



Vancouver Island
Crisis Society

Helping People Find Their Way

Proud partner in

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September 4, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Suicide Prevention Day 2025: #StartTheConversation

The WSPD theme identified for 2024 to 2026 is *Changing the Narrative on Suicide*

Suicide is a major public health problem with far-reaching social, emotional and economic consequences. It is estimated that there are currently more than 700,000 suicides per year worldwide, and we know that each suicide profoundly affects many more people. Suicide remains a critical global issue, affecting individuals and communities worldwide.

Changing the narrative on suicide aims to inspire individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to engage in open and honest discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of understanding and support.*

Vancouver Island Crisis Society has offered a way to initiate conversations by presenting ASIST, or *Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training*, a renowned suicide prevention and awareness workshop developed by LivingWorks.

The workshop is fully booked and will take place on September 11 and 12, 2025, at no charge, at our Training Centre in Nanaimo, to honour the theme of World Suicide Prevention Day.

Please note that there will also be an ASIST workshop presentation on October 16 and 17, also at our Training Centre in Nanaimo. Participants can choose to register online and pay for this last ASIST workshop presentation in 2025.

You can reach out for support at the 24/7 Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888. Suicide Bereavement Support is available for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. Experienced suicide loss practitioners offer lay counselling via monthly Zoom meetings and to individuals in a one-on-one setting via voice, online, or in person. Please see <https://www.vicrisis.ca/suicide-bereavement-support/>

For more information, including ASIST and the suicide awareness and prevention workshops developed by the Crisis Society for our communities and schools, please visit <https://www.vicrisis.ca> or contact:

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[#wspd #StartTheConversation](#)

<https://www.iasp.info/> (*Source: International Association for Suicide Prevention)

<https://www.facebook.com/IASPinfo>

Serving the Island Community