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## **Coalition Applauds Mental Health Commitment of Department**

The Mental Health Coalition of Nova Scotia is very pleased with the reception it received today in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health (Kevin McNamara). Coalition representatives were seeking support and assistance from the Department for developing a provincial mental health strategy.

“Today we saw an openness and willingness by the Department to work collaboratively with us,” according to Gail Gardiner (Co-Chairperson of the Coalition and the new Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association – Nova Scotia Division).

Joan Jessome (Co-Chairperson of the Coalition and NSGEU President).noted: “The Department has clearly said they are prepared to work with all stakeholders to make this strategy a centerpiece of its mental health initiatives.”

Vince Daigle (Healthy Minds Cooperative) stated: “We heard a sincere commitment from the Deputy Minister to ensuring that consumers of mental health services have a real say.”

The Coalition is working collaboratively with the One-In-Five campaign to hold another public forum this fall with a specific focus on a provincial mental health strategy. It is hoping to have strong support from the Department for this forum and the further work to be done in developing this strategy.

The Mental Health Coalition of Nova Scotia is a non-partisan group of over 200 concerned individuals and organizations who want to raise the priority of mental health issues on the government agenda and who want to end the chronic underfunding of mental health services.

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