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For immediate release

AMHB third annual Mental Health Research Showcase brings together a who's who of mental health leaders

(Banff, Alberta...) *Advancing mental health through research* is the theme of the Alberta Mental Health Board's (AMHB) third annual Mental Health Research Showcase 2007, scheduled November 21 to 23 in Banff, Alberta.

More than 400 people have registered and the different presenters represent a who's who from the world mental health research field with Margaret Trudeau the keynote speaker and Alberta Health and Wellness Minister, Honourable Dave Hancock, concluding the conference on Friday at noon.

This year, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, B.C. Mental Health and Addiction Services and Saskatchewan Health are partners of the Showcase, along with several sponsors, including Alberta's nine health regions.

"We are pleased," says Dr. Jean Ference, Board Chair, AMHB, "to have such outstanding health organizations partnering and supporting an important endeavour where the ultimate goal is to advance research for improved mental health outcomes."

The program has four major themes: Effectiveness of the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Primary Healthcare; Mental Health in an Aging Population; Mental Health and Addictions in the Workplace, and Wellness, Promotion and Prevention. Program presenters are leaders in the mental health field and come from across Canada, the United States, England, Australia, Sweden and The Netherlands.

The stigma around mental illness has to be eradicated," says Alberta Health and Wellness Minister Dave Hancock. "Mental illness costs the Canadian economy \$33 billion annually, and impacts each and every one of us. The Alberta Government strongly supports initiatives like the Alberta Mental Health Research Showcase that can advance our knowledge of the best treatment approaches and how to put those approaches into action."

Similar to previous years, the AMHB plans to provide a summary of the conference in a winter 2008 issue of Macleans, Canada's national news magazine. More details on when the showcase summary is published in Macleans will be available on the AMHB website early in the New Year.

For information about this year's showcase, or to review details on past year's conferences, go to www.amhb.ab.ca.

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The Alberta Mental Health Board is a provincial health authority that oversees and advances Alberta's mental health system, serves in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Health and Wellness, and works with health regions and others to address system-wide mental health priority issues that span regional, provincial and organizational boundaries.

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