



MDSC/Canadian Community Mental Health Network (CCMHN) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2024

Location: Teams

Link to next meeting: [here](#)

Attendees:

- Ken Porter
- Dylan Hellwig (Guest)
- Martin Binette
- Gary Thandi
- Sharla Robertson
- Kristina Hennessey Braun
- Martin Boucher (joined later)

Minutes:

Opening Remarks: Ken Porter opened the meeting, discussing planned meetings with Members of Parliament and the observed momentum from advocacy actions.

Advocacy Day Follow-Ups and Upcoming Engagements: Dylan Hellwig recapped the success of the Advocacy Day event held and talked about the positive reception CCMHN has received. Upcoming engagements, such as a critical meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Health, etc. Hellwig mentioned engagement with MPs Mike Blake, Gord Johns, and Adam Chambers, showcasing cross-party support.

Letter of Support Distribution Strategy: The strategy to engage MPs through letters of support was discussed, noting how these letters are instrumental in demonstrating broad support for CCMHN.

Communications and Outreach: Social media's vital role in advocacy was recognized, emphasizing the need to maintain dynamic and engaging content. The discussion also



noted integrating video advertising into the campaign to sustain audience interest and support. *[Many members expressed interest and filming begins Feb 7th, 2024.]*

Letter Submission Campaign Status: Kristina Hennessey Braun offered an update on the letter submission campaign, revealing that there had been 14 more submissions since the previous week, totaling 162. Braun mentioned that letters had been sent to various party representatives, with specific MPs receiving the most attention.

French Language Outreach: The translation of advocacy materials into French and the effort to engage Quebec organizations more robustly was acknowledged. Martin Binette committed to focusing on reaching out within this area.

Closing Remarks: Ken Porter summarized the meeting, reiterating the importance of continued efforts in communication, advocacy, and engagement with the political entities that shape mental health policy.

Action Items:

- All members to actively participate in the letter submission campaign to promote CCMHN's pre-budget ask.
- Kristina Hennessey Braun to provide regular updates on the letter submission statistics.
- Members to disseminate the link for letter submissions within their respective networks and contacts
- Follow-ups with MPs who have not yet responded to the letters of support provided to them, emphasizing the importance of their backing for the CCMHN's work.

Next meeting: Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. et

Meeting Link: [Here](#)