

Envisioning a Canada without Suicide ● Envisager un Canada sans suicide

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention recognizes International Day of People Impacted by Suicide Loss through sharing stories of loss, healing and hope

Tuesday, November 10, 2020, Ottawa, ON – The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (CASP) will be hosting a live virtual screening of video testimonials on Saturday, November 21, 2020 in honour of International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss (also known as International Suicide Loss Survivors Day in the USA).

These personal testimonials, based on a series of interviews with those who have experienced a suicide loss at some point in their life, whether that be a friend, colleague or family member, will be screened at 1:00 PM EST on Saturday, November 21st. The interviews concentrate specifically on the 'loss journey', from the early stages of their loss to the present day with a focus on hope and healing. This video screening will be followed by presentations and a Q/A session, both in English and in French.

International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss was renamed by CASP as an alternative to the American term "Survivors Day" in order to be inclusive of all those individuals who have lost someone to suicide, no matter whether they consider themselves bereaved by suicide, a survivor of suicide loss, or any other term that reflects their loss experience; recognizing that the experience of loss often extends into the community, well-beyond just close friends and family members. This special day marks the time each year when people impacted by suicide loss, no matter where they live, can come together as a community; to find and offer comfort and to remember those who have died by suicide through shared stories of loss, healing and hope. CASP will also be hosting two 'social media' days on their social media platforms in anticipation of International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss, to increase engagement and build awareness.

"The acknowledgement of International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss and the recording of these video testimonials, as well as the upcoming launch of a network for facilitators of suicide bereavement support groups, is the culmination of the efforts of a newly created national Suicide Bereavement & Postvention Alliance," says Sean Krausert, Executive Director of CASP. "First of its kind in Canada, the mission of the Alliance is to foster communities, resource sharing and support initiatives related to suicide bereavement and postvention in Canada."

"With funding support from the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Alliance's activities, which includes a number of events held in the past month and planned for the next year, are anticipated to have participants from across Canada who have experienced a suicide loss and by professionals in the suicide prevention, intervention, postvention and bereavement fields," shares Krausert. "We hope that these events, and the sharing of others' experiences of loss, such as through these video testimonials, will help those who may be going through something similar."

The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention envisions a Canada without suicide. Since 1985, the organization has worked towards the achievement of its mission by advocating, communicating, and educating for suicide prevention, intervention, postvention and life promotion in Canada.

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