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MEMORIAL
PRESENTS:

HOW THE MEDIA DEAL WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

A PUBLIC FORUM

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011, 7:30 PM NST
Innovation Hall, Angus Bruneau Centre
IIC-2001 (Former Inco Innovation Centre)

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Mental illness is often at the root of media stories related to policing and justice. Is there a tendency to stigmatize people with mental health issues, especially those involved in violent activity, either against their own selves or against others? To what degree do the media inform and explain, and to what extent do they misinform and prejudge?

PRESENTERS:



Paula Corcoran became CHANNAL's first Provincial Peer Support Coordinator in September 2010, after completing her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Memorial University. Paula's experience in the community sector comes mainly from years of volunteerism, having volunteered with such organizations as the Single Parent Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, Bridges to Hope Food Aid Centre, and most recently with CHANNAL as the Spokesperson for their anti-stigma campaign, 'Let's Talk About It'. She is currently a board member with the Single Parent Association, as well as a parent representative on the Regional Child Care Liaison Committee.

Paula is a mom of two young sons. She brings with her, lived experience with mental illness, and her passion to use her experience to motivate others. Having published her Recovery story in "Outloud" she sees daily the importance of speaking publicly on her own experiences of living with a Mental Illness. She also brings her own motivation and drive to promote her personal belief in recovery, wellness, and peer support.



Mark Gruchy received his law degree from the University of New Brunswick in 2006 where he was a Lord Beaverbrook scholar, a title conferred through receipt of the most prestigious legal scholarship the University of New Brunswick offers. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology from Memorial University.

Mark's practice is primarily focused on Criminal Law and he is the head of the Criminal Law Practice Group with Gittens and Associates. He has defended clients at every level of court in Newfoundland and Labrador. He is particularly interested in the law flowing from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and has been involved in substantial litigation involving the Charter.

He is a member of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and is the President of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Newfoundland Chapter.



Kerry Hann is currently the Managing Editor of The Telegram and Transcontinental Media's Eastern Newfoundland weekly newspapers.

Kerry started his career as a reporter with The Western Star in Corner Brook in 1993. He then joined Robinson-Blackmore Printing and Publishing in June 1994 as editor of Hibernia News. Since that time, he has served as editor of several publications, including The Express, Atlantic Petroleum, Voisey's Bay News and Offshore Canada. In 2009, he was named The Telegram's Managing Editor.

Kerry is a graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Holland College School of Journalism in P.E.I. He has volunteered with several organizations, including the Atlantic Community Newspapers Association (ACNA), Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA), Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA), Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association and The Salvation Army. He currently sits on the journalism advisory boards of The College of the North Atlantic and Holland College.



Sgt. Boyd Merrill is the Media Relations spokesperson for the RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador. He has worked in both uniform and plain clothes policing duties during the past 24 years. He has also managed NL Crime Stoppers as the RCMP coordinator and is presently in charge of B Division's Communications Unit.

Sgt. Merrill holds a BA (criminology/ psychology) from UNB in Fredericton. Prior to being a police officer he was a Correctional Youth Counselor for maximum security young offenders in NB for 5 years. He is an accomplished public speaker in the area of substance addictions, and has a solid experience dealing with persons with physical, emotional and mental life challenges.

Tonight's event will be webcast live, and a recorded version will be available to watch online. Find it and other past Memorial Presents events at: www.mun.ca/harriscentre/media

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