

STIGMA

Mental Illness, Misconceptions and Stereotypes

- *Information about the speakers*



ANDRÉ PICARD

André Picard is the public health reporter at The Globe and Mail and the author of three best-selling books. André has received much acclaim for his writing, including the Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism and the Centennial Prize of the Pan-American Health Organization, which honours the best health reporter in the Americas. He lives in Montréal.

Andre plans to look generally at how the media cover mental illness - and how that contributes to perpetuating/combatting stigma. He will be focussing on three recent events: the Lall case in Calgary Consolas; the New Year's Day triple-murder suicide in northern Quebec and the man who pushed two boys in front of a Toronto subway last month.



OTTO WAHL

Dr. Wahl earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and has taught at the University of Rochester (NY) and George Mason University (Fairfax, VA). Currently, Dr. Wahl is a Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology and the Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology at the University of Hartford. Dr. Wahl's work includes numerous research articles related to stigma and to media depictions of mental illnesses. He is the author of *Media Madness: Public Images of Mental Illness* (about the media portrayal of mental illness) and *Telling Is Risky Business:*

Dr Wahl will be talking about the experience of stigma and discrimination as revealed in the consumer experience study that is the basis of his book. He will also discuss problematic trends in media depiction and their impact, as well as the importance of using respectful language.

DR. PATRICK BAILLIE

Dr. Patrick Baillie is a senior psychologist with the Forensic Assessment and Outpatient Services at the Peter Lougheed Centre of the Calgary General Hospital and a Student-at-Law articling to the Chief Judge of Alberta. For the past sixteen years, he has worked primarily with individuals involved in the justice system, providing reports for various levels of Alberta courts and providing treatment through both individual therapy and group programs. In 2003, he completed his Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Calgary, emphasizing issues that surface at the intersection of law and mental health, such as criminal responsibility, principles of deterrence, and laws governing the practice of psychology.

In September 2007, Dr Baillie was named to the Mental Health and the Law Advisory Committee of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Dr. Baillie was the recipient of the 2008 John G. Paterson Media Award presented by the Psychologists' Association of Alberta, recognizing "exceptional contribution to portraying psychological knowledge to the public through the media of radio, television, print or electronic communications".

AMANDA TETRAULT

Details to follow