



MENTAL HEALTH BRANCH

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
VANCOUVER XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

3405 Willingdon,
Burnaby 2, B.C.

March 1st, 1973

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Project Coordinator,
Mental Patients Association,
1982 West 6th Ave.,
VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman: --

Thank you for your letter of February 23rd, 1973. I am naturally very pleased to hear that M.P.A., has a reasonable opportunity to acquire some financing on a three-year basis which should enable the organization to plan more effectively than past short-term grants have made possible.

In view of the known high rate of unemployment amongst those suffering from mental disorders, especially those who have been in-patients in mental health facilities, any arrangements which enable the Mental Patients Association to stabilize its program for assisting this group must be most welcome. As I think you are aware, I was very impressed during my visits to your facilities by the orientation and training in work attitudes and accent on skills and strength in surviving the difficult early phases of employment situations which seem to be an integral part of your program. It is clear that while getting a job is very difficult for large numbers of ex-mental patients, the difficulty is further aggravated by the high rate of failure in jobs that have been found by many of this group if they do not receive support and guidance to enable them to ride out the difficulties of the early weeks and months of a regular employment situation. This seemed to be one of the areas in which your organization has been particularly successful in supporting and guiding the members.

Self-help and mutual support in a group setting is, of course, of recognized value. It does, however, have not only its limitations but indeed, its dangers. Again, during my visits to the Mental Patients Association, I was impressed by the readiness which your Association showed in calling for guidance from appropriate professionals, as I believe that a reluctance to maintain these effective working relationships with professionals in the field has been responsible for the failure of some other groups who in the past have tried to carry the entire load solely on the basis of their own past experiences. The mutual support and trust which



can be developed amongst members of an association such as your own is, of course, a valuable treatment tool which the members of such an association are in the best position to provide to the professional, but which can be used by the group so very much more effectively when professional guidance in the skill of using it is recruited.

You have solicited my comments regarding the value of M.P.A. services and I can express my opinions in summary. I appreciate the value of the Mental Patients Association and its work. Real down-to-earth life situation experience is gained by many people in the process of helping one another. The skills of professionals which may not be available in quantity directly to every member can be accepted and diffused and directed to the membership at large and this is economic and effective means of the distribution of professional services through non-professional groups which has many times been demonstrated in other situations especially by the use of appropriately prepared volunteers in a variety of treatment and supportive situations. The Association's programs for its members in training them in the realities of survival in socially and economically difficult situations have I know, been of great value in sustaining many people and enabling them to reach a point at which they could improve their own situation and move to a self-sustaining position which they had not been able to achieve before. These are items which it is difficult, if not impossible, for a formal organization with bureaucratic structures to impart to those who need it, and indeed, those who need it most are often unable to accept it from a service delivery system which they see as "bureaucratic and impersonal". The actual work that you are doing, coupled with your meticulous bookkeeping and record-keeping which you were so willing to throw open for me, indicate a combination of effectiveness, responsibility, and I suspect, economy, which seem to me to fully justify continuing the attitude of support to your organization which you are aware I have in the past expressed at the time that I recommended to the Provincial Secretary the continuation of the small grant which you were then receiving, and indeed, recommending to him that an increased and improved system of financing should be considered by him.

If you feel that the opinions expressed by me can be of any assistance to you in seeking other grants and sources of financing you are, of course, entirely at liberty to use this letter or copies of it to support such requests.

Yours very truly,



H.W. Bridge, M.B., M.Sc., C.R.C.P.(C),
Coordinator of Adult Psychiatry.

HWB/MS



THE WOODLANDS SCHOOL
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.
CANADA

March 14, 19, 73

Mental Patients Association
1982 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B.C.

Attention: Mr. Lanny Beckman, Project Coordinator

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to hear that Mental Patients Association has an opportunity of getting a longterm grant to sustain your service programs. This will enable you to consolidate and expand into other areas. This kind of financial security is so necessary for a society which needs to consolidate its present program, and to expand to meet the ever increasing need for more help and meeting people's problems. Your excellent record of good use of money, responsible management, of services provided on a shoe-string budget, and of help and support for deeply disturbed people more than justifies your application, which is supported by myself and many other professionals in the field. The grant could be justified on the savings of public funds that would have been spent on hospitalization of the many people your organization enables to remain in the community.

Expansion in the area of finding jobs for ex-patients and preparing them for work again, would be a most useful service. Mental patients have a very high rate of unemployment; most do not find jobs in the competitive job market. Often the first rehabilitation efforts will be made in helping others, as many ex-patients have unique experience in this, and are highly motivated to do so. This often uncovers a real talent, and such people should be encouraged to continue, and to swell the ranks of the volunteer para-professional bodies who are helping meet the great demand that professional services could never expand sufficiently to meet. Experience of working with M.P.A. can lead to raised self esteem, a place in society, a stronger identity, and increases the persons motivation to work and so his future employability.

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Another area which needs attention is poor quality of life of the mentally retarded after being discharged from an institution. They seldom have the capacity or initiative to organize on their own behalf, yet many are emotionally stable and could be supported in the community more easily than many ex-mental patients. They too require hostels, and a sense of belonging and having somebody to turn to in time of need, and more job preparation than is currently available. Many of the retarded who are perfectly capable of working if properly supported, are in fact on welfare, and liable to remain a burden in public funds for some time to come, because of the very poor organization of rehabilitation services in this Province.

In conclusion, I think M.P.A. does a very worthwhile job in the community, that they provide excellent value for the money they get; that they manage money very well; that they should be encouraged to expand further into the area of employment. I recommend the society be given the necessary grants to accomplish their aims.


 P.A. Lavelle, M.B., Bch., D.P.M.,
 F.R.C.P. (C)

PAL/lh

E. E. LEYLAND, M.B., B.S. (London)

PSYCHIATRY

1235 WEST PENDER STREET
VANCOUVER 1, B.C.

March 8, 1973

Department of Manpower and Immigration
1155 West Pender Street
Vancouver 1, B.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: THE MENTAL PATIENTS ASSOCIATION

As is well known, mental patients have a high rate of unemployment. Sometimes the problem arises, in the beginning, from his own anxieties, difficulties with certain types of people, difficulty in accepting certain responsibilities or working with certain types of framework. On the other hand, the return of the mental patient to society, he then finds his fears, uncertainties and anxieties then interfere with his effectiveness and efficiency. Over and above this is the observation that the mental patient, current or ex is, by the fact of being labelled as such, immediately in a disadvantaged position.

What then can be the function of the Mental Patients Association in relationship to the patient and his work? The Provincial Mental Health Service, i.e. the Professionals, are in constant short supply as evidenced by the frequent statements. The Mental Patients Association, if nothing else, is a source of actively interested paraprofessionals who are in the unique position of having gone through it and out the other side. In other words, they "know" what the problem is. The Mental Patients Association, then, by involving the patient in the running of his own organization is improving his "peopling" skills, and thereby indirectly, his self-esteem. Confronting him with those real-life, everyday decisions is logically the best human training for his return to Society as a self assumed productive person.

Who knows, at some future date, the Mental Patients Association might be given sufficient funds to go further and offer specific job retrainings, over and above the general human ones.

Working from the grass roots up, they do an impressive job and deliver where the help is most needed. All this on a minimal budget.

Hopefully they will be given a 3 year grant which would certainly offset

Department of Manpower
and Immigration

March 8, 1973

that sense of temporariness that frequent requests for funds must induce.
The 3 year grant would enable them to get on with that very useful, effective
and worthwhile job they do for themselves.

Yours sincerely,



E. E. Leyland, M.B., C.R.C.P.(C)

EEL:sm

P. SOMMERFREUND, M.D., F.C.C.P.

217 - 3195 GRANVILLE STREET

VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

TELEPHONE 732-8122

Mar. 6, 1973

Mental Patients Association
1982 West 6th St.
Vancouver, B.C.

Attn. Mr. Lanny Beckman.

Dear sir,

It is with distinct pleasure that I write this letter of support to you and you may use it as you see fit.

I have had opportunity to observe the workings of M.P.A. for over a year and wish to state the following facts. The M.P.A. is doing a service to both former mental patients and society in general by calling upon volunteers, non-professionals and Para-professionals to work with mental patients. A Most important advantage is that they are using the mental patients for self-help and help to other patients. Need I stress the success of this method in Alcoholics Anonymous and other similar organizations.

By stressing self-management in their houses many patients are eased into managing their own homes and learning

P. SOMMERFREUND, M.D., F.C.C.P.

217 - 3195 GRANVILLE STREET

VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

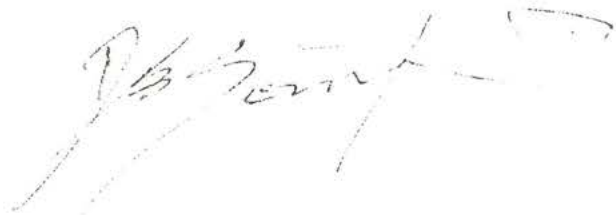
TELEPHONE 732-8122

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new skills. I have personally observed at least two male patients during this time who became completely self-sufficient and most of all, self-supporting. Both had been on welfare before.

I honestly think that money spent in this project will save money in the short and long run, in welfare payments, use of expensive institutions and the use of the time of expensive specialists. During this year I have seen a number of patients who greatly reduced the use of drugs and/or completely stopped such use. I was impressed with their improved sense of self-worth and with it self-confidence resulting in independence.

Yours sincerely



Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Canada
Manpower
CentreCentre de
Main-d'œuvre
du CanadaManpower
and ImmigrationMain-d'œuvre
et Immigration549 Howe Street
Vancouver 1, B.C.

8 March 1973

Mental Patients Association
1982 W. 6th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B. C.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked by the Mental Patients Association to provide a letter verifying the following points.

1. Ex-mental patients have a very high rate of unemployment; most do not find permanent jobs without special help.
2. That there is a growing need for para-professionals to be working in the community.
3. Ex-patients do possess unique experience and can help others who are undergoing emotional stress.
4. There is a job training component in working with MPA; former patients are prepared for employment in a regular situation, and working with MPA increases their future employability.

It has definitely been my experience at Canada Manpower and elsewhere that former mental patients face a formidable problem in seeking permanent employment. I do believe that organizations such as MPA perform an invaluable service to the community in providing a "half way" house situation for former patients many of whom, without group support, would have no alternative but to return to hospital.

I personally have been associated with MPA since 1968 and have found that the employment experience they offer ex-patients is a legitimate one that prepares them for work on the regular labour market. I have also found that MPA is a responsible community organization whose service is both theoretically and practically viable.

Yours sincerely,



D. E. Paterson
Manpower Counsellor



DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
 SECRETARIAT D'ÉTAT

201-1271 Howe Street,
 VANCOUVER 1, B.C.

6th March 1973.

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
 Project Co-ordinator,
 Mental Patients Association,
 1982 West 6th Avenue,
 VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

I am pleased to hear that the MPA may be eligible for a three-year grant from Manpower. The constant necessity of searching for funds is a detrimental drain on the energies of people who should be concentrating on rendering a service.

I have no hesitation in endorsing the services offered by the MPA although I am afraid I have not the knowledge to be able to relate statistically to the question of employment. It is certainly true that the general public, including employers, lack knowledge about mental health-illness. For many people, the only information they have is the kind of sensationalism that gets into newspapers. Needless to say, this is not conducive to having ex-mental patients hired. I do have personal knowledge of working with people in a mental-health setting. From this I can vouch for the fact that very often someone who has successfully come through a period of mental and/or emotional turmoil is a more sensitive person and more able to assist others having the same difficulties, than one who has not had the experience.

Co-ordinators at MPA, in addition to learning therapeutic skills, also gain much management experience; planning group recreational activities, acquiring and maintaining houses, running farms, contact with landlords, employers, government officials, management of budgets, co-ordination of staff and their functions. All of these skills are readily transferable to the general job market.

Hoping this letter is of assistance, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Foster, RSW,MSW
 Social Development Officer.

LF/em



Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Project Co-ordinator,
Mental Patients Association,
1982 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver 9,
British Columbia.

March 2nd, 1973.

Dear Lanny,

In reply to your letter of February 23rd, I am most happy to support your application for a grant from the Department of Manpower & Immigration.

I have been familiar with the activities and goals of the M.P.A. for several years now, and have been very impressed with the work it has done.

Having been active in the labour relations field since 1958, I am very much aware of the problems that an ex-mental patient has in obtaining employment. If they are honest on the application form, the company automatically eliminates them as a potential employee. If they are dishonest and lie about their health, mental or otherwise, they are forever subjected to the threat of discharge for having lied if they are ever found out.

In meeting with the members of the M.P.A., I have been very impressed with the fact that ex-mental patients seem to be in an excellent position to help those who have recently been released from some kind of psychiatric treatment, institutionalized or otherwise. Having gone through the trauma of treatment and adjustment, ex-mental patients are more empathetic to the needs of their fellow-sufferers.

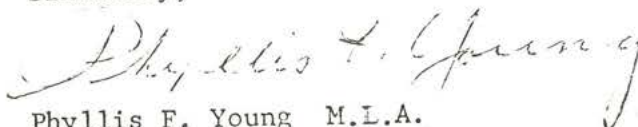
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Mr. Lanny Beckman

The M.P.A. has sought out employment opportunities for its clientele, and I believe that such a grant would accelerate such a programme and the educational benefits thereof.

My very best wish to all of the M.P.A.ers.

Sincerely,



Phyllis F. Young M.L.A.
Vancouver Little Mountain

PFY/jm



March 13, 1973

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Project Coordinator,
Mental Patients Association,
1982 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver 9, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

In reply to your letter of February 23, I would like to verify the following points:

- 1) Ex-mental patients have a very high rate of unemployment; most do not find ongoing jobs in the competitive job market;
- 2) What with the exorbitant demand on mental health professionals, there is growing recognition of the need for non-professionals, para-professionals and volunteers to perform services complementary to those of professionals;
- 3) In many cases, ex-patients possess unique experience and ability to help others who are undergoing emotional stress;
- 4) There is a job-training component in working with MPA; coordinators work in actual life-situations in which essential "helping" skills are learned;
- 5) Finally, the experience gained in working with MPA increases the person's future employability in other, related jobs.

The MPA provides a very valuable service to the community and deserves all financial help possible in order to carry on their work.

Yours truly,

Rosemary Brown, M.L.A.
(Vancouver-Burrard)

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

March 5, 1973

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sirs:

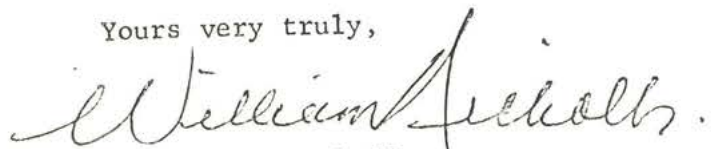
Re: Mental Patients Association

On November 2, 1972, Mr. Barry Coull of the Mental Patients Association was invited to make a presentation on the history, goals, organization and service programme of that organization to a class in community organization and social planning at the School of Social Work. There was a full discussion, questioning and analysis of the Association, and a frank consideration of the underlying principles, leadership structures and ways in which problems had been handled. This was very well received by the class members - predominantly social work students, but also others from the School of Community and Regional Planning and from Nursing, all in their graduating year.

As a self-help association, the Mental Patients Association evidently has been close to the needs of ex-mental health patients, and has sought through mutually supporting activities to build confidence, reduce loneliness and dependency for its members. The organization has secured outside referrals, support and encouragement, but has maintained its separate operation, using a high degree of participation by members as a means of sharing responsibility. Much patience has been required; the process of involvement is regarded as central and a great deal of personal commitment has been shown.

My impression is that the Mental Patients Association by innovation and persistence has demonstrated it is able to provide important, and otherwise largely neglected services in an area where self-help and direct supporting relationships are basic to rehabilitation. I would therefore support the application of the Mental Patients Association for a grant to enable it to sustain its service programmes.

Yours very truly,



William M. Nicholls
Associate Professor

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE HOSPITAL
VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

Social Service Department

March 7, 1973.

Mental Patients Association
1982 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B. C.

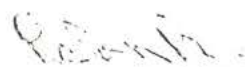
Attention: Pam LaFreniere

Dear Miss LaFreniere:

I have been referring patients intermittently to the Mental Patients Association over the past two years. I feel that M.P.A. is extremely useful in serving as an after care resource for patients being discharged from hospital. As you are aware, there is a desperate shortage of such accommodation for patients, and M.P.A. has certainly met a community need in this respect.

If the Department of Manpower and Immigration are considering giving you a three year grant, please pass on to them that I would heartily support such a move.

Yours sincerely,



Ralph Buckley, M.S.W.
R.S.W.

Social Service Department

LRB/nm



BRITISH COLUMBIA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
"THE MAPLES"

3/2/73

To Whom it May Concern:

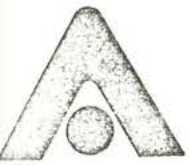
Dear Sirs

I have been informed that the Mental Patients' Association is eligible for a three-year grant to sustain its service programs. I am encouraged to hear this and want to support MPA's request for financial aid.

It seems unquestionable to me that MPA provides a unique and valuable service to the community at large. A service which in both emotional and hourly terms is beyond what many professionals are willing or able to give. Also, as a self-help type of organization MPA contributes by helping people to develop skills for helping others with similar experiences. This to me seems to be the progressive direction for health services in general.

For these reasons I would be glad for MPA to be funded so that it may carry on its work.

Sincerely,
Caroline Haxilke
Consultant Psychologist,
The Maples.



March 1, 1973.

Mr. Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator
Mental Patients Assn.
1982 W. 6th Ave.
Vancouver 9, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

I am pleased to be able to offer the Mental Patients Association my support in their application to the Department of Manpower and Immigration for a three year grant.

It is well-known that individuals who have experienced adjustment difficulties to the extent that they have required clinical treatment have often been frustrated in their attempts to find suitable employment when they re-enter the job market. This is particularly true of alcoholics. Approximately 60% of all alcoholics who seek treatment at out-patient clinics are unemployed and it has always been considered to be crucial for their continued sobriety that employment (or retraining) be secured as quickly as possible.

It is my understanding that the provincial government as part of a reorganization of the delivery system for Health and Welfare services (including mental health and drug-alcoholism programs) intends to encourage the development of local self-help groups and, as well, to employ as many non-professionals as possible.

In the field of alcoholism, alcoholics who have discontinued drinking have been used at all levels in the treatment process. This has been possible largely through the experience they have gained while members of Alcoholics Anonymous - one of the earliest established self-help groups. For some kinds of services, their enthusiasm, dedication and their ability to relate to other alcoholics have made them definitely preferable to professionals.

While the practice of employing alcoholic counsellors has been somewhat of a tradition in this field, and in the recent past programs have been initiated to have former welfare recipients become case-aids or occupy

other Welfare positions, there has been no similar development within the area of mental health. It is for this reason that I would encourage any program which would allow individuals who have had such problems gain experience in providing assistance to others who have similar problems. I believe that within a very short time the more formal treatment agencies will come to recognize a need for a substantial number of experienced non-professionals.

Lots of luck with your project.



R.E. Cutler
Director of Research

pb/REC

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE HOSPITAL
VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

Social Service Department

March 6, 1973.

Department of Manpower & Immigration
549 Howe Street
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

RE: THREE YEAR GRANT TO MENTAL PATIENTS ASSOCIATION

I am writing this letter to support the Mental Patients Association's application for funding. I am a social worker at the Health Sciences Center Hospital, University of British Columbia and was previously employed at Gordon House Neighborhood Services. From my work with mental patients and ex-mental patients, I can definitely say that unemployment is a major problem for ex-mental patients and their families.

Often ex-mental patients very much need non-alienating work where they can relate to people on the job. Because of their own experiences, some ex-patients are well suited to work in the community mental health field as volunteers and non professionals. The ex-mental patient is in a unique position to help others who are going through stressful situations.

Working for M.P.A. would give an ex-mental patient varied work experience, therefore improving his chances of gaining future employment.

The present M.P.A. services are helping fill an important need in the community. The three year grant would sustain these services while providing valuable employment training and experience.

Sincerely,

Marsha Enomoto

Marsha Enomoto, M.S.W.
Social Service Department
Health Sciences Center Hospital

ME/nm

LEBLANC & COMPANY

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

RAYMOND L. LEBLANC, BA., LL.B.
 KENNETH S. SPECHT, BA., LL.B.
 R. DALE CARR-HARRIS, BA., LL.B.
 ASSOCIATE COUNSEL
 CYRIL J. McGUIRE, LL.B.

SUITE 101-2515 BURRARD STREET

VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

FILE NO.

March 14, 1973

Canada Department of Man-
 power and Immigration

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: The Mental Patients' Assoc-
iation of Vancouver (M.P.A.)

This is a letter in support of a grant to sustain the service programs of The Mental Patients' Association, and is written at their request.

Since October of 1972, I have been a general advisor to the M.P.A. and have undertaken legal matters on behalf of individual members of this organization. In addition, because of my interest in the work M.P.A. has been carrying on, and my belief in its social importance, I have attended a number of their meetings and have had numerous contacts on both a professional and personal level with many of the members. Based on this experience, I wish to make the following points with respect to the employment problems, employability and need for employment of these persons.

1. Although ex-mental patients tend to be above average in intelligence, skills and training, they have a very high rate of unemployment; most do not find on-going jobs in the competitive job market.

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2. Because of the excessive demand on mental health professionals, there is a need for non-professionals and para-professionals to perform services complimentary to those of the professionals.
3. Ex-mental patients often possess unique experience and ability to help others who are undergoing emotional stress. In many cases, hospitalization with its disadvantages for the individual and the community has been avoided by early contact between persons undergoing emotional crisis and members of M.P.A.
4. There is a job-training component in working with M.P.A.; co-ordinators work in actual life-situations in which essential "helping" and problem-solving skills are learned. They also learn skills in dealing with people and in making contact with community organizations and agencies which are appropriate and relevant to given situations.
5. The experience and self-confidence gained in working with M.P.A. increases the person's future employability in other related or unrelated jobs.

The problem of public financial cost and loss of productivity resulting from institutional mental health care has been of increasing concern for decades. The Mental Patients' Association of Vancouver, has shown initiative and responsible management in establishing a viable alternative to institutionalization in many cases. They have also demonstrated their value in rehabilitating ex-mental patients and re-establishing them as part of the work force in the community. The correlation between mental ill health and unemployment has been repeatedly documented. It is therefore, my carefully considered judgment that funding of this organization

.....3.

by the Department of Manpower and Immigration could be a vital contribution to the reduction of unemployment in Canada.

Sincerely yours,

R. Dale Carr-Harris

R. DALE CARR-HARRIS
B.A., LL.B., of the
British Columbia Bar

RDCH:roj

VANCOUVER COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

257 East 11th Avenue
Vancouver 10, British Columbia
Telephone Number 872-0271

IAN WADDELL B.A. LL.B. LL.M
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
Legal Director

DAVID MOSSOP B.A. LL.B
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

DENNIS MURRAY LL.B
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

DOROTHY JAQUES B. Sc., LL.B
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
(Also Of The Alberta Bar)

2nd March, 1973

Mental Patients Association
1982 West 6th Avenue
VANCOUVER 9, B. C.

ATTENTION: Lanny Beckman
Project Co-Ordinator

Dear Mr. Beckman:

I understand that MPA is eligible for a three-year sustaining grant from the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I am writing to you in support of your application for a grant and would hope that you will pass this letter on to the appropriate authorities.

I am sure the department knows the history of the MPA and what the MPA has been doing in the past little while. Everyone in the community knows or should know the need for services to ex-mental patients.

I am sure the Department would be interested in problems of employment of ex-mental patients so I need not comment there. There is a growing recognition of the need for para-professionals and volunteers to perform services complementary to those of professionals. This is true of the health profession, especially mental health, just as it is true for the legal profession, where through our office, we have been developing the use of para-professionals. We find that community people who have experienced legal problems whom we have helped can in some instances be useful to our organization to

Mental Patients Association
2nd March, 1973
Page Two

help others going through the same problems. I am sure that this would be especially true with ex-patients; they know what it is like to go through the emotional stress.

The MPA is quite clearly recognized in the community as far as I am concerned. It is a well-run, energetic, relevant organization and I would think that any experience gained in working with the MPA would increase a person's future employability. As well, I would stress the savings to the public in the long run as a result of programs such as that of the MPA.

I have personally been involved in activities with the MPA including one seminar entitled "Mental Patients and the Law" and have been, frankly, impressed.

If I could be of any further assistance either to MPA or the Department of Manpower and Immigration, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



IAN G. WADDELL,
Legal Director

IGW/sp

SIDNEY FILKOW
BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR

1414 LABURNUM STREET
VANCOUVER 9, B. C.
TELEPHONE 732-6659

March 13, 1973

Vancouver Mental Patients Association Society
1982 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B.C.

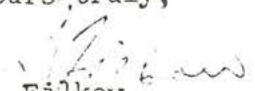
Dear Sirs:

As you know I have worked with many of your co-ordinators in connection with various legal matters and research projects since the inception of your organisation. From my experience in this regard and from my knowledge of the general duties and functions of the co-ordinators I know that they gain valuable skills in research, writing, organisation, administration and communicating effectively with officials and the public.

On many occasions when I have attended your drop-in centre I have observed former patients and co-ordinators assisting someone obviously undergoing emotional crisis. These crisis situations were always successfully resolved because, I am sure, of the personal background and understanding on the part of those assisting as well as their experience in having handled such situations on previous occasions.

For these reasons I have no hesitation in stating that in my opinion those working with the Mental Patients Association gain valuable and unique experiences which greatly enhances their employability in other related jobs. In addition I believe the self-confidence and self-reliance which is also achieved greatly increases their employability in general.

Yours truly,


S. Filkow

BOLTON, RUSH & CLAGUE

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

P. MICHAEL BOLTON
STUART RUSH
IAN W. CLAGUE1105 DOMINION BANK BUILDING
207 WEST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER 3, B.C.

TELEPHONE (604) 687-2708

March 7, 1973

Mental Patients Association,
1982 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver 9, B.C.Attention: Mr. Lanny Beckman

Dear Sirs:

It has been brought to my attention that the Mental Patients Association has been contacted by the Department of Manpower and Immigration regarding the possibility of a three-year grant to sustain the services of the M.P.A. for a further three years. I am writing this letter to you to express my support as someone who has been involved with the Mental Patients Association for obtaining this grant from the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

I have been involved with the Mental Patients Association in many ways. I have taught three separate classes on mental patients and the law and have had several members of the Mental Patients Association attend these lectures to give their views on the necessary changes in the mental health law to the classes. I have assisted members of the Mental Patients Association in obtaining their legal rights as mental patients. I have acted on behalf of referrals from the Mental Patients Association in the criminal courts and in proceedings under the Mental Health Act.

My experience with mental patients and with the Mental Patients Association has led me very strongly to believe that among ex-mental patients there is great difficulty for these patients to obtain employment in the job market. There is a regrettable societal bias against hiring ex-mental patients and an unnecessary fear of recurring problems among employers.

Mental Patients Association
Att'n: Mr. Lanny Beckman

March 7, 1973
Page 2

From my understanding of the community interaction of ex-mental patients at the Mental Patients Association and the therapy and experience which they derive from this interaction, I believe that ex-mental patients can assist each other in a considerable way to help other people with emotional problems or who find themselves in stressful situations to overcome these situations. In this sense I believe that the experience of those of the Mental Patients Association for ex-patients is quite unique. While there is a therapeutic aspect to this type of interaction there is also a job training aspect as well. I believe that those persons who have worked in the past with the Mental Patients Association on a volunteer basis and on a hire basis work in real situations in which their own personal skills and experiences are vital to the assistance which they can give to other people. Obviously, an extension of the work which is performed at the Mental Patients Association in helping ex-patients not only gives the person a sense of self worth, but also provides certain skills and understanding which are transferrable to other jobs and job situations and thus make the person more employable in other job areas.

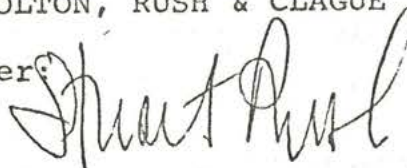
I think what the Mental Patients Association is attempting to do is demystify the necessity of professional treatment for mental patients and to move into a wide field of volunteer and lay service for ex mental patients. Naturally, the field of a para-professional as it relates to ex mental patients and as I believe the Mental Patients Association views it, is different from yet complimentary to those of professional people in the field. Again, I think this job experience is worthwhile and transferrable to other job fields.

I hope that you will consider the points which I have made in this letter very carefully and I would be most appreciative to talk to anyone who might need further explanation of these points. I would once again reiterate my support for the Mental Patients Association and the work it is doing for its mental patients and for the need for continuing funding for their programs.

Yours very truly,

BOLTON, RUSH & CLAGUE

Per:



Stuart Rush

SAR/ch

WELFARE AND REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT



TELEPHONE: 731-9155
1530 WEST 8TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 22, 1972

Mr. Barry Coull
Mental Patients' Association
3191 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Coull:

I have read your report of February 3, 1972 and have a copy of Mrs. Keays' letter to you dated February 8, 1972.

I am very pleased to see the tremendous benefits that are being derived from the cooperative working arrangement between the V.O.P. and your association. The results are indeed remarkable and I believe you would agree with our point of view that the V.O.P. is one of the most realistic and effective programs in Canada in helping many people to get back into society in a meaningful and satisfying capacity.

Keep up the good work. You can count on our full support.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Boyd,
Director.

WNB/hl
CC: V.O.P.
Mrs. Keays

EVALUATION OF
THE MENTAL PATIENTS ASSOCIATION AS AN OPPORTUNITIES PLACEMENT

Submitted by: (Mrs.) J. Minchinton
Placements Coordinator
Vancouver Opportunities Program

Date: January 31, 1972

In review, the MPA applied, and was accepted, as a placement in May 1971, so this evaluation covers a nine months period. During this time a total of 27 people have worked as volunteers within the MPA. The average number of volunteers placed at any one time has been fifteen. All, excepting one man, are people who have been, or are, undergoing treatment for psychiatric problems that prevented employment, or acceptance, by the working community. At the MPA, the volunteers have been assigned to perform useful work in a sheltered, confidence-building, environment.

Since Fall, six people have left this Opportunities placement, and re-entered the working community. Two volunteers obtained employment, via requested new VOP placements, as school aides funded through the Federal Local Initiatives Programme, and three volunteers obtained full-time employment. All five are no longer in receipt of Social Assistance.

One former volunteer is currently employed at the MPA as cook.

One other volunteer has returned to school.

Two more volunteers requested other placements, and are currently functioning independently in the community.

To date, this makes a total of ten people that have made a combined use of the shelter and supported services offered at the MPA, plus the incentive and structure of the VOP, to gradually move back into the community. Due to the short time this association has a number of Opportunities, it is difficult to project what the average length of time is that a volunteer may need to spend at the MPA as his placement. However, it has been demonstrated that the MPA encourages movement into the community, as soon as the volunteer appears ready. The total length of time needed for participation in Opportunities, is probably going to be shown as standard. This, of course, is dependant upon individual needs, the same as for anyone who participates in the VOP.

It is my opinion, that the MPA is a model self-help group, and provides a real service to its specific group of people, and to our community. The shelter offered, affords those lacking self-confidence, the chance to re-enter society in a gradual and positive manner. The liaison between the VOP and the MPA, is an invaluable resource for these former patients. The fact that ten people in nine months have been able to return to the working community, whether as volunteers, workers, or students, is a statistic that cannot be quoted by many other self-help groups, and certainly not by one that has mental patients as its membership.

The supervisors of MPA*VOP volunteers, Mr. Lanny Beckman, Mr. Barry Coull, and Mr. Gerry Walker, have demonstrated to me an honest concern that the criteria for volunteer placements be met, and enforced. This is illustrated by the fact that, although there is an allowance for 20 volunteers at any one time, there has never been more than 18, and the current number is 13. There are not make-work situations developed in this placement, and a volunteer is not placed unless he will be doing a valid function, and is capable of performing his job well. If a volunteer does not prove satisfactory, he is terminated, thus proving that internal discipline is strong, and the VOP protected from any who might wish to misuse it.

To date, I have not collected written opinions from Doctors and Social Workers on this subject. But, I have a lot of verbal communications, and the thoughts are that the combination of MPA-VOP, is of great benefit to their patients, and produces positive results. Professional documentation would delay the submission of this evaluation for some months, but I will get such papers, if requested.

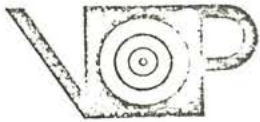
I recommend two changes in the restrictions now placed on the MPA:

1. That a Psychiatrist's letter no longer be a requirement

for placement, as the initial screening practised by the supervisors, has proven to be effective and sufficient.

2. That the ceiling of 20 volunteers be established as negotiable. The MPA is now opening a second "house", and it is probable there will be need for more volunteers in the next year.

Any reservations that may have been felt when the MPA first became a member agency of the VOP, have most certainly been erased in the last nine months. There can only be genuine respect for this group, and their attempt to meet the very real needs of the mental patient. In conclusion, I ask for the acceptance of my recommendations, and say that the MPA is a valid and necessary Opportunities placement.



Vancouver Opportunities Program

1439 COMMERCIAL DRIVE • VANCOUVER 6, BRITISH COLUMBIA • 255-9336

November 2, 1972.

Re: The Mental Patients Association's
application for funds.

To Whom It May Concern:

During the last year and a half we have seen that the Mental Patients Association is providing a real service to the community by providing after-care services, and preventative help, to people who are suffering emotional distress.

They have demonstrated a high level of responsibility in the administration of their previous funding, and the administration of their services.

We know the need that MPA is attempting to satisfy, we know how crucial that need is, and we endorse their application for funds to continue, and to expand.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'E. Heustis'.

(Mrs.) Emily Heustis
Chairman

EH/ks

HUNTER

A study recently completed at the University of B.C. indicates that the second most discriminated-against group in Vancouver, at least when it comes to employment, may be hippies.

The only group considered even more discriminated against was mental retardates.



Edro I. Signori and Henry Rempel of the psychology department at UBC worked out a list of 18 "disadvantaged" groups to study a broad range of employment discrimination. University students, 361 males and 184 females, were asked to rate each group according to the degree of discrimination the students expected them to encounter.

Studies like this are based on the fact that the feelings of a large number of fairly socially-conscious people like students reflect community feelings at large with considerable accuracy.

The study was supported by the department of manpower and immigration and, according to the authors, may have provided a guide "for the implementation of social measures and programs aimed at the socially disadvantaged."

If such programs are ever launched, they would have to concentrate on helping hippies out even more than ex-mental patients or ex-criminals who were given a better chance at getting jobs than the hippies were (assuming the hippies were at all interested).

At another level, the study is probably a good yardstick with which to measure the prejudices of Vancouver as a whole. Cities have personalities and can be identified not only in terms of skylines and size but by the collective behavior of their citizens.

In Vancouver, for instance, the study suggests that Negroes are only the eighth most discriminated-against group.

Obviously, in Memphis or Atlanta they would rate a lot higher. And here, British immigrants were considered the group least likely to run into discrimination in getting a job.

Here is the catalogue of prejudices that likely awaits the job hunter in Vancouver, in order of the degree of discrimination they can expect to run into:

1. Mental retardates.
2. Hippies.
3. Ex-mental patients.
4. Ex-criminals.
5. North American Indians.

6. Negroes.
7. East European Canadians.
8. East Indians.
9. Older workers.
10. School drop-outs.
11. Orientals.
12. Southern Europeans.
13. Jews.
14. Women.
15. Northern Europeans.
16. British immigrants.

An interesting sidelight of the study was the fact that the females who were questioned considered themselves to be less discriminated-against in job-getting than the males felt they were. While 4.20 per cent of the male students felt that women face discrimination in this field, only 3.42 per cent of the women agreed. Their lot is not, they felt, as bad as men tended to think it is.

(This suggests some comments to me on the contradictions built into the royal commission on the status of women. But we'll save that for some other time.)



BRITISH COLUMBIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - B.C. DIVISION

101.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE BUILDING
1807 WEST 10TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

TELEPHONE:
736-5581

E. C. McCOY, M.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
D. M. BOLTON, M.D.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
R. G. WILSON, M.D.
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
J. B. PAUL
SECRETARY-TREASURER
D. BAIRD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

March 25, 1971.

Lanny Beckman,
Project Director,
Mental Patients Association,
3191 West Tenth Avenue,
Vancouver 8.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

In reply to your letter of March 22, I am pleased to inform you that at the General Meeting of the Section of Psychiatry, B. C. Medical Association on March 15, 1971 the following motion was passed: "The Section of Psychiatry supports in principle the objectives and activities of the Mental Patients Association".

The minutes of this meeting will not be approved until the next meeting, called for April 19.

Yours sincerely,

F. W. Hanley, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer
Section of Psychiatry
B. C. Medical Association

FWH:ep

102.
EARL D. HARDIN, M.D.

PSYCHIATRY

TELEPHONE:
876-1133

SUITE 703
750 WEST BROADWAY
VANCOUVER 9, B.C.

November 8, 1972.

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The Mental Patient's Association

This is to commend the Mental Patient's Association, and to endorse requests the group is making for grants to continue and further their efforts.

It is obvious that there is a substantial place in the total field of mental health care for a self-help organization. I believe that this particular association has been extremely effective in some instances where more conventional psychiatric approaches were offering limited objectives. The Mental Patient's Association provides an opportunity for persons with psychological and social disabilities to make gains with a large measure of dignity and initiative.

I think the organization's leaders have a reasonable set of working hypotheses and have a great deal of capability. It seems to me they have been responsible and diligent in their dealings with the more conventional personnel and facilities operating in the mental health field in this area.

I hope the Association will continue to have the financial wherewithall to sustain itself and grow.

Sincerely yours,



Earl D. Hardin, M.D.

EH/cd

METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE OF GREATER VANCOUVER

Administrative Offices
Vancouver 10, B.C.

November 3, 1972

Telephone 873-7391
File No.

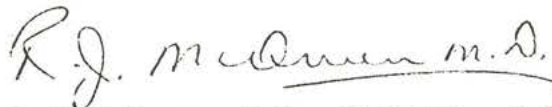
Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Project Coordinator,
Mental Patients' Association,
3191 West 10th Avenue,
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman,

I enjoyed meeting with your workers the other day and to hear of the progress which your association is making. I understand your association is presently doing research and evaluating its functions. I hope you will share your reports and evaluations with those of us who have been following the progress of the Mental Patients' Association. An annual review of this nature is useful to all of us in the "helping" sphere.

I feel that the Mental Patients' Association is providing a service in the community which is not being provided by others, and in this respect would support the request for funds as long as the association continues to function within the framework of its constitution.

Yours sincerely,



R.J. McQueen, M.D., D.Psych., C.R.C.P.(C).,
Director, Mental Health Services.

RJM/MJB



CITY OF VANCOUVER
CANADA

SOCIAL PLANNING / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

453 WEST 12TH AVENUE, EAST WING
VANCOUVER 10, B.C.
873-7011

November 8, 1972

Dear Reader:

Re: Mental Patients' Association

I am writing to express strong support for the endeavours of the Mental Patients Association. The Province of British Columbia has been very weak in developing facilities, programs and resources to meet the needs of those suffering mentally and emotionally.

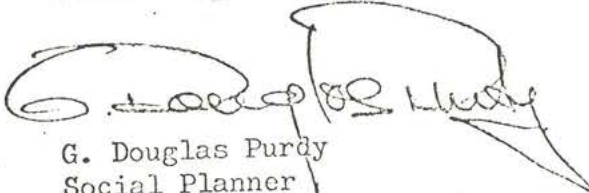
My personal bias had tended towards the development of a strong community mental health program. The Mental Patients' Association meets this need and in fine style. Better still, the momentum is coming from the "experts", those who have experienced mental and emotional difficulties.

With assistance, the Mental Patients' Association has proven itself capable of developing a viable organization with a range of strengths and abilities, particularly in program development and management of funds.

This is not to provide the illusion that Mental Patients' Association is perfect. Like all operations, mistakes are made and are experienced. But it is viable, it is strong because the people both give it strength and from it receive their strength.

This alone is sufficient for it to merit my support. I hope you feel it merits yours financially and otherwise.

Yours truly



G. Douglas Purdy
Social Planner



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY 2, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: 291-3111

November 6, 1972

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have been in close touch with the Mental Patients' Association since the time of its initial organization and am happy to state that they have been doing an excellent and responsible job in a pioneering area where the need in this community is great.

This is an unusually democratic group which manages to preserve, in spite of a rather heavy turnover, a sort of intelligence and innovative flexibility which is rare, and to do this, furthermore with modesty and consideration for others. They have come to enjoy a high regard from all quarters.

These people have a high degree of integrity and have thoroughly demonstrated responsibility and competence in the management of funds. I regard the MPA as a proven experiment, highly deserving of continuing support.

Yours very truly,

Fred J. Lown, Professor
BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FJL/pp



CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION
 SOCIÉTÉ CENTRALE D'HYPOTHÈQUES ET DE LOGEMENT

Ste. 240, 2609 Granville St.

British Columbia Regional Office • ~~2286 West 12th Avenue~~ • Vancouver 9, B.C.

Bureau de la région de la Colombie-Britannique • 2286 ouest, 12e Avenue • Vancouver 9, C.-B.

October 30, 1972.

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
 Project Co-ordinator,
 Mental Patients' Association,
 3191 West 10th Avenue,
 Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

I am pleased to endorse the good and effective work the Mental Patients' Association is attempting to carry out with those in need via a variety of services in the community. In working with you concerning housing needs and ways these can be met, I have been able to see the real contribution the Association is making and how responsibly it goes about this. I have no question at all about its ability to administer various funds, including those from the public sector. Consequently, I support any applications you might make for continued financing and funding of the work of the Association.

Yours sincerely,



Roland Hennessey,
 Social Development Officer

RH/jb



October 3, 1972

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Project Co-ordinator,
Mental Patients' Association,
3191 West 10th Avenue,
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 1972.

In my opinion, the Mental Patients' Association has fulfilled a very useful need in the community and the group that I have met has my absolute confidence so far as their ability to administer funds and carry on the organization is concerned.

Any support that I can extend to your organization now and in the future will certainly be done.

Yours truly,

Harry Rankin
Alderman *H*

path
10/3/72

February 17, 1972.

Mr. John York
Public Relations Officer
Mental Patient's Association
3191 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. York:

Thank you for your offer to speak to our patients and staff about the services offered by the Mental Patients Association.

As I indicated to you, there has been a steadily improving liaison between our psychiatric facilities (in-patient and out-patient) and your association during the last six months. Many of our patients have made use of the recreational services, the accommodation resources and the "drop-in" facility which is offered. It has been our experience that many of the social isolated and lonely young people who receive Vancouver General Hospital psychiatric services, are also helped through participation in and utilization of M.P.A. programs.

We look forward to hearing your presentation in the near future.

Yours very truly,



Mrs. M. Russell, RSW
Social Service Department

MR/me

RS

September 3, 1971.

Mental Patients Association,
3191 West 10th Avenue,
Vancouver 8, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

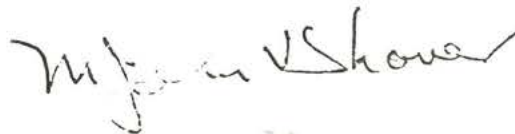
This letter will describe our interest and relationship of your Association. You already are aware of this but its written version may be of some help to you.

The Metropolitan Council is now that arm of our church which acts as a kind of local investigation whenever appeals for funds are made to the National Office of our Board of Evangelism and Social Service. Such an appeal went forward from the Mental Patients Association and we were asked to make such an investigation.

The concept and program of the Association appealed to us in the first place. We are committed ourselves to this kind of self-help group. We appreciated the fact that the program got underway so quickly with and without extensive financial backing. We were concerned that the program, while involving the self-help principle, not put itself in a position where it was outside professional back up. Our enquiries lead us to believe that the professional back up was taken care of.

As a result of our investigation we recommended support of the request to our Board and I, therefore, feel that I can pass this word on to you. According to our lights and knowledge we would commend this programme and its needs to whomsoever is presented with a request for help.

Yours sincerely,



M. John V. Shaver.

MJVS/jp

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE HOSPITAL
VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

August 19th, 1971

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

During the past year, I have become familiar with the work being done by the Mental Patients Association. I have also participated in training patient volunteers for Crisis Intervention Service through the Mental Patients Association. In addition, I have spent some time at the house run by the M.P.A. and have dealt with some of the acute psychiatric problems that presented there. I have spoken at some length with the leadership of the M.P.A. and have been quite impressed with their abilities. The M.P.A. is obviously a responsible organization and is providing a much-needed service to Vancouver. I have watched the M.P.A. grow from a beginning organization to a greatly expanded one and I am presently aware of the need for increased facilities and increased funds and staffing to provide those facilities. I have been informed that the M.P.A. is applying to the government of British Columbia for a Grant increase. I wish to write this letter in support of this increase in funds for the M.P.A. I am confident that the funds would not only be used wisely, but will greatly benefit the community as a whole and especially those deriving benefit from the M.P.A. services. There is no question in my mind as a psychiatrist that an organization such as the M.P.A. keep chronic patients and acutely disturbed people from occupying expensive hospital services for long periods of time. They provide a real halfway house service at a considerable reduction in price.

I am hopeful that those responsible for providing an increase in funds to the M.P.A. will consider my remarks in support of them.

Sincerely,



Ralph Peter Uhlmann, M.D.
Resident Psychiatrist,
Health Sciences Centre Hospital.

RPU:amcb

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

March 21, 1972

Mr. Lanning Beckman
Mental Patients Association
3191 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Lanny:

Now that the academic year is almost over at U.B.C. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and M.P.A. for the rewarding experience you have given the senior students in my psychology class in letting them do research at M.P.A. and serve as volunteer helpers. Being deeply concerned with human beings, my psychology students were genuinely impressed with the work and dedicated sacrifice of M.P.A. in helping others in distress.

As you know, I have been in favor of the aims and goals of M.P.A. since we first discussed them, before M.P.A. became a reality. What is really remarkable, though, is the degree of success you and your staff have been able to achieve in making M.P.A. a reality, particularly in view of the enormous financial and other difficulties you have had to face in getting started. I feel, though, that your efforts have been rewarded. I believe, as do many other professional mental health workers in the field whom I have spoken to, that M.P.A. has made a unique and very necessary contribution to the mental health problem in British Columbia. I want you and M.P.A. to know that you can count on my continued support.

With best regards,

Claude

Claude de Martino, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and
Chairman of Clinical Training