

Steve Lurie's letter to the editor of the Globe & Mail, October 5th, in response to the this week's articles on teen suicide, and the October 4th article featuring Bob Rae's statement regarding our need for a National Suicide Prevention Strategy:

Kudos to Bob Rae, the Globe, and parliamentarians for focusing a public debate on suicide and mental health. Mental illness affects 1 in 5 Canadians each year but it is still the orphan child of health care. Five years ago the Senate Committee report *Out of the Shadows at Last* proposed a 10 year transition fund to improve access to mental health services. While many provincial governments have recently published plans and policy statements, the funding for improving access and quality has not yet occurred. We will not be able to reduce suicide without improving access to mental health services across the country and investing in mental health promotion, especially for young people with conduct disorders and depression. Hopefully the Mental Health Commission's mental health strategy to be released next year will provide us with a path forward.