



Press Release

October 15, 2015

CASP announces Award winners at Annual General Meeting www.suicideprevention.ca

The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (CASP) is a national organization of survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and volunteers working to reduce suicide and minimize its impact. Each year Canadians are invited to nominate fellow Canadians who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of suicide prevention in several categories. This year's winners were announced at the annual general meeting which took place on Thursday, October 15 in Waterloo, ON. The categories and winners for each of the categories are as follows:

Service Award: This award is awarded for outstanding leadership in suicide prevention, intervention or postvention at the community, regional or national level in Canada. This year CASP has elected two winners who have engaged in service delivery, advocacy, and service development that has led to a reduction in suicide or its harmful consequences; **Susan Roach**, Manager at Achieve Mental Wellness and Recovery Centre in Haldimand Norfolk, Ontario and **Francoise Roy**. Susan is described as having 'walked the talk' and is an inspiration to many who have had the privilege to work with and know her. She is a speaker who shares her story, connecting with many along the way. Her passion and expertise has realized a huge impact for so many including the poster campaign that Susan helped develop to tell the stories/journeys of individual members highlighting choices they have made to achieve wellness and recovery. Francoise Roy holds a master's degree in training and has specialized in suicide prevention and development of prevention programs for 30 years. She has been involved in various organizations that work to develop the skills of workers and trainers in suicide prevention with a particular interest in sharing her knowledge with crisis workers.

Media Award: The purpose of the CASP Media Award is to promote and acknowledge responsible and positive media coverage on the topic of suicide. The media plays an important role in suicide prevention, through education and information – to help shatter the myths and taboo of suicide. This year's award recipient is **Ted Michaels**, News Anchor for CHML 900 Radio in Hamilton who has been instrumental in doing just that. Ted has implemented a weekly show called Wellness Wednesdays highlighting mental health, mental illness and suicide featuring topic experts and individuals with lived experience. Ted's show demonstrates the positive role media can play in providing education and making suicide an acceptable topic to speak about.

Dave Masecar Community Wellness Award acknowledges outstanding leadership in suicide prevention, intervention and/or postvention in and/or by a First Nations or Inuit Community that has led to a reduction in suicide or its harmful consequences. Congratulations to **Cecile Guerin** for her outstanding leadership in suicide prevention and community-capacity building across Nunavut, specifically for her tireless efforts in suicide prevention, postvention and intervention for Nunavummiut.

President's Award – Awarded by the President each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of suicide prevention. Renee Ouimet, current CASP President, was delighted to give this award to **Dr. Ian Manion**. Ian is a strong champion for child and youth mental health issues and

youth suicide prevention across Canada in both his clinical practice and as the founding director of the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health where he held the role for eleven years.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the Award winners for the significant work they do. We also wish to recognize those who take the time to submit nominations. In addition we wish to recognize that there are many individuals, communities and organizations that are working together making significant contributions to Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention in Canada that were not recognized here but play an important role each and every day. Collectively, we are making a difference.

Additionally, CASP would like to announce the following new board members who were voted onto the CASP Board at the annual general meeting: Ken Reddick, Francoise Roy, Sanj Malik, Normand d'Aragnon and Nancy Moreau Battaglia. Welcome!

For more information please contact:

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