



February 16, 2007

Dear General Purposes Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to appeal the cut in funding for the CMWAC.

We are a grassroots charitable organization struggling to survive through a mix of private donations and public grants. Your role in this is crucial. The programs that we run are of significant benefit to the Richmond community, particularly as it helps those most vulnerable to falling between the cracks in our health care system. Specifically, it fills the gap between the services offered, and the consumers' ability to access these services if there are barriers due to language and cultural stigma.

The issue of partnerships is indeed relevant. As you have noted, we have formed partnerships with other organizations in terms of referrals, workshops, training and consultations. In terms of "partnerships in providing services": the following is a specific list of what we have done:

- 1) CMHA Vancouver/Burnaby Branch – Chinese Depression Screening Project – Stella Lee
- 2) CMHA Richmond Branch – Providing housing support for Chinese clients - Susan Knight
- 3) CMHA Simon Fraser Branch – Provision of Mental Health Support to Chinese clients referred. – Rodney Baker
- 4) Richmond Mental Health Team – Continuation of support to the Chinese clients referred by the Team – Karen Efron
- 5) Regional Peer Support Committee – Strategic Planning for Peer Support
- 6) Richmond Hospital (2 West) – To provide peer support to the Chinese clients regularly – Louise Avery
- 7) Richmond Rehabilitation & Housing Committee & Richmond Consumers Families Advisory Council
- 8) Richmond Consumers & Families Council – Strategic planning of the council

- 9) Affordable Housing Strategy Committee – Strategic planning of housing
- 10) Richmond Kwantlen College – Member of the Advisory Board for Psychiatric Nursing Program
- 11) Richmond Disability Resource Centre – Mutual promotion of mental health wellness education – Ella Huang
- 12) Committee on Postpartum Depression, Richmond Health Department – Promotion of mental wellness towards Chinese population in Richmond – Heather Campbell
- 13) Senior Chinese Association in Vancouver – Mutual support for Asian seniors with depression
- 14) Mood Disorder Association (Chinese) – Joint promotion of mental wellness education
- 15) BC Schizophrenia Society – Joint promotion for mental wellness education and support for the Chinese clients
- 16) SUCCESS's Senior Group – Joint promotion of mental health education – Peter Wu
- 17) Traditional Chinese Medicine Association – Mutual support for TCM education – Dr. John Yang
- 18) Rutherford University – Joint promotion of mental health education – Dr. Hassam
- 19) Golden Age Academy – Mutual support for seniors by running senior programs
- 20) Riverview Hospital – To provide volunteer services
- 21) Forensic Psychiatric Services – To provide Peer Support if needed
- 22) Morning Star Choir – To support members to join the Choir for therapeutic healing
- 23) Vancouver Chinese Choir Association - To support members to join the Choir for therapeutic healing.
- 24) Canadian Red Cross – Joint effort to operate health training – Jenny Moss
- 25) The Integration Youth Services Society – Joint effort in promoting and training youth in the field – Esther Ho
- 26) Richmond Chinatown Lions Club – Joint support and promotion of mental wellness – Aster Liew

We think that the above demonstrates that there is co-ordination and co-operation with other groups to prevent duplication of projects, programs, services or events. Furthermore, the context is important. Mental health consumers tend to be an under-serviced group. With so much need in the community, there is little danger of duplicated services going to waste. Rather, the issue is the need to expand services to this community. We will happily engage in even more partnerships for bigger projects

should they arise in the future. However, this will depend on your support to keep us going as we are experiencing unforeseen funding cuts.

The projects that we propose to continue provide service to the community and particularly to Richmond residents.

- The Wellness Line handles about 300 calls per month, mainly from Richmond residents.
- Counselling Program provides services to roughly 5-6 clients a week.
- The English class teaches 10-15 people per week.
- The Peer Support Resource Centre will help coordinate the peer support volunteers for the community. There are currently at least 10 active volunteers at any given time, and there is a support group for them. It provides information and educational literature, as well as doing translation and interpretation services.
- The Choir of Love provides visits to Old Age Homes and hospitals

We hope that you can see your way to fund the above projects and help ensure our organization's survival.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Dr. Edwin Tam
President of CMWAC