

December 10, 2014

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th Floor, George Drew Building
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

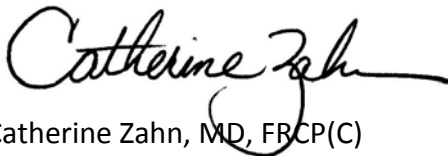
Dear Minister,

Thank you for your recent announcement regarding the introduction of legislation to limit disclosure of non-conviction records by police services. The release of these records, particularly mental health information, can have significant consequences for individuals. It also reinforces the stigma of mental illness.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) recognizes that police services must record information in their local databases when responding to a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Indiscriminately sharing this information on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database, or disclosing it to employers, volunteer agencies and academic institutions is problematic. We understand that there are exceptional circumstances under which mental health information should be disclosed to other parties, but this should only occur in situations where serious violence is involved.

People with a history of mental illness should be able to travel, work, volunteer and attend school like any other law abiding citizens. Pervasive prejudice, fear and misunderstanding about mental illness can often deter them from doing so. The province's introduction of new legislation to limit the disclosure of personal information by police services will assist people with a history of mental illness to live meaningful and productive lives. Minister, thank you again.

Sincerely,



Catherine Zahn, MD, FRCP(C)
President and CEO