

Copy of letter seeking community support:

I was pleased to attend the Mental Health Advocacy Symposium in early March and welcomed the opportunity to share ideas about paving the way for future collaboration.

As a caregiver, I was also pleased to receive a brief summary of the day's discussion including key insights focused on building bridges based on collaboration, actionable plans and recognition of the significance of including individuals with lived experience in future advocacy efforts.

With those key insights as inspiration, we are writing today to invite you and your colleagues to join caregivers of those living with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder as we urge the provincial government to address our concerns about the care of our loved ones after we die. By way of background, we have developed an action plan and what we believe to be a tangible three-step strategy for caregivers to address the housing and other needs of those living with a mental illness or substance use disorder after their caregiver has passed away.

We invited the participation of representatives from the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Children, Community and Social Services and Health to support these efforts.

We would welcome your support and collaboration as we advocate for the participation of the provincial government in this initiative. We believe that our plan and deliverables are well-defined and, importantly, we have engaged the participation of those with lived experience in defining our objectives. We believe that our shared goals, yours and ours, are the energy that can move this project forward and so we hope that you will consider entering into a collaborative partnership with us as we advocate for the support and participation of the provincial government.

We would be pleased to discuss the details of this initiative with you, including the specific ways in which our organizations might engage with the provincial government to secure their participation

In closing, going forward our intent is to reach out to other organizations in our community seeking their support as we all do what we can to support caregivers planning for when they are gone.