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NEWS RELEASE

MHCC President and CEO stepping down

Michael Kirby, Chair of the Board of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, announced today that Michael Howlett has decided to step down from his position as President and CEO of the Commission, effective March, 31, 2010.

On behalf of the Board and all members of the Commission's extended family, "I want to thank Michael for his leadership of the Commission during its early years", Mr. Kirby said.

Michael came to the Commission two years ago, six months after the Commission began, from a similar position at the Canadian Diabetes Association following a lengthy and successful career in the private sector. He has seen the Commission through a period of start up of many of its major national initiatives and the establishment of an infrastructure which will allow successful completion of these initiatives.

Michael has taken a particular interest in the improvement of services for persons living with a mental illness, a lifelong passion. He has also made a significant effort to launch Mental Health Partnerships of Canada, a charity affiliated with the Commission. Its goal is to raise funds for mental health research and public education. Michael intends to continue in an active position with Mental Health Partnerships.

"We wish Michael well in his future endeavours and thank him for his contribution to the Commission's work and his effort to improve the lives of people living with a mental illness and their families", Mr. Kirby said.

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