

The 2023 BC First Responders' Mental Health Conference

Summary

The 2023 BC First Responders' Mental Health Conference is a two day event that focuses on connecting leaders to promote positive mental health within first responder organizations. The event will feature first responder speakers to share their experiences, as well as treatment providers and health care professionals for their insights on best practices when it comes to mental health.

Key Conference Details

Name: 2023 BC First Responders' Mental Health Conference
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 – Friday, January 27, 2023
Location: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel (Richmond, BC)
Tagline: Connecting Leaders to Promote Positive Mental Health
Website: conference.bcfirstrespondersmentalhealth.com

History

While physical safety has risen to be a priority in nearly any job, less developed is an understanding around the impacts of mental health at work, and the fact that workplaces have just as much potential to inflict psychological injury as they do physical injury. First responders regularly face traumatic and stressful situations in the line of duty, and have traditionally been expected to remain stoic as they struggle in crisis.

The business case for supporting mental health in the workplace has slowly gained traction over the years, with employers benefiting through lower attrition rates, lower claims costs, higher productivity, and most importantly – having a healthy and engaged workforce. Despite this, stigma around the topic continues to prevent many from seeking help until it is too late, which reinforces the need for proactive, preventative efforts to maintaining mental health.

The 2023 BC First Responders' Mental Health Conference is the follow up event to the inaugural 2019 conference, which was attended by over 350 delegates from across the province. The conference invites an array of first responders and treatment providers to openly discuss mental health and empower their people on the frontlines to do the same.

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Media Backgrounder

Contact and Inquiries:

info@bcfirstrespondersmentalhealth.com

Conference Sponsors: Sunshine Coast Health Centre, Homewood Health / Ministry of Labour, Last Door Recovery Centre, Edgewood Treatment Centre / Diversified Rehabilitation Group, BC Association of Clinical Counsellors, West Coast Resiliency Centre / SFU Continuing Studies, Family Services Employee Assistance Program, Wounded Warriors

Charitable Partner: Vancouver Island Compassion Dogs (Stress Intervention Dog Program)

In-kind Sponsor: WorkSafeBC

The BC First Responders' Mental Health Committee

Overview

The BC First Responders' Mental Health Committee (*BCFRMHC*) was established in December 2015 with the intent of providing a central inventory of mental health resources and best practices that can be accessed by first responder agencies across the province.

The BCFRMHC is chaired by WorkSafeBC, and comprised of multiple B.C. first responder agencies, who work collaboratively to provide cross-organizational leadership and recommended practices to promote better mental health in first responders across the province.

Mission

To actively promote positive mental health and provide the leadership, best practices (*resources, awareness, education, training, and supports*) that first responders, their communities, and leaders need.

Member Agencies

BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, BC Police Association, Canada Border Services, RCMP, BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association, Fire Chief's Association of BC, Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs, Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC, Ambulance Paramedics of BC, BC Emergency Health Services, E-Comm 9-1-1, Emergency Communications Professionals of BC, First Nations Emergency Services

Media Access: Due to the sensitive nature of the topics being discussed during the conference, please be aware that media outlets will **not** be permitted into the venue while the conference is in session. To schedule an interview, please contact info@bcfirstrespondersmentalhealth.com