



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Association canadienne pour la prévention du suicide

www.suicideprevention.ca

MEMBERS E-BULLETIN OCTOBER 2011

CANADA TAKES GIANT STEP TOWARDS NATIONAL STRATEGY

On October 4th while several hundred people attended the annual CASP conference in Vancouver the Hon. Bob Rae introduced a non partisan motion in the House of Commons that urged the Government of Canada to “establish and fund a National Suicide Prevention Strategy”. This motion followed the introduction of two private members bills the previous week from the Hon. Harold Albrecht and Hon. Megan Leslie that also called for a national suicide prevention framework or strategy. After a debate that witnessed many parliamentarians sharing their own personal stories and speaking with great conviction and courage the motion was overwhelmingly passed. CASP along with other national organizations have been advocating for well over a decade for a national strategy and coordinating body. This historic and landmark vote represents an enormous leap forward and we anxiously await the government’s next steps in following through on this motion as we also discuss how CASP can move proactively to ensure changes that can be implemented, sustained and will make a difference - a strategy with legs.

Regardless of where responsibility and authority for our national strategy may eventually rest it is critical the strategy be a comprehensive roadmap and integrated approach that takes in not only the health sector but the whole of government. It is crucial that a suicide prevention strategy be one of the main pillars in a comprehensive public health policy and mental health strategy. In the following months we must remember that suicide is not only a mental health issue, but also a public and community health issue requiring a multi-sectoral approach crossing many domains.

Following the vote CASP and the Association Québécoise de Prévention du Suicide (AQPS) sent a letter to all MP’s and the Prime Minister to “applaud and express our gratitude for the courageous, compassionate and long awaited step that all members of parliament took this week to recognize suicide as a national public health priority and the promise to establish and fund a national suicide prevention strategy. October 4th was a day when all Canadians could be proud of our elected representatives from all parties.”



Parliamentarians honoured for their Role in Suicide Prevention

At CASP's annual awards banquet The Hon. Harold Albrecht and Megan Leslie were presented with this year's President's award for championing suicide prevention and their efforts in support of a national suicide prevention strategy.

Other awards were presented to:

Margaret Ajdinjak – Freddi Ford

The Current – Steven Page/Anna Maria Tremonti special on Depression – Media Award

Kerry and Ginny Dennehy – Service Award

Dr. Jitender Sareen – CASP Research Award

Lisa Priebe – CASP Student Researcher Award

Peter Coleridge (CMHA) Scott Chisholm (Collateral Damage Project) Certificates of Appreciation

The Vancouver conference also saw Dr. Ed Connors introduce the Dave Masecar Community Wellness Award created in honour of the late Dave Masecar, a former President of CASP, who died this past December of a heart attack.

The award will now be presented annually at the CASP Conference.

CASP LOOSES CHAMPION FOR SURVIVORS

Last month our dear friend and colleague Joan Seabrook passed away after a brief battle with Cancer. At the time of her death Joan was CASP Vice President and Chair of the Survivors Committee. Always a passionate and articulate speaker on behalf of CASP and survivors across Canada Joan's contribution to CASP and the role she played in moving the national strategy forward is immeasurable. We know that Joan was with us in spirit as we all celebrated the passing of the motion in the House of Commons on October 4th. It was a bitter sweet day for all her friends and family at CASP. She will be greatly missed.



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

www.suicideprevention.ca

2011 CASP Conference Big Success

This year's CASP conference took place in Vancouver B.C. and was attended by close to 400 people. Dammy Damstrom Albach and Ian Ross, Conference Co Chairs are to be congratulated for an extremely well organized and informative event which lived up to its promise to spark new conversations around suicide.

Next year's conference will take place in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

CASP to Partner with MHCC on Knowledge Exchange

CASP is excited to begin a new partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Knowledge Exchange Centre. With the support of the MHCC CASP will begin work to establish two on line communities of practice - one which will focus on crisis/distress centres and the other survivors.

CASP is grateful to Dr. Lisa Petermann who gave a very information presentation to the CASP Board in Vancouver on the Knowledge Exchange Centre and the support that is available to CASP through the KE Centre.

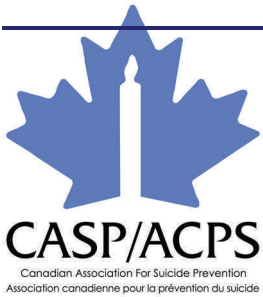


Visit the **CASP** web site at www.suicideprevention.ca

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at <mailto:casps@casps-acps.ca>.

Write to us at 870 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB Canada, R3G 0P1



CASP Appoints New Board Members

At our annual general meeting in Vancouver CASP appointed three new board members, Dr. Alex Drossos from INFOvation, Lynne Sterritt from Living Works in Calgary and Dr. Matthew Bowes, who serves as the Medical Examiner in Halifax. CASP is thrilled to have Alex, Lynne and Matt join the Board of Directors and looks forward to the benefit of their experience and special skills. The position of Chair of the Survivors Committee remains open. The Board of Directors also made a decision to establish a new position that will be reserved for someone to represent and speak for those with lived experience. Dammy Damstrom Albach's position as President was extended by one year to provide stability in light of losing Joan, our former vice president, and Renee Ouimet has been appointed as CASP's new Vice President.

National Collaborative on Suicide Prevention

Over the past year as CASP has lobbied for a national suicide prevention strategy, we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to begin to establish meaningful connections with other national organizations that share our interest in community wellness, suicide prevention, and intervention and postvention.

At the CASP AGM in Vancouver the CASP board announced its interest and intent to build on these relationships and work towards establishing a National Collaborative for Suicide Prevention (NCSP). Such a collaborative could play an important role in supporting the Government of Canada's efforts to develop the national suicide prevention strategy.

Join CASP!

We are working to connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast in the work of suicide prevention through developing a knowledge exchange network. With every new member our potential to raise awareness about suicide prevention, share promising practices, reduce stigma, mobilize change and reduce risk increases. Please contact us for more information on how to join CASP.



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

www.suicideprevention.ca

Manitoba Announces Funding for Trauma Resource Centre

Trauma has been directly linked to and is frequently at the heart of many social and public health issues including; suicide, mental health, mental illness, addiction, poverty, crime, sexual exploitation and many others. There is also now a well established body of research that provides a direct causal link between trauma and some physical illnesses.

Although trauma may be central to many peoples' difficulties and awareness of it pivotal to their recovery, in public health and mental health settings their trauma is seldom identified or addressed. Unfortunately many human services can inadvertently retraumatize the very people who come to them for help. As Dr. Judith Herman stated "the knowledge of horrible events periodically intrudes into public awareness but is rarely retained for long. Denial, repression, and dissociation operate on a social as well as on an individual level."

"Recognizing the critical importance of promoting trauma informed care and practices across multiple systems," Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health for the Province of Manitoba announced additional funding that will be used to establish a virtual trauma resource centre for Klinik Community Health Centre in Winnipeg. The resource centre will promote trauma informed care and practices, providing critical information to both service providers and people affected by trauma. The resource centre will also develop and provide training on trauma informed practices and assist organizations to become trauma informed.

Three years ago Klinik developed a trauma tool Kit for service providers (www.trauma-informed.ca) that has now been distributed across Canada. As the resource centre develops it will no doubt become a valuable resource for service organizations throughout Canada.



Visit the **CASP** web site at www.suicideprevention.ca

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at <mailto:casps@casps-acps.ca>.

Write to us at 870 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB Canada, R3G 0P1