

Press Release
For immediate release



**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA COMMENDS FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN
CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

CALGARY, AB June 8, 2011 – The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) welcomes the news that the Government of Canada is investing \$27 million in child and youth mental health research and programs.

“Today’s funding announcement is going to help support young people, their parents, and members of their communities across the country. This is excellent news,” said Louise Bradley, President and CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The federal announcement includes projects covering a myriad of issues from bullying, resilience, healthy relationships and substance abuse in children from birth to adolescence.

A focus on child and youth mental health is important, says Bradley, because more than two-thirds of adults report that their mental health issues first surfaced in childhood or adolescence. The federal government should be commended for its contribution to improving child and youth mental health, which is a priority for the MHCC and many other mental health groups across the country.

Child and youth mental health has been an important area of focus for the MHCC since its creation in 2007. The MHCC’s *Evergreen Framework*, published in 2010, is a roadmap for governments and organizations to follow to help them build mental health strategies targeted at children and youth. Health promotion and illness prevention are areas that will also be addressed in the national mental health strategy, which is to be released in 2012.

To read the Evergreen Framework:

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/ChildandYouth.aspx>

About the Mental Health Commission of Canada

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a catalyst for transformative change. Our mission is to work with stakeholders to change the attitudes of Canadians toward mental health problems and to improve services and support. Our goal is to promote mental health and help people who live with mental health problems lead meaningful and productive lives. The Mental Health Commission of Canada is funded by Health Canada.

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