

November 26, 1973

The Canada Council
151 Sparks Street
P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8

Dear Sir:

Our Association, which is registered federally as a charitable organization and provincially as a non-profit society for the provision of services to mental patients and ex-patients, is interested in applying for a funding grant to publish books.

We understand that such funding programs exist under the auspices of the Canada Council. We would appreciate receiving information as to how we might go about applying for a grant, and receiving application forms (if such exist) and any other pertinent materials and information.

Specifically, we wish to publish one book which is already in final manuscript form, and perhaps a second which is in the early stages of being drafted.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator

December 13, 1973

Information Service
The Canada Council
P O Box 1047
Ottawa Ontario K1P 5V8

Dear Sir:

I wrote you a while ago requesting information on sources of funds for publishing books and journals, but have not yet received a reply. It is my understanding that the Council does offer such funding programs.

We would appreciate your advising us as to how we might go about applying for a publishing grant, whether through the Council or other sources.

As we already have manuscripts waiting to be published, we would be grateful if you would respond at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Research Coordinator

LB:jm

December 13, 1973

Honourable E Hall
Provincial Secretary
Parliament Buildings
Victoria B C

Dear Mr. Hall:

On behalf of our organization, I am writing to request information on sources of grants to publish books and journals in the mental health field. I wonder whether your department offers such funding programs. If so, would you kindly advise us as to how we might make application. If not, we would appreciate any information you might offer as to where we can apply.

I should add that the size of the grant we are seeking is fairly modest, and also that our organization has been receiving a small grant from your department for the past two-and-a half years.

We will be grateful for any assistance you can offer in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator

LB:jm
cc: Mr. L. J. Wallace

December 13, 1973

Ms Rosemary Brown
M L A
Parliament Buildings
Victoria B C

Dear Rosemary:

I am writing (as usual) for information and assistance. We are planning to open a new area in M.P.A. -- namely, publications -- and are interested in locating funding sources. Our present budget does not cover the publications envisaged in this plan.

I know that you are connected with programs in culture and the arts and am hopeful that you know of granting sources for the publication of books and journals which are described below.

Over the next several months to a year, we have in mind the publication of two books and a quarterly journal.

One book is entitled White Gestalt/Black Gestalt by David Berg. Perhaps you knew him or knew of him, as he taught at S.F.U. a number of years ago and had practiced gestalt therapy for the past five years in Vancouver. He was peripherally involved in M.P.A., conducting the occasional group for our members. He became very depressed about half a year ago and, as you may have heard, tragically killed himself on this November 1st. His book is a beautiful and moving work, excerpts from which are printed in the December Nutshell, which should reach you about the same time as this letter. We feel it is appropriate for M.P.A. to publish his book, with a foreword on his life and the theoretical importance of his work.

The second book is on M.P.A. Chapters (to be written by coordinators and members in various areas) include housing, employment, drop-in and crisis services, women, legal issues, social discrimination, mental patients liberation, crime, divorce, suicide, etc., etc.

We are also interested in publishing a quarterly journal (with the working title, Bedlam) to contain lengthy theoretical articles giving the patient's point of view on the gamut of social, political and economic issues which affect his or her life.

M.P.A. has developed a solid service base and we feel it is time to broaden our work by publishing material which describes the successful experiment we are engaged in and which will reach the many professionals, government officials and of course ordinary people who have much to learn about the needed reforms in the mental health field.

I should point out that the sum of money we are seeking for the publishing program is quite modest. Please let me know who we can contact - public or private sources - for the funding required.

Finally, I hope you are well and that you have a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator

LB:jm

P.S.

I have sent essentially the same letter to Phyllis Young. I am also writing Ernest Hall and the Canada Council. Otherwise, I am counting on your suggestions for potential sources of funds. Thanks again.

December 13, 1973

Ms Phyllis Young
M L A
Parliament Buildings
Victoria B C

Dear Phyllis:

I am writing (as usual) for information and assistance. We are planning to open a new area in M.P.A. -- namely, publications -- and are interested in locating funding sources. Our present budget does not cover the publications envisaged in this plan.

In your capacity as minister, I am hopeful that you know of granting sources for the publication of books and journals which are described below.

Over the next several months to a year, we have in mind the publication of two books and a quarterly journal.

One book is entitled White Gestalt/Black Gestalt by David Berg. Perhaps you knew him or knew of him, as he taught at S.F.U. a number of years ago and had practiced gestalt therapy for the past five years in Vancouver. He was peripherally involved in M.P.A., conducting the occasional group for our members. He became very depressed about half a year ago and, as you may have heard, tragically killed himself on this November 1st. His book is a beautiful and moving work, excerpts from which are printed in the December Nutshell, which should reach you about the same time as this letter. We feel it is appropriate for M.P.A. to publish his book, with a foreword on his life and the theoretical importance of his work.

The second book is on M.P.A. Chapters (to be written by coordinators and members in various areas) include housing, employment, drop-in and crisis services, women, legal issues, social discrimination, mental patients liberation, crime, divorce, suicide, etc., etc.

We are also interested in publishing a quarterly journal (with the working title, Bedlam) to contain lengthy theoretical articles giving the patient's point of view on the gamut of social, political and economic issues which affect his or her life.

M.P.A. has developed a solid service base and we feel it is time to broaden our work by publishing material which describes the successful experiment we are engaged in and which will reach the many professionals, government officials and of course ordinary people who have much to learn about the needed reforms in the mental health field.

I should point out that the sum of money we are seeking for the publishing program is quite modest. Please let me know who we can contact - public or private sources - for the funding required.

Finally, I hope you are well and that you have a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator

LB:jm

P.S.

I have sent essentially the same letter to Rosemary Brown. I am also writing Ernest Hall and the Canada Council. Otherwise I am counting on your suggestions for potential sources of funds. Thanks Again.

December 14, 1973

Hon. Marc Lalonde,
Minister of Health and Welfare,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Lalonde:

Our organization has been involved for the past three years in the provision of aftercare services for ex-mental patients. Our research program, which has been active for two years, has generated a good deal of original material in the mental health field.

We are interested in publishing our research findings and are seeking funds to support this venture. Specifically, we hope to secure funding to support the publication of books, pamphlets and a quarterly journal.

Are such funds available through your department? If so, we would appreciate receiving application forms (if such exist) and any other pertinent information and materials. If not, could you direct us to likely sources of funding?

We believe that our work is unique (in that it represents the mental patient's point of view) and is deserving of broad exposure.

The sums of money we are seeking are quite modest. We would appreciate any help you can offer in our quest for publication grants.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Research Coordinator

LB:jm

December 14, 1973

Dr. F. G. Tucker,
Deputy Minister of Mental Health,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Dr. Tucker:

I am writing for assistance in our quest to secure funding for a program of publications. Specifically, we are interested in publishing books, pamphlets and a quarterly journal. These materials will be drawn from our research findings, and the literary writings of our members. The focus will be on the mental health field.

Without going into detail here on our prospective publications, I would be interested in knowing whether a grant might be available through the Department of Health or The Mental Health Branch. If so, I would appreciate receiving application forms (if such exist) and any other pertinent information and materials. If not, would you kindly let us know where we might apply for such funding.

I should add that the sums of money we are seeking are quite modest.

I would be most grateful for any help you can offer in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Research Coordinator

LB:jm

cc: Hon. D. Cocke
Mr. A. Porteous

February 6, 1974

Mr. Georges F. Singer
Explorations Program
The Canada Council
P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8

Dear Mr. Singer:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 1974. As you suggest, I am submitting a brief description of the project for which our organization intends to seek funds through the Explorations Program. For information on the organization itself, I refer you to my letter of December 27, 1973, and to the MPA publications enclosed with that letter. We will send any further information required, upon request.

We would propose to use the period of Canada Council assistance to have two researchers prepare a book-length manuscript on psychiatric and mental health practices in Canada. The material will be presented in a "scholarly" format, making use of and drawing upon the professional, academic literature as a take-off point for a critique of theories and programs in the psychiatric and related fields. Our assessment will rest fundamentally upon a "progressive," critical analysis of everyday assumptions and practices which for the most part are shielded from public scrutiny and professional criticism.

I should like to emphasize the innovative intentions of the proposed research. The mental health literature presents a monolithic perspective which is almost entirely dominated by the official professional point of view. While there is a good deal of material which questions and even attacks the dominant trends in mental health, most of it is directed to a lay audience and fails to couch itself in the same terms which professionals employ. It is thus easily dismissed as uninformed opinion. Another body of writing critical of psychiatric practices relies upon muckraking attacks on the "atrocities" of the mental health professions--e.g., involuntary incarceration, coercive drug and shock treatments and so on-- Critiques such as these are generally ineffectual because the charges are both hysterical and undocumented.

It is our intention to rectify these faults by presenting a thoughtfully researched and documented series of papers which responsibly addresses itself to a professional and educated lay audience. The researchers will make use of professional periodicals and books which will be used as the frame of reference within which the analysis will be conducted. Again, let me stress that, to our knowledge, no such project has as yet been undertaken, certainly not in Canada.

The proposed manuscript will contain between ten and twelve chapters, each systematically examining a germane topic in the mental health field.

Examples of these topics include the following:

- (1) Public Attitudes Toward Mental Illness: An Historical Perspective;
- (2) Mental Patients and Violence;
- (3) The Effectiveness of Psychiatric Treatment: In-Patient, Out-Patient and Private Care;
- (4) The Economics of the Mental Health Industry;
- (5) Mental Illness and Poverty;
- (6) The Problem of Housing for Ex-Mental Patients;
- (7) Criminality Among Mental Patients;
- (8) On the Paucity of Aftercare Services for Discharged Patients;
- (9) The Demography of Mental Illness; and,
- (10) Psychiatric Drugs.

We are confident that these chapters, prepared as part of an interconnected program of research, will be readily integrated into a book. We also feel the book will make an original and valuable contribution to the social science literature on mental health by stimulating informed dialogue between official and oppositional psychiatric perspectives.

We estimate that preparation of the manuscript will require the full-time work of two researchers for a six-month period. The two persons intended to undertake the project are currently employed by our association, but in organizational and service tasks which leave little time for in-depth research. With Canada Council assistance, they will be freed to devote their full energies to the proposed project. Both authors hold Masters Degrees, one in psychology and the other in sociology, a fact which indicates backgrounds appropriate to the project's aims. Further, as is true of the great majority of our membership, both have had experience as mental patients and are thus equipped to view the material from a fuller perspective than simply an academic one. Having been engaged in practical, applied work with our organization further broadens the outlook they bring to the proposed task.

A rough, estimated budget is as follows:

(1) Living expenses for two researchers at \$430 per month for six months (= \$430 x 6 x 2) =	\$ 5,160.00
(2) Materials and supplies.....	150.00
(3) Secretarial and related costs.....	200.00
(4) Postage and miscellaneous costs.....	<u>100.00</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST.....	\$ 5,610.00

Finally, I should mention that our prospects for publishing and distributing the book are very good. We have already discussed the matter with New Star Books, a Vancouver publisher in receipt of a Block Grant through the Canada Council. They have expressed a strong interest in beginning to publish Canadian books in the field of psychology, and have indicated a commitment to give serious consideration to publication of

the manuscript described here.

We are eager to get on with the project and would appreciate any efforts on your part to have the application procedure expedited. I realize that the Council's decision cannot be expected for many months, however I wonder whether it would be possible for the decision to be made earlier than the estimated four months after the June 1st application deadline.

In any event, I do hope you will forward the application forms to us, and wish to thank you for your lengthy consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Project Coordinator