



November 20, 2014

Children's Mental Health Ontario to Host 600 Delegates for Canada's Largest Annual Child and Youth Mental Health Conference

Today Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) celebrates Canada's National Child Day. The Day is in recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the perfect time for young Canadians to express themselves and shape their own future.

National Child Day is timely coming just days before CMHO's annual child and youth mental health conference: [Getting it Right for Kids and Families](#), taking place in Toronto on November 23-25, 2014. The largest event of its kind in Canada, the theme of CMHO's conference is to strengthen and support a collective commitment to improving quality of care in mental health services for children and youth.

The UN has acknowledged in their recently released [Mental Health Matters](#) report that only 20% of youth with a mental health condition receive the treatment they need.

"We must do better. There needs to be an equal focus on mental health as there is on physical health and a significant improvement is needed in the children's mental health care system," said Kim Moran, President and CEO of Children's Mental Health Ontario. "This is especially true for children because we know that early intervention, diagnosis and treatment lead to better outcomes later in life. We are very concerned that due to the tight government fiscal position, children, youth and families are experiencing significant wait times to access services."

CMHO's [conference program](#) includes thought-provoking and informative keynote speakers, Dr. Michael Ungar and Dr. Patrick Corrigan, and more than 40 educational workshops including a workshop presented by renowned advocate for children's issues Dr. Jean Clinton. The event will be opened by the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Ontario's Minister of Children and Youth Services.

"This is my first conference since becoming CEO of Children's Mental Health Ontario and I look forward to welcoming delegates from many sectors to move forward on our common goal of strengthening children's mental health services." - Kim Moran, President & CEO, Children's Mental Health Ontario.

CMHO supports the providers of child and youth mental health treatment services throughout Ontario and has been championing the right of every child and youth to mental health and well-being since 1972.

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