

## NEWS RELEASE from....

( Waterloo County Branch of the  
( Canadian Mental Health Association.  
( and  
( Waterloo Lutheran University.

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SURVEY WILL DISCOVER PUBLIC

Mental Health .... 1

ATTITUDE TO MENTAL HEALTH

One thousand people in the twin cities of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, will be questioned in the next few weeks to see if they have a typical "mid-town Canada" approach to the problems of mental health.

In a poll conducted jointly by the Waterloo County branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association and the department of psychology at Waterloo Lutheran University, a cross-section of people will be asked their views on mental illness and community mental illness services.

The survey will be launched on Thursday, March 19. It will be the first intensive large-scale survey in Canada, and is expected to serve as a model for other communities.

Computer-determined results will reveal community attitudes towards several questions:

what is people's understanding of various terms like nervous breakdown, mental illness?

what is the most appropriate and beneficial assistance a mental health group can give?

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What do people in the community really want done about mental health, and how should public funds be spent in this field?

Co-ordinator of the project is Prof. Donald F. Morgenson, associate professor of psychology at Waterloo University College, the arts faculty of Waterloo Lutheran University. The interviewers conducting the survey are university psychology students and volunteer workers from the local branch of the MHA.

People taking part in the survey will remain anonymous. The questionnaire includes, for statistical purposes, personal questions about race, nationality, marital status, religion, occupation, income and children. Professional people such as doctors, nurses and clergymen are also participating.

"We hope that the results of this survey, when published, will form the basis of an educational program," said Prof. Morgenson. "This project could lead the way to the establishment of sound mental health programs in many Canadian communities."

Prof. Morgenson added: "For this survey we will need the utmost co-operation and understanding from the public."