

PREFACE: THE *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH* CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY OF PUBLICATION

MARIE-HÉLÈNE GAGNÉ, TIM AUBRY, and TERRY KRUPA
Editors

This year, the *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health* is entering its 26th year of publication. What does a quarter century of a journal's existence represent? First of all, it represents an immense reservoir of new knowledge: 495 articles in 54 issues constitute a substantial contribution to a body of research. It also represents our collective memory of the development of this field of expertise in Canada. Finally, it represents a considerable amount of work and commitment on the part of the people involved: 19 editors, along with associate editors, guest editors, an editorial committee whose constant vigilance has been responsible for maintaining the quality of the Journal's content, and 821 authors and co-authors, not to mention all the people who have contributed in various ways to the work published in the Journal.

In this issue, we wanted to pay tribute to everyone who has helped make the *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health* a valued and respected academic journal. We also wished to put the spotlight on the publication's content as a way of reflecting on the field of community mental health in Canada: its development, its current state, and its prospects for the future. Towards this end, we had the idea of publishing an exhaustive portrait of the content of the Journal between 1982 and 2006. The article by Fortin-Pellerin, Pouliot-Lapointe, Thibodeau, and Gagné meets this challenge, while also identifying some revealing trends over the years. The points of view of four people who have had significant influence on the Journal during one period or other of its existence—founding editors Edward M. Bennett and Maurice Payette along with Céline Mercier and Geoffrey Nelson, who also served as editors of the journal and have been among its most prolific authors—complement the content analysis.

As editors, we extend our sincere thanks to the people who have contributed to this 25th anniversary special section. We hope it will serve as the basis for the development of the *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health* over the next 25 years.