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Dr. Brendan Hanley M.P.

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To the Honourable Dr. Brendan Hanley, M.P.,

As you may be aware, Yukon continues to be the final jurisdiction in Canada without a regulatory body for psychologists. As a physician, you are no doubt aware of the significant harm that can be done to vulnerable populations when health professions are not regulated and the pressing need for an ethical and regulatory body for any health profession.

Having formed an advocacy group in order to rectify this issue, we now have an online presence for the public and other professionals to contact. Ironically, through this group, we have received many extremely concerning correspondences of professionals who have either failed the exams or do not wish to undergo registration inquiring about practice here in the Yukon. Yukoners, especially those requiring assistance from a psychologist, may face stigma and be of a significantly vulnerable population. It is abhorrent to us that the knowledge that we are a regulatory "wild west" could, or may already, be used to provide substandard or harmful service to unsuspecting citizens.

We have worked with territorial politicians regarding this serious issue for several years now and have been informed of no road map to regulation at this time. We noted, however, that your government has now a minister of Mental Health and Addictions in the Honourable Minister Carolyn Bennett, formerly also a family physician. We are hopeful that this means that this government takes quality provision of evidence-based mental health assessment and intervention seriously. We were particularly delighted to read the following point in Minister Bennett's mandate letter dated Dec 16, 2021:

- *Develop mental health standards, with a particular focus on health equity*

We believe that Yukoners should have access to the same standards of mental health provision as the rest of the country, and that it is not, in fact, equitable that our citizens may routinely be exposed to

dangerous and damaging practices with no recourse for consequence to the practitioner, by the sole virtue of their postal code.

We have submitted a paper to the Canadian Psychology Association's annual conference about our journey as professionals seeking professional standards and recognition in the very last jurisdiction in Canada and the USA to be regulated, which we will present in June. We are hoping that during this presentation, we will be able to say that the government has been working with us to resolve this gap in protections for vulnerable people. At this time, we cannot.

We would appreciate a meeting with yourself as our representative in parliament, and hope to hear at this meeting how you can help us, and Yukoners, in maintaining quality mental health standards commensurate to the rest of Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Reagan Gale PhD RPsych, President

Charlene Bradford, MEd RPsych, Vice President

Debra Kapaniuk, MA RPsych, Treasurer

Dr. Emma Eaton PhD RPsych, Secretary

Colleen Laking MSc RPsych, Board Member at Large

cc.

Hon. Richard Mostyn

Yvonne Clarke

Kate White