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Mental Health Commission of Canada has become dysfunctional

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) has become dysfunctional, according to a detailed analysis in the September issue of the *NSSS Advocacy Bulletin*. This is in response to the commission's draft document, *Mental Health Strategy for Canada*.

The commission "seems to have been captured by people who don't understand, or would like to deny, the reality of severe mental illness and the lack of insight that often makes involuntary admission necessary," comments the *Bulletin*. "Those who understand severe mental illness no longer take the commission seriously – except to regard it as a menace to those who are ill."

At issue is the document's effective disregard of science-based evidence about severe mental illness, its biological character, and what is needed clinically to help the mentally ill get back on their feet.

"For the commission to properly have done its work," the *Bulletin* comments, "they would have started with the severely ill. They are the ones most affected, who also suffer most from system failure, and who are harmed most by stigma. They deserve priority in the same way as those who are most physically ill are given priority."

A copy of this issue of the *Bulletin*, as well as back issues covering a variety of topics, can be downloaded at www.northshoreschizophrenia.org/bulletin.htm. Also of interest: NSSS' letter to the commission, July 28, 2011, which can be found on the NSSS Media Centre page: www.northshoreschizophrenia.org/media.htm.

The *NSSS Advocacy Bulletin*, on serious mental illness and related issues, is published five times a year by the North Shore Schizophrenia Society and distributed to readers across the country.

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