

## Media Statement

### Build A Dream Welcomes The Federal Government's \$500 Million Youth Mental Health Fund

**Windsor – April 9, 2024** – Build a Dream, a leading advocate for empowering women and youth, welcomes the federal government's announcement of Canada's new Youth Mental Health Fund. This \$500 million investment signifies a crucial step towards providing timely and accessible mental health care support for younger Canadians.

The cost of living has continued to increase at a rapid rate with housing being an urgent concern. Mental health, particularly among young people, has remained a major issue magnifying the importance of targeted support. Recognizing these immense challenges, the Youth Mental Health Fund will address a pressing need for effective mental health services. By reducing wait times and expanding care options, this initiative aims to empower young Canadians to overcome challenges and reach their full potential.

"This investment underscores the government's commitment to the well-being of our youth," **Nour Hachem-Fawaz, President and Founder at Build a Dream**. "Prioritizing youth mental health care is an investment in a healthier and more resilient future for all Canadians."

Build a Dream emphasizes the critical linkages between poverty, housing instability, and mental health challenges. The organization advocates for affordable housing initiatives that cater to the unique needs of women and the integration of mental health resources in apprenticeship programs. These measures play a critical role in retention efforts and narrowing gender gaps in employment.

Build a Dream looks forward to collaborating with government agencies and community partners to ensure the effective implementation of the Youth Mental Health Fund.

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