

DECLARATION for a Drug and Alcohol Free Dialogue for Life Conference

DECLARATION

We, the elected board of directors, are aware of the problems of drug and alcohol use. We wish to ensure the participants of Dialogue for Life have the best opportunity to receive quality training to deal with and heal from the pain of suicide.

We recognize that alcohol and drug use can undermine the efforts of participants to learn and heal during this conference.

We are concerned for the safety of participants.

We are concerned for the image and reputation of our association and Dialogue for Life.

We are convinced that to change our problems with drugs and alcohol, we need to make a clear declaration that drugs and alcohol have no place in any of the activities of Dialogue for Life. Healing is sacred. So, as of this declaration it will forever more be a condition of participation in Dialogue for Life that everyone involved in Dialogue for Life abstains from using drugs and consuming alcohol during the conference.

We hereby agree to the following:

- (i)** All board members will abstain from using drugs and consuming alcohol while they are in Montreal to attend the Dialogue for Life conference.
- (ii)** All contracted service providers will be asked to follow suit, and abstain from using drugs and consuming alcohol for the duration of their contract with Dialogue for Life.
- (iii)** All staff hired for Dialogue for Life and volunteers will abstain from using drugs and consuming alcohol while they are in Montreal to work and volunteer for the Dialogue for Life conference.
- (iv)** All participants will be asked to abstain from using drugs and alcohol as a condition of participation in Dialogue for Life. From the time they leave their communities to the time they depart Montreal.
- (v)** Failure to abide by this condition of participation will result in the expulsion from the Dialogue for Life Conference (this includes the Pre-Conference trainings days). Participants will be sent home at their own expense and no refunds will be provided.
- (vi)** Any participant who is being sponsored, will lose immediately their subsidies (lodging, food and registration), and will be sent home at their own expense.
- (vii)** Any service provider will have their contract cancelled.
- (viii)** Any board member will be expelled from the Board of Directors.
- (ix)** Any staff and/or volunteer will be expelled from the conference and staff will be disciplined according to *Commission des normes du travail du Québec* regulations.
- (x)** These conditions apply to any guests that are staying in rooms reserved for and paid by the Dialogue for Life Conference as well.

Any situations, that happen at the Dialogue for Life Conference that are in Breach of this Declaration, will be duly investigated by the Director and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Association. Their decision will be final.

Healing is sacred! Creating Dialogue for Life is a great responsibility. We the board of Directors want to ensure that everything that is done for and during the conference is done in the best interest of all.