

**Honourable Josie Osborne**

Minister of Health  
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Victoria BC, V8W 9E2  
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May 7, 2026

**Re: Endorsement of the new Mental Health Commission of Canada Schizophrenia Quality Standards**

**Dear Minister Osborne,**

The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society (BCSS)—a provincial non-profit organization—advocates for individuals and families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses.

BCSS is pleased to have partnered with the Ministry in the initiation, development and support of the Ministry Standards for Early Psychosis (EPI), which have been crucial for many young people who develop schizophrenia or other psychotic illnesses. An important adjunct to EPI is the outcome of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's (MHCC) [Schizophrenia Quality Standards National Demonstration Project \(2023-2025\)](#). The Standards provide a national blueprint for evidence-based schizophrenia care.

The BCSS Board formally endorsed the MHCC Schizophrenia Quality Standards in March 2026. BCSS recommends the Ministry of Health endorse these Schizophrenia Quality Standards.

The Standards were pilot-tested across Canada, including at the Seven Oaks Tertiary Mental Health Facility in Victoria and a Canadian Mental Health Association branch in Ontario. This project resulted in a set of Schizophrenia Quality Standards including:

- 11 statements for Schizophrenia Care for Adults in Hospital
- 15 statements for Schizophrenia Care in the Community

Dr. Nelson Collins led the 18-month implementation project at Seven Oaks with the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Dr. Collins concluded:

*"I recommend these Standards being endorsed and promoted by the Ministry of Health. If implemented in the Health Authorities, there would be a significant improvement in service delivery and outcomes."*

As we are all aware, demand for schizophrenia care is increasing alongside growing gaps in patient access and integration of mental health and substance use (MHSU) services. The new Schizophrenia Quality Standards:

- Offer a national vision for modernized, recovery-oriented care
- Align with provincial reforms (e.g., BC MHSU integration)
- Provide measurable targets to improve quality and accountability

Expected outcomes include:

- Reduced relapse and emergency visits
- Improved physical health and life expectancy
- Increased stability in housing and relationships
- Higher employment and education participation
- Greater satisfaction for patients and families

In order for the province to achieve the expected outcomes outlined above, we request that the Ministry consider developing a provincial implementation plan for the Standards, establish a clear timeline for roll-out across all health authorities, and include an evaluation framework to measure progress and outcomes over time.

We welcome the opportunity to assist the Ministry (and other organizations, including the health authorities, Health Quality BC, and provider organizations) any way we can to help find the most effective ways to implement the Schizophrenia Quality Standards. Together we can improve the quality of care provided to those affected by schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses, and support their families.

Thank you,



**Faydra Aldridge**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Jack Middleton**  
Board President

cc: Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Amna Shah, Parliamentary Secretary, Mental Health and Addictions  
Tricia Poillievre, Executive Director, Mental Health Policy, Legislation & Planning  
Dr. Nelson Collins, South Island Medical Director and South Island Psychiatry Division Head  
Christina Krause, Chief Executive Officer, Health Quality BC