



April 2014: Welcome to FAVOR Canada



With the recovery movement gaining momentum, there has never been a better time to become a face and a voice for recovery.

Over the past few months, we at FAVOR Canada have been putting down roots to help build a solid foundation. We have been actively researching where our efforts will best fit. Where do Canadians need the most help supporting their lives in recovery? That's a big question and the answer lies in the feedback we get from you.

Before we talk about moving ahead, here's a snapshot of how we got started. Faces and Voices of Recovery Canada (FAVOR) was founded by two Vancouver women in April of 2013. Dedicated to organizing and mobilizing the millions of Canadians in recovery from addiction, along with their families, friends and allies, Faces and Voices of Recovery Canada's goals are clear: to reduce the stigma associated with addiction; to raise awareness and bring people together in celebration of recovery; to build networks and foster recovery community organizations. This dynamic group supports all pathways to recovery, and initiatives such as Recovery Day and Addiction Recovery Awareness Month (both are in September).

The official launch of FAVOR Canada took place in Ottawa at the CCSA's Issues of Substance conference in November 2013. The directors include the original founders--



AnnMarie McCullough and Lorinda Strang---as well as Lisa Simone of Calgary, Sherri Skeans of Newfoundland and award-winning author Ann Dowsett Johnston and Adam Fisher of Toronto. Together, they met with Federal Health Minister, Rona Ambrose, discussing their initiatives and how the minister might bring recovery into her mandate.

In March, Ms. McCullough, Ms. Strang and Ms. Dowsett Johnston were invited to Ottawa to speak before the Combating Substance Abuse Caucus on the subject of recovery. FAVOR Canada's presentation--"Recovery Advocacy in Canada"—resulted in unanimous support for its call to action: the wish to have a national day, week or month of Recovery each September.

Representing a united voice for five million Canadians in recovery, FAVOR Canada will launch a national survey this year, one aimed at benchmarking certain key attributes of the recovery community across Canada.

In 2015, FAVOR will host Canada's first Recovery Summit. As well, the group supports Recovery Day walks and rallies, which will be held in 15 cities across the country this September.

"I would like to see recovery community organizations and recovery community centers emerging all across Canada," said Ms. McCullough. "Faces and Voices of Recovery Canada will be the catalyst for making that happen, allowing people to ask for help without shame."

Ms. Dowsett Johnston agrees: "We want to mobilize thousands of Canadians to participate in a movement for profound and healthy change. Shame belongs in the rear-view mirror, and we intend to put it there.

"Many of us have carried a message of hope on a one-to-one basis; this new recovery movement calls upon us to carry that message of hope to whole communities and the whole culture. It is time we stepped forward to shape this history with our stories, our time and our talents."

-William White Author and Recovery Advocate

March 25th, 2014 Lisa Simone shared her story as a person in long term recovery at the Lieutenant Governors Circle on mental health and addiction at Calgary's U of C. The conference was called "ASHAMED a conversation about addiction and stigma" and the circle is intended to shine a light on the progress we're making and to encourage even greater success in the future. The panel consisted of Lisa, Steve Archembault – Managing Director Operations, ATB Financial Dr. Michael Trew – chief addiction & mental health officer, Alberta health services and Dr. Nicole Sherran - Neuroscientist, Norlien Foundation. The keynote speaker was Joseph Skrajewski, M.A., Director, The Betty Ford Centre.



RECOVERY MESSAGING TRAINING will be offered across Canada August 2014. For details and to sign up in the city nearest you email info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.ca

Recovery Day in your City....

Last year 12 cities across the country participated and hosted their own Recovery day event.

Fifteen cities are currently signed up to be involved this year and we are expecting more to join in the celebration. What's it all about? *Recovery Day's mission is to build awareness, challenge societal stigma, and celebrate the role that recovery plays in improving life for individuals, families, and communities.*

To see if your city is hosting an event this September or to host your own Recovery Day please visit www.recoveryday.ca