



John Tory
Mayor

May 14, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

Prime Minister Trudeau:

Re: Our collective call for G7 Action on Mental Health

One of the revelations of my time as Toronto mayor has been that around every corner, from mounting service demands and budgetary pressures to opioids and affordable housing, we face the crisis of unmet mental health needs. Cities are increasingly on the front lines of these needs and the growing stresses in urban neighbourhoods, campuses and workforces.

I am adding my voice to those from businesses, communities, and other governments in urging you to mobilize your G7 counterparts at the June summit to commit to concrete actions that will shape global mental health policy and priorities for change.

This issue has been discussed at the past two meetings of Canada's Big City Mayors, and every single mayor around the table talked about how mental health and addiction was manifesting in their municipalities, from Saskatoon to Halifax to Vancouver to Kitchener-Waterloo. Last month, the Mayors of Mississauga, St. John's, Windsor, Kitchener and Vancouver joined me at the Mental Health & Cities Summit I hosted at the University of Toronto, where they presented on unique mental health issues and interventions in their municipalities across the country.

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At that event, more than 300 politicians, academics, front-line practitioners, employers, and those who see and feel the impact of mental health every day came together to shine a spotlight on the issue and identify and drive areas for impact and change. Among the recommendations set out at the end of the day was to put the topic of mental health on this June's G7 Summit.

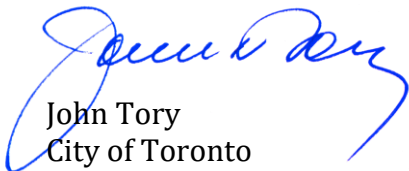
There is so much we can learn from each other that would be advanced through attention at this international gathering. From creating alliances to mobilize employers, as the City Mental Health Alliance UK is doing in London and CivicAction is doing in Toronto, to boosting tens of thousands of residents' mental health literacy through Mental Health First Aid, as New York City's Thrive initiative is doing, we will all be better positioned to tackle this issue through a spotlight at the G7 meeting.

We believe the state of our residents' mental health permeates all five themes identified in Canada's G7 Presidency, and a lack of meaningful action on mental health will be a significant barrier to progress on these themes.

Whether it's discussing the intersection of mental health issues and gender-based violence and harassment, addressing the community resilience impacts of growing addiction and overdose crises in our country, dealing with the traumas experienced by our migrant populations, or making our workplaces more accommodating and accessible to people with mental health issues, a focus on mental health will be a significant accelerator of equity, empowerment and inclusive growth.

Canada can do much to convey a sense of urgency and reinforce the role for everyone on this issue that is one of the greatest risks or opportunities to our nations' prosperity. Thank you for your consideration. We would be happy to help in any way in advancing this agenda.

Sincerely,



John Tory
City of Toronto

- c. Gerald Butts, Principal Secretary
Katie Telford, Chief of Staff
Peter Boehm, Deputy Minister for the G7 Summit and Personal Representative
of the Prime Minister