

**CANADIAN  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION**

Ontario Division

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August 31, 1990

Mr. Bob Rae  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
New Democratic Party  
Province of Ontario  
Room 223, Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Rae:

Attached please find your copy of the Canadian Mental Health Association/Ontario Division's (CMHA) 1990 Candidate Questionnaire and covering letter. An identical Questionnaire and covering letter has been mailed to all 129 of your fellow New Democratic candidates throughout Ontario. You may recall that we forwarded a similar Candidate Questionnaire to you and your fellow candidates during the 1987 Ontario Election. We were particularly pleased in your response to our Questionnaire last election, with its obvious commitment to establishing a more comprehensive and responsive community mental health system to meet the needs of the psychiatrically disabled.

As you know, Mr. David Reville, as the MPP for Riverdale, and your Party's Health Critic, was instrumental, through his introduction of Bill 50, in influencing the government of Ontario to implement a more humane Mental Health Act - namely the Bill 190 amendments. Mr. Reville was an eloquent spokesperson for the psychiatrically disabled in the Legislature, where he will be sorely missed as its "mental health" conscience. We were proud to have him as a Board Member of the CMHA, where he distinguished himself in his promotion of the empowerment of the "psychiatric survivors".

I trust that you and your new and re-elected New Democratic MPPs, will continue championing the worthwhile causes that Mr. Reville so ably promoted in the Legislature as he worked with us in promoting what we call "the caring community".



However, we have been disappointed that none of the three major provincial political parties has so far addressed the issues of what is needed to ensure the building of "the caring community" for the psychiatrically disabled. As you know, as the result of our mutual advocacy with the Liberal Government during the last election, the Liberal Minister of Health, commissioned the Provincial Community Mental Health Committee (of which I had the privilege of being a member) to produce what is popularly called "The Graham Report" - "Building Community Support For People: A Plan For Mental Health in Ontario", published July 28, 1988.

Since the "Graham Report" is an essential building block in the creation and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated "mental Health plan" for Ontario, we urge you to address the following five key issues during this provincial election:

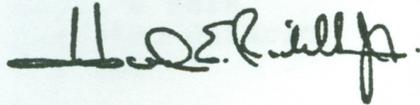
1. A New Democratic Government's commitment to fully adopt and implement the Graham Report and its recommendations.
2. A New Democratic Government's commitment to introduce and pass in the next provincial parliament, "Community Mental Health Legislation" mandating the provision and funding of community mental health services.
3. A New Democratic Government's commitment to at least maintain, and preferably raise, the current rate of increase of community mental health funding to ensure that the Graham Report and the proposed Community Mental Health Legislation can be effectively and adequately implemented.
4. A New Democratic Government's commitment to ensure a real balance between the provision of and funding for community based mental health programs and hospital based mental health services.
5. A New Democratic Government's commitment to work directly in a cooperative partnership with CMHA, other service provider organizations, consumers and families, to achieve a coordinated and comprehensive system of mental health services in Ontario.

I look forward to your response to our Candidate Questionnaire, and particularly your response, on behalf of the Ontario New Democratic Party, to the above five election issues.

Your record, and that of the Ontario New Democrats, has always been one of caring for the disadvantaged and the underprivileged. No group in our society has been so discriminated against and shunned by society in general as has been the psychiatrically disabled.

As we go into the 90's and head towards the next century, we call upon you and your Party to reconfirm your commitment to ensuring that you will implement or press for the implementation of a social service and mental health system in Ontario that will not only ensure that the psychiatrically disabled (including emotionally disturbed children, the chronically mentally ill, the psychogeriatric, and the homeless) have the community services that they require, but are rehabilitated into being full and participating citizens of Ontario. A government is best judged on how it treats the most disadvantaged in society.

Yours sincerely,



Howard E. Richardson Jr.,  
Executive Director

Enclosures

c.c. David Reville