

The Ontario Mental Health Foundation

La Fondation ontarienne de la santé mentale

The Ontario Mental Health Foundation Announces Closure in March 2018

TORONTO, Ontario – *Date:* September 28, 2017

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHTLC) has advised the Ontario Mental Health Foundation (OMHF) that its role as a provincial agency will be coming to an end by March 31, 2018 as the province shifts the way it supports mental health research in Ontario.

The OMHF was created by a Special Act of the Legislature of the Province of Ontario in 1960-61 to establish and conduct a program of diagnosis, treatment and research in mental health. While the OMHF has contributed to mental health advancements through its programs, many of the modern services and supports for people facing mental health challenges are now being managed by community-based organizations.

The MOHTLC will continue to provide funding for mental health research. As of April 2018, provincial funding previously allocated to the OMHF will be distributed via its Health System Research Fund to support mental health research priorities. All current OMHF-funded research, fellowship and studentship financial commitments will continue to be honoured according to the terms of the awards.

The OMHF has a long history of supporting the professional development of emerging and existing researchers. Their significant accomplishments and collective commitment have contributed to Ontario's strong mental health research environment.

Some recent achievements include:

- Over the past 10 years, the OMHF supported 148 researchers through grants (\$20 million) and 184 through fellowships and studentships (\$14 million).
- In 2016-2017, the OMHF administered 36 awards to directly fund investigators.
- OMHF alumni comprise many important positions throughout the research and academic landscape.
- In 2014, the OMHF became a member of the International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders (IAMHRF) aimed at increasing the impact of mental health investment to accelerate progress in the research landscape.
- In 2016 Rand Europe identified the OMHF as being the sixth most productive funder of mental health research in Canada and among the top 100 worldwide, by number of published research papers.

“It has been my privilege to lead the OMHF in our vision of growing capacity to strategically fund mental health research with real-world applications,” says Andrea Swinton, Executive Director of the OMHF. “I am extremely proud of OMHF’s research program and the vital contributions it has

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made in advancing mental health research in Ontario. Our staff and Board of Directors remain committed to advancing research initiatives and in the coming weeks will announce the launch of a new charitable organization that will fund mental health research for all of Canada.”

Andrea Swinton, CFRE
Executive Director

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More information about the Ontario Mental Health Foundation:
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More information about the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Health System Research Fund:
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/ministry/research/hsrf.aspx>
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