

Reducing Misconceptions

- Schizophrenia is NOT related to a split or multiple personality.
- Violence is NOT a symptom of Schizophrenia.
- Schizophrenia is NOT caused by poor parenting or childhood trauma.
- Media, television, and movies often depict people with Schizophrenia in an inaccurate manner.

Facts About Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia is a biological disease of the brain caused by the imbalance of certain chemicals.
- Schizophrenia strikes 1 in 100 people worldwide regardless of race, culture, or social class.
- Schizophrenia most frequently occurs between the ages of 15 and 30.
- Symptoms include hallucinations, which can affect any of the five senses, delusions which are fixed or false beliefs, paranoia which includes thoughts of persecution, anxiety, depression, and changes in mood and behavior.
- Ten to fifteen percent of people who experience Schizophrenia commit suicide.
- There is no cure for Schizophrenia but with treatment recovery is possible.
- Treatment for Schizophrenia and related psychosis includes a host of medications and cognitive therapy.
- Schizophrenia research is greatly underfunded.

Volunteer for the Partnership Program

If you have Schizophrenia or a related psychosis or if you are a family member who has a relative with a mental illness, we encourage you to consider joining this program in your community.

We also invite mental health professionals from all practices to join the Partnership Program and contribute to this positive initiative in your community.

*People Helping
People*



The Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan is a non-government agency whose mission is to improve the quality of life for those affected by Schizophrenia and psychosis through education, support programs, public policy and research.

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The Partnership Program is financially supported by the Saskatchewan Department of Health and through private donations.



A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.
SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

SOCIÉTÉ DE SCHIZOPHRÉNIE DE LA SASKATCHEWAN
UNE SOURCE D'ESPOIR, DE SOUTIEN ET D'ENTRAIDE.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



*A Public Awareness Program
Designed to Inform People
About Schizophrenia
and
Related Psychosis*

What is the Partnership Program?

In 1998 the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan implemented a provincial public awareness program called the **Partnership Program** that is aimed at reducing the stigma and misconceptions associated with Schizophrenia and related psychosis. Over 100 people in our province share their knowledge and expertise with numerous audiences to promote Schizophrenia and related psychosis as a treatable disorder and to improve public perception surrounding mental illness in general.

How does the Partnership Program Work?

A standard presentation takes one hour. Teams of three people, including a person living with Schizophrenia or a related mental illness, a family member of someone with a mental illness, and a mental health professional, deliver presentations by sharing their personal life stories. The presenter with a mental illness shares their personal story regarding their experience with the disorder, the family member outlines the impact of the disease on the family, and the mental health professional provides a clinical overview of Schizophrenia and related psychosis.

An extended presentation takes 90 minutes and can include another presenter living with a related mental illness, such as depression or bi-polar disorder. Presentations can be tailored to fit your needs.

Each member is an expert in their own right and an equal player in the program.

Goals of the Partnership Program

- To promote public awareness of Schizophrenia and related psychosis as a treatable biological disease of the brain.
- To reduce the stigma and misconceptions associated with Schizophrenia and related disorders.
- To have people with mental illness that are in recovery speak at presentations, which puts a positive face on the illness.

Target Audiences

- Youth in the Public and Catholic school systems and their teachers
- Community Agencies, Service providers, and Health Care providers, through in-service training
- People who are directly affected by mental illness and their family members and friends
- Police Officers & RCMP Recruits
- Universities & Colleges
- Nursing & Medical students
- Corporations & Businesses
- Church Ministry & Groups
- Justice System & Corrections
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centres

To Book a Presentation Contact:

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Saskatoon:

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Benefits of the Partnership Program

- Provides an opportunity to gain access into the school system to bring awareness and understanding to students about Schizophrenia.
- Provides education to the people who suffer with Schizophrenia, their family members and friends, the general public, police, health care workers, and businesses.
- Promotes peer interaction, support and advocacy among its members.
- Brings the needs and concerns of persons affected by the illness to the attention of the general public.
- Enables persons living with Schizophrenia to directly answer questions about this disease based on their own personal experiences.
- Helps build clients' self-esteem and gives participants self-confidence to speak on their own behalf.
- Provides an honorarium of \$30 per presentation to individuals living with a mental illness that provides an incentive towards gaining experience in a work environment.



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