



NEWS RELEASE

KIRBY HONOURED FOR WORK WITH MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

Toronto, ON May 9, 2008 – Michael Kirby, Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) was honoured with a special leadership award at a gala organized by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto Thursday night.

The former Senator received the first ever CAMH Transforming Lives Community Leadership Award. As Chair of the MHCC he is leading the development of a national strategy on mental health, and an anti-stigma campaign.

The CAMH's Transforming Lives Awards honour people who have overcome the challenges of mental illness and addiction, and those who have contributed significant knowledge, advocacy or patronage to the field.

The MHCC is a non-profit organization created to focus national attention on mental health issues. It is funded by the federal government but operates at arm's length from all levels of government. The Commission's objective is to enhance the health and social outcomes for Canadians living with mental health problems and illnesses.

The Commission was announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in response to one of the recommendations in the report by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, entitled "Out of the Shadows at Last." Former Senator Michael Kirby was Chair of the Senate Committee at the time the report was released.

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