



EVERYTHING
IS **NOT** **OK.**

**STAKE-
HOLDER
TOOLKIT**



BACKGROUND

The major mental health and addiction organizations in Ontario have come together to back a campaign called "Everything is not OK."

The group includes: Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO), Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO), Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, The Royal, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and the Canadian Mental Health Association - Ontario (CMHA).

Together, we represent the full continuum of mental health and addictions care - from community care to hospital care - supporting more than one million people in Ontario with their mental health or substance use challenges every year.

With service organizations in every region of the province from Thunder Bay to Ottawa to Whitby to Windsor we provide care in every region caring for everyone from children and youth to seniors.

Together, we offer services to support people with mild to moderate needs as well as those who

require intensive supports or for people who are in crisis requiring urgent care. We also have cared for people that we have lost to overdose, suicide or decline over the course of COVID-19.

We have joined together as one voice to call for action to tackle wait times for access to mental health and addiction care in Ontario as well as to improve access to high-quality supports and services regardless of age, geography, ability to pay or the level of support that is required.



KEY MESSAGES

✘ **Everything is not ok.**

- ✘ Too many Ontarians are waiting too long for access to mental health and addiction care.
- ✘ It was a crisis before COVID-19. The pandemic has made it even worse.
- ✘ Today, 74% of Ontarians are experiencing increased mental health and substance use challenges.
- ✘ Leaders in mental health and addiction across Ontario have come together to call for a fully funded mental health and addiction wait times strategy that provides:
 - **Consistent care.** Because regardless of whether you are in northern or rural Ontario or downtown Toronto, all Ontarians should get the same, high-quality care.
 - **Faster care.** Because people are waiting too long to get the support and treatment they are looking for.
 - **Easier access to care.** Because getting care is currently too complicated and Ontarians don't know where to turn for mental health or addiction services.

- **Transparent care.** Because Ontarians don't know how long they will have to wait and what they can and should expect from their care.
- **The strategy must include long-term and sustainable investments to support these necessary system improvements and to end wait lists.**
- ✘ No matter who you are, your race, your gender, your sexuality, where you live or how much money you make, you should have timely access to quality mental health and addiction services.
- ✘ We are going to need a resilient population to recover from COVID-19 and that means mental health and addiction must be a priority for the government as part of any recovery plan. The government has repeatedly said that mental health and addiction is a priority, so it must be a funding priority of the COVID-19 recovery plan.
- ✘ We need to act now.



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Help us promote our cause through:

- ▶ Sharing our social posts
- ▶ Donating ad space
- ▶ Sharing our video

EXAMPLES

