

Steve Lurie's letter to the editor in response to "Doctors urge Health Care Action Plan to thwart 'looming crisis'"

It was heartening to see the CMA call for mental health reform as only 3 in 10 Canadians are able to access mental health care. Like the Northumberland hospital, the Mental Health Commission consulted with thousands of Canadians last year who endorsed the Commission's vision of a community focused mental health system with improved access to care. We currently spend \$8-\$12,000 to hospitalize someone living with schizophrenia or a mood disorder for 10 days, when a similar expenditure on community services provide support for at least a year and would reduce the need for hospitalization. Creating community capacity should be a priority for health care reform.