



May 10, 2023

Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society  
315 W 1<sup>st</sup> St #101, North Vancouver, BC  
V7M 1B5

Dear Members of the Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the remarkable work being done by the Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society. Your commitment to providing free education, support, and advocacy services to families supporting loved ones with serious mental illness is truly commendable. I know that your organization has had a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and families throughout the Province. While I am unable to attend this meeting virtually, it is an honor to acknowledge your organization's efforts.

Budget 2023 committed to a historical investment in mental health and substance use supports for British Columbia. The \$1 billion funding includes \$586 million to expand treatment and recovery beds, develop new recovery community centers, and provide culturally relevant aftercare and support for Indigenous land-based healing. Recognizing the importance of continued support throughout the recovery journey, we will also establish four new community recovery sites with dedicated aftercare services. These sites will connect individuals with aftercare workers who will assist them in accessing ongoing services, supports, training, housing, and integration into their communities. These investments will go a long way in improving the lives of countless individuals and families in our province.

I extend my sincerest appreciation to the Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society for your unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the field of mental health and addictions. Your tireless efforts, support, and advocacy play a crucial role in improving the lives of those affected by mental health challenges. Together, we can create a more inclusive, compassionate, and resilient society.

Thank you once again for your commitment and for being a vital partner in our shared mission. I wish you a successful and impactful annual general meeting.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction  
Government of British Columbia