

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004

Ms. Deb Weekes  
Eastern Regional Manager  
Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre (OATC)  
Lindsay Clinic  
27 William St. N.  
Lindsay, ON K9V 3Z9

Dear Debbie,

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Victoria County Branch is part of a national, voluntary organization comprised of consumers / survivors of the mental health system, their families / friends, staff, volunteers and other members of the community. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Victoria County Branch exists to maintain, enhance and promote the mental health of individuals, families and communities in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

While supporting the people with mental health issues and their families / friends, we come across individuals who suffer from multiple problems, such as addictions. We appreciate the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres (OATC) Lindsay Clinic and the staff who collaborate with our team members in serving and treating these mentally ill individuals who also suffer with addictions. Without the treatments offered by your Lindsay Clinic, our clients would have nowhere else to seek help and would likely end up in institutions, jail or would become homeless.

I would like to emphasize that any negative press about the OATC's is purely a result of myth and stigma associated with addiction (as well as with mental illnesses). It is also a myth that your Lindsay Clinic attracts drug addicts in the community. Contrary to such a myth, we believe that you provide a valuable service to our community and we value the collaboration between our two organizations.

If we can be of further assistance in any way, or if you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact our offices. (705-328-2704)

Regards,



Naresh James  
Executive Director  
Canadian Mental Health Association  
Victoria County Branch