

# Majority (77%) of British Columbians Agree Mental Illness is One of Most Important Issues Facing BC

*Three quarters (74%) Say Mental Health Conditions Should Receive Same Funding Priority as Physical Health Conditions*

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## **Majority (77%) of British Columbians Agree Mental Illness is One of Most Important Issues Facing BC**

*Three quarters (74%) Say Mental Health Conditions Should Receive Same Funding Priority as Physical Health Conditions*

**Vancouver, BC** – When it comes to provincial support for those with mental health issues in British Columbia, nearly all (97%) British Columbians believe that mental health conditions should receive the same or higher funding priority as physical health conditions (74% same/23% higher) by the BC provincial government, according to a new Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division.

This is perhaps unsurprising given that just over three-quarters (77%) believe that the prevention and early identification of mental illness is one of the top ten most important issues facing the province today, with three in ten (31%) strongly agreeing. In fact, 68% of British Columbians believe that investments in community based services, such as non-profit mental health services, should be the same as investments in hospitals. Another two in ten (22%) say community based services should receive higher investments than hospitals.

Eighty-seven percent agree (53% strongly) that if they become unwell, they should have access to services which assess and treat mental health conditions equal to physical health conditions. Similarly, more than eight in ten (82%) feel that addictions should receive the same or higher funding priority (71% same, 11% higher) as physical health conditions by the provincial government.



However, a majority (79%) of British Columbians also agree (33% strongly/ 46% somewhat) that substance use is preventable, while more than seven in ten agree (27% strongly/ 45% somewhat) that addictions are preventable. Conversely, a minority believe that either mental health problems (8% strongly/ 27% somewhat) or mental illnesses (5% strongly/ 21% somewhat) are preventable.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 30 and June 6, 2016, on behalf of the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division. For this survey, a sample of 803 British Columbians from Ipsos' online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all British Columbian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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