The Commission will be a focal point within Canada for collaboration on mental health and mental illness to help inform the development of sound mental health policies. The Commission will contribute to information and knowledge exchange, help to increase public awareness to address the stigma attached with mental illness and addictions, and would be an important source of information for Canadians.

"This commission is an important first step in addressing these critical issues and to successfully reduce the negative perceptions surrounding people with mental illness," said Senator Michael Kirby. "When researching mental health in Canada, the Committee members and I have noted the level of fragmentation in the system, the need for improved information sharing, and the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with a mental illness."

"I applaud Minister Dosanjh for this outstanding example of leadership in a field, mental health, where leadership is urgently called for," said the Honourable Michael Wilson, Special Ministerial Advisor on Mental Health. "This is a significant advance in all our efforts to improve the lives of those living with mental illness and will contribute to a real national effort to prevent the disabling effects of mental illness through education, early detection and research." "We are pleased to see that the federal government is answering our call for leadership and action," said Phil Upshall, National Executive Director of the Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health. "This is a major move forward that will ensure that mental health and mental illness are addressed on an urgent basis and given the level of attention that is commensurate with their impact on Canadians."

The plan to create a Commission will be developed in consultation with the provinces and territories, mental health stakeholders and Aboriginal leaders. The Commission will be an independent organization which will operate at arms length from governments. Once established it is anticipated that it will:

- provide leadership to make mental health a long-term high priority for governments;
- facilitate the exchange of research findings and best practices between governments and stakeholders;
- work to reduce the fragmentation of mental health and mental illness policies and programs in Canada;
- develop strategies to help increase Canadians understanding of mental health and mental illness and reduce stigma.

Board membership will be comprised of representatives of federal/provincial/territorial governments and mental health stakeholders, including a non-governmental board chair. The selection process of board membership remains to be determined but it is anticipated that the members of the Board will be announced by the summer of 2006.

Mental health, mental illness, ailments and addictions have a profound impact on Canadians. It is estimated that one in five Canadians will experience a mental illness in his or her lifetime, while almost one million Canadians currently live with a severe or persistent mental illness. Individual mental health is influenced by a wide range of social, biological and environmental factors, many of which lie beyond the scope of the health sector. When diagnosed, mental illness is responsible for one-third of the total number of days Canadians spend in hospital each year, and the estimated cost of mental illness and addictions to the Canadian economy is about \$18 billion per year.

The announcement builds on the following series of initiatives undertaken this year in the area of mental health:

- In February, Minister Dosanjh appointed the Honourable Michael Wilson as a Special Ministerial Advisor on mental health in the federal workplace and announced the creation of an Inter-departmental Task Force on Mental Health and Mental Illness, which includes over 20 federal departments and agencies. http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2005/2005_4_e.html

- On April 13, 2005 the Minister announced \$3.2 million funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to fund research projects aimed at improving mental health in the workplace. <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27805.html>
- On October 20, 2005 the federal government announced that the Integrated Strategy on Healthy Living and Chronic Disease will provide \$4.5 million over 5 years to lay the groundwork for the development of a Pan-Canadian Strategy on Mental Health and Mental Illness. http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2005/2005_37_e.html
- In September, 2004, the Government of Canada had also announced funding of \$65 million for the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, with a specific focus on Aboriginal mental health. http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2004/2004_commit-engage_e.html

For further information: Public Enquiries: (613) 957-2991, 1-866 225-0709; Health Canada news releases are available on the Internet at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/media/

The above is the full text of the media release issued by Health Canada. The Toronto Star also published a story about this by family issues reporter Andrea Gordon, on page F4 of their Nov. 25th edition.

The Newsbytes Column is compiled by Glen Dewar, Web Site Content Manager at Community Resource Connections of Toronto (CRCT).

Changes to the Special Diet Allowance Result in Protest March

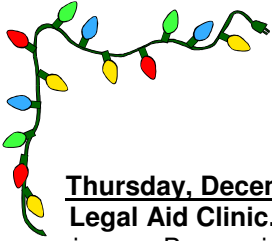
by Darlene Stimson

On Saturday, November 26, 2005, about 500 people gathered at Nathan Phillips Square to demonstrate our collective outrage at this government's treatment of the poor. We came on foot and in wheelchairs, from babies in strollers to Raging Grannies. We carried tambourines and drums, noisemakers and bullhorns. John Clarke, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty [OCAP] organizer, addressed the crowd, saying that OCAP is "in no way whatsoever reconciled to this vicious and appalling cutback. We did not come out here today to register a protest; we came out here today to initiate a war against this government. People from all walks of life are going to be combining to oppose this horrendous measure. Health professionals who have been vital to delivering this important benefit to people are organizing. People all over the province in various walks of life are beginning to take a stand but more than anything it will be the families and the communities affected by this cut who will mobilize and who will defeat this vicious attack."

As the crowd walked, we chanted. "Stop the war on the poor, make the rich pay" and "Pupatello we say hello we cannot survive on Jello". (my hat is off to whoever came up with that one – it's not easy to rhyme with Pupatello!) Passing truck drivers honked in support, pedestrians looked on with mixed reactions, and volunteers handed out hot chocolate. The march ended outside the Sutton Place Hotel, where Minister Pupatello has a condominium, paid for in part with her \$20,000 a year housing *subsidy*. If the government is so short of funds, how about cutting some of those big ticket perks boys and girls?

The police presence became even more obvious at Sutton Place, as some of the demonstrators went inside the building. The mood became more tense and for a while it looked like things were going to get ugly. I chose to leave when Dana Milne of the Income Security Advocacy Centre did; she is going to be my placement supervisor in the New Year and I didn't want to compromise my placement with an arrest record!

I contacted OCAP's office on Monday to confirm that there were, in fact, no arrests. I intend to continue making a visible show of my support for OCAP whenever I can, and I also hope to be able to keep readers of the Bulletin informed about the ongoing work of the Income Security Advocacy Centre, who have a number of campaigns ongoing to "Raise the Rates" and get the province to keep their "Hands Off" our Child Tax Benefit. DS



EVENTS



Thursday, December 1st

Legal Aid Clinic. Free. An Ontario Legal Aid lawyer offers free advice and guidance on a variety of legal issues. By appointment only. Call 416 395-5720 to book a 15 minute appointment. Main Floor, Program Room, Downsview Library. 2793 Keele Street. 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

World AIDS Day (Students United for AIDS Orphans) \$5. DJ Mike Sloan spins hiphop and R&B. Apothecary, 340 Adelaide Street West. Info: dauria@utoronto.ca. 9:00 pm.

U of T Faculty of Music. Free. Thursday at noon: Hindustani Music Presentations. Tasa. Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park. Info: 416 978-3744. 12:00 noon.

Building Self Esteem After Leaving an Abusive Relationship: Women's Workshop. \$5. Scarborough Women's Centre, 2100 Ellesmere Road. Info: 416 439-7111. 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Ubuntu Night (Canada Africa Partnership on AIDS) \$10. DJs Mike Gleeson, Chicklet, Sarah Mixington, African artists and more. Supermarket, 268 Augusta Avenue. Info: 416 651-1057. 9:00 pm.

Friday, December 2nd

Street Haven Women's Choir and Toronto Choral Society. Admission by donation. An afternoon of seasonal favourites at St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power Street (south/east of Parliament and Queen). Info: www.streethaven.com. 1:00 pm.

Email Made Easy. Free. Communicate with family and friends by email. Learn to use Web based email services, set up a free email account and send your first message. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Info: 416 393-7209. 10:00 – 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 3rd

Sounds of the Season Holiday Concert. University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus. Admission with a non perishable/canned good. Academic Resources Theatre, 1265 Military Trail. Info: 416 287-7076. 3:00 pm.

Christmas Around the World Festival. Free. Nathan Phillips Square. 100 Queen Street West, Info: 416 368-8743. Runs December 3rd and 4th - all day event.

Cavalcade of Lights. Free. Saturday Night Fireworks. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West. Skating after the show to music with a D.J. Info: 416 338-0338. 7:00 pm.



Sunday, December 4th

Feminist Book Discussion Group. Free. "Jane Fonda: a life so far" by Jane Fonda. The North York Chapter of the Older Women's Network invites women to meet and share views and ideas about selected books. The focus is on feminist issues of interest to older women. New members welcome. North York Central Library, Room #1, 5120 Yonge Street. Info: 416 395-5639. 1:30 – 4:30 pm.

An Unexpected Guest. Students/seniors \$13.00; Adults \$16.00 Adapted from Agatha Christie's book, a whodunnit murder mystery. The Village Playhouse, 2190 Bloor Street West. Info: 416 767-7702. Matinee 2:00 pm.

Sunday Concert Series - Toronto Parks and Recreation. Free. Harvey Segal Band Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive. Info: 416 396-7398. 2:00 pm.

Music at Metropolitan. Carols United. Donations accepted to benefit the Metropolitan's Benevolent Fund. Singalong of old favourites and carols from around the world with the Metropolitan Silver Band & organ. Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East. Info: 416 363-0331. 7:00 pm.

Monday, December 5th

U of T Faculty of Music. Free. World of Music: Japanese Drumming, Gamelan, Tabla and Vocal Ensembles. Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park. Info: 416 978-3744. 12:10 pm.

Tuesday, December 6th

Koffler Celebrates Channukah. \$20.00. Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir and Sisters of Sheynville. Koffler Centre of the Arts, Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst Street. Info: 416 636-1880. 8:00 pm.



Wednesday, December 7th

Web Basics. Free. Explore the Internet. If you have little or no experience with the Internet this hands on training will help you search the World Wide Web. Basic keyboarding and mouse skills are required. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Info: 416 393-7209. 10:00 – 12:00 noon.

Employment Assistance. Free. Need help finding a job? Drop by and talk to an Employment Worker from YMCA Employment Services Information Warehouse. York Woods Library, 1785 Finch Ave. West. Info: 416 395-5980. 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Theatresports: Bad Dog Theatre presents Wed-night Competitive Improv. \$5. Features audience voting. Bad Dog Theatre, 138 Danforth Avenue. Info: 416 491-3115, www.baddogtheatre.com. 8 pm.

Thursday, December 8th

Fayetteville: Forward March to Peace. Film and Introduction with the Filmmaker. Free. Fayetteville is the home of Fort Bragg, and in March 2005, Laura Jones and Bennett Jones-Phillips joined 4,500 protesters there and documented the growing resistance in U.S. society and military to the war in Iraq. What can we do in Canada to support these growing movements? Danforth/Coxwell Library, 1675 Danforth Avenue. Toronto East for Peace. For more information: te4peace@yahoo.ca 6:30 pm.

Web Basics for Seniors. Free. Part 1 Learn to explore the Internet and search the World Wide Web if you are an older adult with little or no experience. Basic keyboarding and mouse skills are required in this hands on class. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Info: 416 393-7209. 10:00 – 12:00 noon.

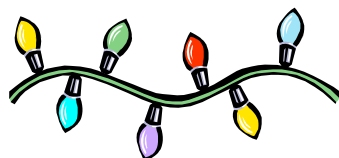


Memories and History. Free. Christmas Stories. Alistair McLeod reads from his acclaimed book "To Everything There is a Season: A Cape Breton Christmas Story" a story set on farms on the west coast of Cape Breton NS. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Info: 416 395-5577. 7:00 pm.



Friday, December 9th

Arm Chair Travel. Free. Slide presentation with raconteur Irwin Patterson. This week is Portugal. Hillcrest Library, Auditorium. 5801 Leslie Street. Info: 416 395-5830. 1:30 – 3:30 pm.



Saturday, December 10th

Cavalcade of Lights. Free. Saturday Night Fireworks. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West. Skating after the show to music with a D.J. Info: 416 338-0338. 7:00 pm.

Sunday, December 11th

Tideline. PWYC. English language world premiere by Quebec playwright Wajdi Mouawad. Eight performers portray 50 characters in 52 scenes of an epic journey to a war torn land. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst Street. For more information: 416 504-9971. Matinee 2:00 pm.

Monday, December 12th

Allan Gardens Conservatory Christmas Flower Show. Free. This long standing holiday tradition features spectacular topiary masterpieces including intricate Christmas wreaths, garlands and trees. South side of Carlton Street, between Jarvis and Sherbourne. Info: 416 392-7288. Daily Dec. 4th to Jan. 17th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Tuesday, December 13th

Sexual Health @ the Library. Free. A representative from Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention provides workshops, literature and brochures on sexual health such as birth control, self esteem and body image, STI's (sexually transmitted infections) and HIV/AIDS. Register in person or call 416 395-5880. York Woods Library, 1785 Finch Ave. West. Room #1 and Foyer. 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Toonie Tuesdays Amateur Night at Yuk Yuk's Downtown. \$2.00. Yuk Yuk's presents students and up-and-coming amateurs, 224 Richmond Street West. Info: 416 967-6425. 9:30 pm.

Wednesday, December 14th

Older Women's Network. Free. Book discussion group. "Dancing at the Red Sea" By Alanna Mitchell. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Room 224A. Info: 416 395-5535. 2:00 – 4:00 pm.



Thursday, December 15th

Legal Aid Clinic. Free. Obtain legal advice and file for payment assistance. Call 416 396-8850 in advance for appointment. Cedarbrae Library, 545 Markham Rd. 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Surfing Seniors' Drop-in. Free. Have you done an internet session but feel you need some more help? Come meet other seniors who are exploring the World Wide Web. No registration required. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Info: 416 393-7209. 10:00 – noon.

For even more events, see the information about the Holiday Happenings publication in the Announcement section of the Bulletin, below.



Announcements

CRCT Holiday Happenings 2005 Edition Once again this year, Community Resource Connections of Toronto (CRCT) is producing its popular Holiday Happenings publication which lists many free and inexpensive things for consumer/survivors (and everyone else!) to do in Toronto during the month of December and on New Year's Day.

If all goes well, we hope to have this new edition of Holiday Happenings completed and posted to our web site www.crct.org sometime on or shortly after December 1, 2005 in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. Watch the home page of CRCT's web site for a link to the online version of Holiday Happenings. A limited number of printed copies will be available for pickup at the reception desk at CRCT's main office, 366 Adelaide St. East Suite 230 (intersection Adelaide St. East and Sherbourne St.). If you are planning to drop by to pick up a copy, please be sure to phone first (416-482-4103) to check our hours and that we have copies available. We encourage people to download their copies from our web site wherever possible to allow the printed copies to be available to consumer/survivors without web access.

Inspirations Studio is having a Seasonal Sale December 2nd and 3rd at 761 Queen Street West, Suite 201 from noon to 6 pm. They will be selling pottery, paintings and jewelry all made by the women of Inspirations Studio. Inspirations Studio is a project of Sistering: and is a enterprise where low income women learn art and business skills, in effort to develop micro-businesses that will supplement their income.

CAMH Community Information Forums: There is Help...There is Hope Community Information Forums on Addiction and Mental Health", The title of the next forum will be The Experience of Coming Out in a Heterosexist World. For young people who are questioning their gender identity and/ or sexual orientation, the teenage years can be a difficult time. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two spirited, intersex and queer/questioning (LGBTTIQ) youth encounter pressures related to fitting in, finding social support, and counteracting homophobic attitudes held by family, classmates and society in general. LGBTTTIQ youth often delay sharing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and may miss out on the social and family support they need because they fear being bullied or rejected. For some young people in this situation, substance use can arise as a way of coping with negative feelings or as a way of fitting in with peers. For others the social isolation, the uncertainty they may feel about their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, the fear of coming out to friends, family and society at large, or coping with bullying if they are already out, may contribute to anxiety or depression, and in some cases place them at increased risk of injurious behaviour. In this forum, the issues LGBTTTIQ youth may face in coming out will be explored as well as ways in which service providers, friends and family members can support and make the environment a safer place for LGBTTIQ youth. Brought to you by The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in partnership with Central Toronto Youth Services

This forum will take place at 33 Russell Street site of CAMH, (northeast corner of College and Spadina) Wed Dec 7th 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Meeting Centre (room 2029, second floor). Admission is free. No registration is required. Seating is on a first-come basis. To confirm that a forum is taking place, call 416 535-8501 X 4553.

CAMH Presents its New Room Design

The full-scale model of the client room, ensuite washroom and partial corridor being built in the Queen Street Community Centre (Mall) during the past month will be unveiled later this week. The room is for the Alternate Milieu (AM) bed building, for the care and recovery of our clients in a more homelike setting -- the first building that will be built as part of CAMH's Phase 1 redevelopment.

We are hoping as many staff, clients and family members as possible will come out and tour the model. There will be feedback forms available to provide comments about design details such as the type of flooring, lighting, and windows that have been installed. Staff input on maintenance related issues and safety concerns will also be requested. This information will be compiled and recommendations presented to the Operations Integration Team. This committee, under the leadership of Executive Vice President Dev Chopra, has representation from a broad range of programs and departments within CAMH to ensure that critical operational input is provided into the redevelopment project in a timely manner.

The model has a ramp and is accessible; however, the model illustrates a typical client room and not one of the barrier free rooms (There is 1 barrier free room per floor in the AM Bed Buildings).

Open House tours in the community centre will begin on **December 5th** and will be as follows:

Monday Dec. 5 to Thursday Dec. 8 from **11 am to 4 pm**

Monday & Tuesday Dec. 12 and 13 from **11 am to 4 pm**

Tuesday Dec. 6, Thursday Dec. 8, and Tuesday Dec. 13 from **7 am to 9 am**

Groundbreaking for the Alternate Milieu bed building is expected summer 2006 for completion in the late fall of 2007.

ConnexOntario

ConnexOntario Health Services Information is the new corporation now operating the following addiction and mental health services: Drug and Alcohol Registry of Treatment; Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline; Mental Health Service Information Ontario. They are now all accessible through this website: www.connexontario.ca

This is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funded organization.

Annual General Meeting

Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario *International Day of Persons with Disabilities, "Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Action in Development"* will be held on Saturday, December 3rd, 12 pm– 4 pm at Women's Health in Women's Hands Board Room, 2 Carlton Street, (at Yonge) Suite 500. Raffle, entertainment and light Vegetarian/Halall refreshments will be served. Discussion will focus on the needed changes in ODSP Legislation and Regulations and also about our exciting new leadership project funded by the City of Toronto. The facility is Wheelchair accessible. ASL, Notetaker and attendant care services will be provided. Please confirm attendance by November 30, 2005, or if you have any concerns, please call 416-657-2211 or toll free:1-888-988-3999 Or e-mail at erdco_ca@yahoo.ca

Logo Contest

Mad Student Society Logo contest!

We are a group of students that represent the voice of others in post-secondary education who have or are currently experiencing the psychiatric system. We have come to the point in which we need a logo to represent our beautiful struggle.

Whoever creates the chosen logo will receive \$50 compensation

The logo should be:

- Representative of mad people in university, their struggle, gifts, and journeys
- Powerful, comical, and/or abstract
- Politically charged and empowering
- Representative of a growing social movement to end oppression of mad people/psychiatric survivors.

The logo should NOT be:

- Overly business like or "corporate"
- A charitable representation of students who experience the psychiatric system i.e. we are not objects of charity
- Associated or resemble any sort of medical profession or organization, or make any reference to mental illness or traditional notions of mental health.

Note: Because psychiatric survivors often face lack of opportunity and structural discrimination, and the fact our group is composed of mad students, preference will be given to those artists that identify as psychiatric survivors, or as people who have experienced the systems of mental health or psychiatry.

Deadline: January 31st 2006 EMAIL YOUR ENTRY INTO: yu217993@yorku.ca

Job Postings

1. A-WAY Express Full Time Permanent Employment Opportunity

A-WAY Express is a not-for-profit courier business run by and for survivors of the mental health system. A-WAY Express is looking for a full-time Courier Manager to join their dynamic team of dedicated employees. This is a full-time permanent position. Duties include hiring, training, supervising and scheduling courier and office staff. The Courier Manager will also advocate on behalf of employees regarding ODSP, CPP, housing and other training and employment opportunities. Applicants should be familiar with standard personnel practices and basic computer skills. Owning a car is an asset. For a full job description, contact the Executive Director at 416 424-2266 or execdir@awaycourier.ca. **The deadline for applying is December 31, 2005.**

St. Stephen's Community House Employment and Training Centre Job Developer 11 Month Contract

Reporting to the **School to Work** Transition Coordinator and working with the summer placement staff, the Job Developer is responsible for outreach to employers, finding and securing year round part-time work, and summer employment for students. Responsible for liaising with the schools' co-operative education departments with specific emphasis on the skilled trades and OYAP placements. University or Community College education – Marketing and/or Public Relations, HR Management or equivalent skills and related experience. Strong computer skills, persuasive and creative self starter with knowledge of the target group, sensitive and able to work in a multi-cultural/multi-racial environment. Second language an asset. \$38,339 annual salary, prorated for 11 month contract. Deadline to apply Wednesday, December 9, 2005 at 5 pm. St. Stephen's Community House is dedicated to achieving a workforce that is representative of the community we serve. For the complete posting, see the bulletin board at the Consumer /Survivor Info Centre or www.employmentflyers.org . Electronic applications will not be accepted.

Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch Assertive Community Treatment Team

Peer Support Worker

Position Type: Part Time, Permanent
Location: North York
Years Experience: 2

Application Deadline: Dec. 16, 2005

The Assertive Community Treatment Team is a community based program that works in partnership with adults who have a history of serious mental illness and who require a high level of community support. Our multidisciplinary team provides services that enhance community integration, quality of life and recovery from mental illness.

We are seeking a suitable candidate to join our Assertive Community Treatment Team as a Peer Support Worker for 3 days /week.

Qualifications:

- Experience as a consumer of Mental Health Services is essential
- Minimum community college diploma in social services
- Experience working in team environments
- Basic counseling and crisis intervention skills
- Ability to work from a recovery perspective
- Fluency in a second language and experience working with diverse communities is an asset

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide community support to clients including skill teaching, supportive counseling, crisis intervention, health monitoring and linking to resources
- Primary case management work including assessment and service planning
- Liaise with community providers and family members
- Facilitate client empowerment and recovery

CMHA offers a competitive benefit package, travel reimbursement and a training budget for professional development.

Please submit your resume by Friday December 16, 2005 by 5:00 pm to: Office Manager Fax: (416) 789-9079

Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch Email: cmha@toronto.ca

700 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 480 Toronto, ON M6A 3B4

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. We are an equal opportunity employer.

For more information visit: www.toronto.cmha.ca

These positions are listed on Charity Village. If you are interested in any of these positions and do not have access to the internet, just call the centre at 416 595-2882 and we'll be happy to assist in any way possible – reading the posting to you over the phone, mailing it to you if there's time, or making an appointment for you to come by and see it.



Houselink. Social Recreation Coordinator. Contract, 10 months, maternity leave starting in January. Full-time. Responsible for providing general, affordable activities for Houselink members, attending organizational events, participating in obtaining funding and preparing and monitoring budgets, ensuring logistics are handled, involving the members, providing opportunities for members to exercise control over their social recreational activities. \$40,426. pro-rated to the length of the contract. Deadline to apply is December 5, 2005. See the posting and job description at www.houselink.on.ca

Gerstein Crisis Centre. Part-time Relief Worker. The centre provides services to adults who are experiencing mental health crisis. In a non-medical, community-based agency, they use a client-centred approach. They operate 24 hours and 7 days, so relief staff must be able to work all shifts including overnights, weekends and holidays. They particularly need people to cover M – F days and evenings. Minimum 3 years experience. Consumer/Survivors, members of ethno-racial communities and Native Canadians are encouraged to apply. \$21.75 + 8% per hour. Deadline to apply is December 16, 2005. For more information, see www.gersteincentre.org

Canadian Mental Health Association. Group Facilitator Contract, one year. Full-time. Scarborough Social Resource Centre. Located at 1200 Markham Road. \$38,962 - \$45,113. Deadline to apply is December 2, 2005. See their website www.toronto.cmha.ca or Charity Village for the full posting.

Canadian Mental Health Association. Controller. Full-time. Minimum 3 years experience and recognized accounting designation (or close to completion). Deadline to apply is December 16, 2005. See their website www.toronto.cmha.ca or Charity Village for the full posting.

Across Boundaries. Case Manager. Full-time. To work with people with severe mental health problems from the Somali communities in Toronto. Must demonstrate an understanding of anti-racism, awareness of mental health issues and of individuals and groups of colour. Lived experience of racism and xenophobia and an understanding of the impact of racism on health and mental health is a must. Good English skills, Somali language is an asset. At least 3 years experience in human services, (preferably as a case manager). Caseload of 15 – 20. \$40,000. Deadline to apply is December 9, 2005. See Charity Village for the full posting.

St. Christopher House. Community Income Tax Worker. Contract. Full-time, December 15, 2005 to May 31, 2006. The Financial Advocacy and Problem Solving Program (FAPS) helps people with tax returns throughout the year and holds free Income Tax Clinics during the tax season. FAPS is looking for someone to coordinate Tax Clinics and work with a dynamic team of colleagues who help low income people maximize their income, manage their financial affairs well and participate as full citizens. A blend of skills is needed to manage four to five tax clinics with our community partners. \$19.78 per hour + 5% vac pay + 5% in lieu of benefits. Deadline to apply is December 7, 2005. For more information, see www.stchrishouse.org or Charity Village for the full posting.

Loft Community Services. Intake and Community Support Worker. Full-time. York Durham Region. Crosslinks Housing offers services to individuals 16 – 65 with serious mental illness who live in, or want to reside in York Region. Human Service Diploma or equivalent and 2 years experience, understanding of the therapeutic relationship and ability to come to agreement with clients on goals/priorities, knowledge of services in York Region. Deadline to apply is December 5, 2005. For more information, see www.loftcs.org or Charity Village.

Fred Victor Centre. Housing Access and Support Services Worker. 4 Contract Full Time Positions. Metro Toronto Area. Fred Victor is looking for 4 experienced, dynamic and proven Housing Access and Support Workers. Note that 1 position will be working exclusively with the Transsexual/Transgender community therefore applications are encouraged to be submitted from that community. \$40,540. Deadline to apply is December 14, 2005. For more information see www.fredvictor.org or Charity Village for the full posting.