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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

October 11th, 2016

To:

The Honourable **Kirsty Duncan**, Minister of Science

The Honourable **Jane Philpott**, Minister of Health

From:

Freda Miller, PhD

President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience

Subject:

Support for the Canadian Action Plan for Brain Health

Dear Ministers Duncan and Philpott,

I am writing to express the Canadian Association for Neuroscience's strong support for the development of a **Canadian Action Plan for Brain Health**, an initiative proposed by the Neurological Health Charities of Canada. The Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) represents neuroscientists in Canada who are dedicated to advancing brain research. Our association is composed of approximately one thousand researchers, who work at academic institutions across the country. We believe a concerted effort from all stakeholder, including representatives of Canadians living with brain conditions, caregivers, brain health charities, neuroscience researchers and of government is needed to define objectives and priorities that will have the greatest impact for the four million Canadians currently living with a brain condition, and their families.

Understanding the brain is one of the greatest challenges of our times, and Canadian neuroscientists are willing and ready to take on this challenge. Increased support for investigator-driven basic brain research is urgently needed, as a better understanding of the brain and nervous system is key to the development of treatments and cures that are desperately needed for the over 100 conditions that can affect the brain. Investing in research today will help reduce the large burden of brain disease, both now and in the future.

A national strategy to promote brain health will have positive impacts for all Canadians. We would welcome an opportunity to be part of a newly established **Canadian Brain Council**, as proposed by the Neurological Health Charities of Canada, to help develop the **Canadian Action Plan for Brain Health**.

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience

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Canada needs a unified approach to tackle the great challenge of improving brain health in our country, as promoting the collaborative work of all stakeholders is the best way to develop a plan that will ultimately lead to a better health and quality of life for Canadians. The Canadian Association for Neuroscience therefore reiterates its support for the development of a Canadian Action Plan for Brain Health, and our willingness to participate in this initiative.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Miller', written in a cursive style.

Freda Miller, PhD, FRSC
HHMI Senior International Research Scholar
Professor and Senior Scientist,
Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto
President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience