

it's **Everybody's Business**

a learning symposium

Alberta Communities
take action
to reduce **suicide**

Media Release

For immediate release

1 Mar 2012

Imagine a 747 crashing and killing all those on board. Now imagine that happening every month. We would be up in arms, demanding that something be done. That is how many Canadians die by suicide every single month—enough to fill a jumbo jet! What is more tragic is that these are preventable deaths and something indeed needs to be done.

These are the words of Bill Wilkerson, Co-founder, Chair and CEO of the Global Business and Economic Roundtable on Addiction and Mental Health. Bill will be the keynote speaker at a Learning Symposium in Calgary, March 7 and 8. "It's Everybody's Business: Alberta communities take action to reduce suicide" is co-hosted by the Centre for Suicide Prevention and Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research.

Wilkerson co-founded the Roundtable in 1998, and on December 8, 2011, unveiled the Roundtable's FINAL Report which he co-authored with former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Michael Wilson. Wilson and Wilkerson call for an international business-science partnership to fund and find a cure for depression to save lives from heart attack, diabetes, cancer and suicide where depression wields such deadly influence. The Wilkerson/Wilson Report sees the workplace of the 21st century as a venue for education, crisis interventions and peer support to prevent suicide among working Canadians.

In his March 7th speech, Wilkerson will describe how this unique suicide prevention strategy can happen, and he will comment on what we can learn about preventing suicide through the messages in letters left by those who take their own lives.

Day #1 of the Symposium features speakers from across Canada discussing a myriad of aspects of suicide prevention and postvention. Speakers include elder Casey Eagle Speaker, Dr. Kris Wells and Dr. Dave Redekopp. Topics span from youth suicide prevention, suicide prevention in Aboriginal communities, addressing suicide in men to hope for those bereaved by suicide.

Day #2 of the Symposium is facilitated working groups for Albertans working in suicide prevention to further our provincial strategy.

The Symposium takes place at Hotel Arts.

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