



Vancouver Island  
Crisis Society

Press Release for the Week of September 1 to 10, 2017

## World Suicide Prevention Day - Soles Remembering Souls Walk Canada Adopts Zero Suicide Initiative

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- **5275 Vancouver Islanders were lost to the tragedy of suicide from 2006-2015 according to the newest BC Coroner's report**
- **70-80% of Canadian youth will consider suicide as an option prior to high school graduation**

Since the Canadian government has taken on a zero suicide policy the conversation of suicide needs to continue to be openly addressed.

This year marks the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Soles Remembering Souls event for the Vancouver Island Crisis Line. This gathering is an opportunity to bring together those bereaved by suicide to a place of healing through connection.

Supporting those bereaved by suicide is prevention as someone grieving a tragedy of this nature is nine times more likely to consider suicide themselves. We hope that an event like this can help bring suicide out of the darkness and support those who are often suffering in silence.

This year's Soles Remembering Souls event is themed around healing. Healing through connection, healing through movement, healing through music and healing through reflection. Our goal this year is to have as many people as possible share with us their journey of healing. We also hope to help those who are still early in the healing process find more options to, as well as create a healing environment for all attendees through connection with others who may be going through similar circumstances.

Here in **Nanaimo**, in recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day on **Sunday, September 10**, from **4:30-6:30 PM**, this event will include a walk of silent remembrance around the waterfront at Maffeo Sutton Park. We are asking participants to bring a new pair of shoes and/or socks that will be donated locally to those in need. Patrick Aleck will open and close the ceremonies.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, PLEASE CONTACT:

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