



Vancouver Island
Crisis Society

Press Release for the Week of September 1 to 10, 2016

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

SUICIDE IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Canada loses 4,000 people to suicide every year, but even one is too many. A diverse group of 50 peer leaders, government policy makers, and healthcare providers from 13 countries convened in Atlanta and created “Zero Suicide in Healthcare International Declaration” (March 2016). The following is an excerpt:

What Does “Zero Suicide” Mean? Stated quite simply, Zero Suicide reflects a commitment by healthcare leaders to strive to make suicide a “never event” so that not one person dies alone and in despair. To achieve this ambitious goal, there is a just culture where caring, competent, and confident staff are supported to continuously improve and learn together. People are actively engaged and supported to talk about suicide and despair. They are also supported to rediscover hope and find ways to survive, with a continuous eye to re-engagement with and contribution to the communities in which they may live, work, and play for a lifetime. **What It Does Not Mean:** Zero Suicide is not a zero tolerance approach, as there is already a significant burden felt by many clinical professionals related to suicide. Furthermore, it doesn’t mean that people that die by suicide are “bad” or that healthcare providers should be ashamed when one of their patients dies by suicide. In sum, it means that together we will do everything we can to bring the number of deaths by suicide to zero.

www.zerosuicide.com

Here in **Nanaimo**, in recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day on **Saturday, September 10**, we will be holding the **10th** annual Soles Remembering Souls Walk. 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. Also included in this presentation will be music by Patrick Aleck, Kasumi Robinson, Raymond Selgado, and Sirreal, as well as personal stories of hope, healing and support for survivors of suicide loss. As part of their community commitment to healing, Mambo Pizza will be providing pizza snacks. Come join us on **Saturday, September 10th** at the Waterfront Gazebo from **4 pm to 6 pm**. For information, please contact Matt Dunae at Mattd@vicrisis.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Heather Owen, Promotions and Community Relations Coordinator

Vancouver Island Crisis Society

Bus: (250) 753-2495 Fax: (250) 753-2475 Email: heather@vicrisis.ca