

Steve Lurie's response to the Select Committee Report, addressed to Kevin Flynn, Chair of the Select Committee

Thanks for a very comprehensive report and compelling vision for the future. Implementation of your vision will require increased funding for the basket of services. While the Ontario government increased health funding by \$14.5 billion since coming to office, they only added \$220 million to mental health spending during the same period, even though mental health and addiction problems affect 20% of population. I hope you can create the political will to encourage the government to use some of the \$1.95 billion (source 2010 Ontario budget) it will be receiving in increased federal transfers between now and 2014 to support the reforms you are suggesting. Today in Toronto there are 2000 people on the wait list for supportive housing, and without creating additional service capacity for supportive housing, this will not change. I am attaching a report I received last week from the IHE which shows how Canada and Ontario lag other jurisdictions in mental health spending, which I hope you can use in your advocacy with the Premier and Health Minister.

Thanks again for your commitment to improving the mental health of Ontarians.

Steve Lurie