



Canadian Mental  
Health Association  
Kootenays  
*Mental health for all*

Association canadienne  
pour la santé mentale  
Kootenays  
*La santé mentale pour*



From the Board of Directors  
Canadian Mental Health Association, Kootenays

We recently completed a hearing with the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia, which arose from an application brought forward by the BC Government & Service Employees' Union (BCGEU). Its outcomes have been shared publicly.

Recently many supporters, funders, community leaders, followers and friends of the Association received a package from the BCGEU, and while the decision is public information it has been distributed as an enclosure to a letter from the BCGEU's president to various organizations affiliated with this Association.

Our Association unequivocally supports employees' right to choose the labour model they believe serves their interests. We are fully committed to achieving a workplace where employees not only know their rights, but are confident in their ability to exercise them without fear of repercussion. We remain committed to achieving this.

While the Labour Relations Board hearing has been a difficult process, it is one we have embraced as it has brought about the opportunity for discussion and collaboration with our Executive Director, Carey Fraser. As has been the case since Ms. Fraser's start with our Association, the Board of Directors has closely followed the developments of this issue and we believe this is yet another opportunity to grow and develop into a stronger organization serving the people of the Kootenays.

That same commitment of a workplace without fear extends to our Executive Director. The recent efforts by BCGEU president, Stephanie Smith, to distribute a package of documents to groups that work with the Association is a direct attempt to instill a negative perception and a fearful atmosphere. The BCGEU's role as a union is to advocate for and protect its members' rights, not to attempt to persuade or influence the operation of our Association by writing to these groups. The Labour Relations Board has given its ruling, our Association has abided by that ruling and we are not going to be drawn into a public campaign which will only serve to distract us from serving people in need.

Our Board of Directors has always believed our organization requires a leader who embraces the core belief that mental health for all is the cornerstone for what we do, all that we believe, and all that we pursue. Through constant contact, weekly reports, monthly meetings, quarterly submissions and Annual General Meetings, Ms. Fraser has been transparent, honest, and forthcoming with her plans, the activities of her office, her staff, and the many important programs this Association delivers throughout the Kootenays. Her progress has been outstanding, her results have moved the Association forward, and the Board has every confidence in her ability to continue to lead our Association.



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Contact us for the 2018/2019 Annual General Report and the Program Report, both which highlights the incredibly important work the Canadian Mental Health Association, Kootenays Branch accomplishes day in and day out, and serves to publicly report our activities. These lifesaving efforts do not exist in a vacuum, but rather under the leadership of an Executive Director and a senior leadership team focused on delivering the mandate of 'mental health for all'.

This Board of Directors stands in unison when we state that we are pleased with the efforts of Carey Fraser, and we endorse her leadership to continue delivering results such as these. We look forward to **many years** of a solid and prosperous working relationship.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and with respect,

John Birrell  
President

Canadian Mental Health Association, Kootenays