



A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.
BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ BRITANO-COLOMBIENNE DE LA SCHIZOPHRÉNIE
UNE SOURCE D'ESPOIR, DE SOUTIEN ET D'ENTRAIDE.

A Registered B.C. Non-Profit Society

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Cuts Won't Save Money in Long Term!

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) initiated the largest-ever reduction in services for psychiatric patients in the Victoria area on October 13, 2009 immediately following the "Mental Illness Awareness Week".

The Vancouver Island Health Authority has recommended the following:

- 15% reduction of psychiatric in-patient beds
- 20% reduction in social work and case management services for the patients discharged from the hospital
- 20% reduction of urgent "front-end" counsellors for patients referred by family practitioners or seen in the ER but not admitted

These cuts will not save money in the long term.

Instead, these cuts will increase the number of ER visits, the workload for the police, incarceration for petty crimes, homelessness, domestic abuse, suicides and homicides.



To: Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia
Kevin Falcon, Minister of Health
Howard Waldner, Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Island Health Authority
Alan Campbell, Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services

I strongly object to the recommended cuts to psychiatric services in the South Island Region. These cuts compromise recovery for the most vulnerable members of our society. These actions are not only bad medicine but bad public policy.

I urge you to reinstate all of the psychiatric services in the South Vancouver Island area.

I also urge you to set clear standards of care to ensure that essential services are protected in the future for persons with serious mental illnesses who have always been affected to the greatest extent by stigma and discrimination in our health care system.

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Postal Code

Signature: _____