

Bids sought for funding by Bell Let's Talk Community Fund

Bell Canada says applications are open for its annual \$1-million Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, which provides grants ranging from \$5,000 up to \$50,000 for community-based mental health initiatives from coast to coast to coast.

The Bell Let's Talk Community Fund is dedicated to improving access to mental health care and fighting the stigma around mental illness at the grassroots level in every region of Canada, said Mary Deacon, chair of Bell Let's Talk. Since 2011, more than 150 local mental health organizations in communities large and small have relied on grants from the Fund. We look forward to welcoming more community partners to Bell Let's Talk in 2014.

Registered not-for-profit organizations, charities, hospitals and social services agencies are invited to apply for funding of localized mental health programs. The 2014 application period is open until March 31. Grants will be disbursed before Dec. 31, 2014.

While 20 per cent of Canadians will experience a mental illness in their lifetimes, two in three suffer in silence for fear of being judged or rejected because of the continuing stigma. The Bell Let's Talk Community Fund is focused on enabling local, grassroots organizations in every province and territory to fight the stigma and enhance care options in their communities.

To apply for 2014 funding, visit Bell.ca/LetsTalk <<http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/our-initiatives/community-fund/how-to-apply/>