



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Living with Mental Illness and HIV/AIDS

“Not enough care is available for individuals with mental illness, addictions and HIV/AIDS,” says Maxine Davis, executive director of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation in Vancouver, “especially when pre-existing mental health conditions can lead to risky behaviours such as unprotected sex and needle sharing, vectors for HIV transmission.”

Ms. Davis and Eleanor Kelly, whose daughter struggles with both HIV/AIDS and schizophrenia, are the featured speakers at the next NSSS Public Education Evening on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Lions Gate Hospital. The talk is part of North Shore Schizophrenia Society’s long-running series on serious mental illness and related topics. The event is free and open to the public.

Ms. Kelly knows first-hand how the health system is ill-prepared to provide care for individuals struggling with mental illness and HIV/AIDS. At 17, her mentally ill daughter left home because she thought she was a burden to her family, and self-medicated with street drugs in the Downtown Eastside. Diagnosed with schizophrenia, Ms. Kelly’s daughter now lives at the Dr. Peter Centre.

The Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping rebuild lives shattered by HIV/AIDS, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and discrimination because of gender and sexual orientation.

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