



Manitoba Association of Secondary Teachers
of At-Risk Students

Mental Health: From Shame and Stigma to Social Acceptance, Healing, and Recovery

Rossmere Country Club, 925 Watt Street

PROGRAM

8:15–9:15 a.m.

Registration and Continental
Breakfast

9:30–11:00 a.m.

Keynote: Stand-Up Against Stigma
presented by Big Daddy Tazz

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Morning Session

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:45–2:45 p.m.

Afternoon Session

KEYNOTE

Stand-Up Against Stigma

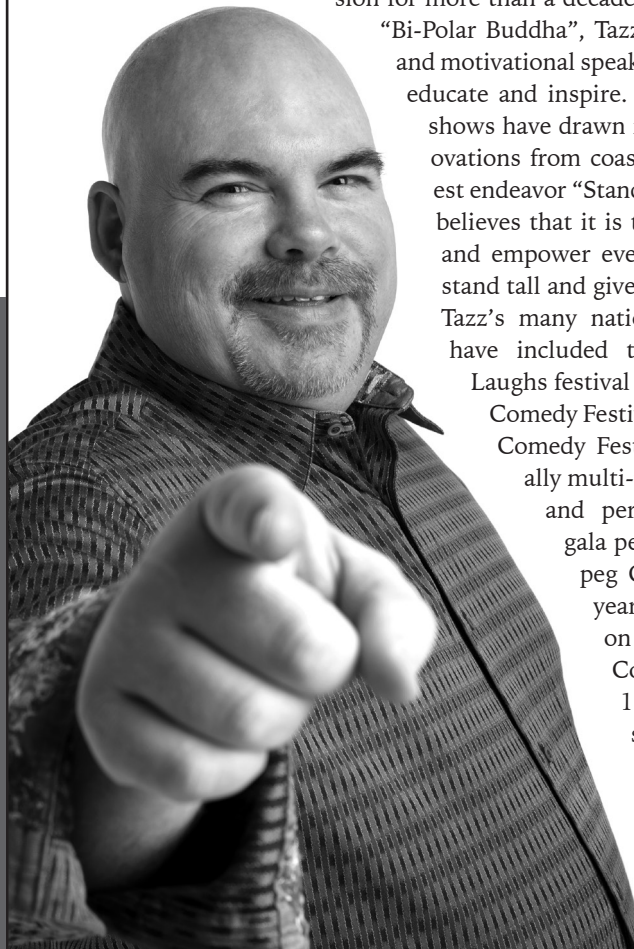
Big Daddy Tazz

After 30 years of denying he had the mental illnesses that were controlling his life, Tazz realized that being a socially anxious, manic-depressive, attention deficit dyslexic could either destroy or enhance his life...it was his choice. Today, audiences are happy to join him on his rapid cycle ride down the never-ending road to recovery that has led him from comedy venues across North America to the psych ward at the Calgary Foothills Hospital and back.

Often described as “one of the most talented comics in the business”, Tazz has been delighting crowds at fundraisers, corporate events, festivals and on television for more than a decade and a half. Known as the

“Bi-Polar Buddha”, Tazz is equal parts comedian and motivational speaker, who likes to enlighten, educate and inspire. As a result, his one-man shows have drawn rave reviews and standing ovations from coast-to-coast. With his newest endeavor “Stand Up Against Stigma” Tazz believes that it is time to educate, embrace, and empower everyone so that we can all stand tall and give stigma a bad name!

Tazz’s many national festival appearances have included the prestigious Just For Laughs festival in Montreal, the Moncton Comedy Festival and the CBC Winnipeg Comedy Festival, for which he annually multi-tasks as a writer, producer and performer. Tazz’s explosive gala performances at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival over the years can be seen frequently on CBC television and the Comedy Network. On April 1 2008 Tazz shattered the standing record for continuous stand-up comedy with his 8½ hour stand-up comedy show.



Big Daddy Tazz, also known as the Bi-Polar Buddha, will take a comedic look at mental illness through the eyes of a consumer. Big Daddy Tazz uses his blazingly quick wit and off the cuff improve style to bring awareness to many of life’s issues including mental health and all its components.

CBC Review

Big Daddy Tazz is a one man force for mental illness, acceptance, and inspiration. He is single handedly giving negative stigma a bad name... “Keep your eye on the brass ring. It’s easier when you have ADD because it’s shiny”... that’s my favorite line of his.

Canadian Mental Health Association

MASTARS

8:15–9:15 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30–11:00 a.m.
Keynote
Stand-Up Against Stigma
Big Daddy Tazz
Code: AM-1

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Morning Session** **AM-2 Optimizing recovery though early intervention for the onset of mental illness in adolescence and young adulthood**

Marion Cooper and Joelle Blanchette
Overview of evidence based approaches of early intervention programs for the treatment of onset of mental illness in adolescence and young adulthood. We will explore the essential elements of effective early intervention, the role schools and educators can plan in assisting young people to achieve full recovery. A couple of examples will be presented to illustrate the success of the Early Intervention Program (EPPIS) in Winnipeg and how it has made a difference for a young person, their family and the school community.

Marion Cooper is a registered clinical social worker who has worked in the mental health field in various positions since 1992. She has worked as a community developer, child protection social worker, youth development worker, rehabilitation case manager and clinician in Program of Assertive Community Treatment team. In 2003 she commenced her position as Program Specialist in Mental Health Promotion with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and now is in an expanded role as a regional manager for Population Mental Health where she has a leadership role in mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiatives and service delivery interfacing with multiple sectors. She has been instrumental in the development of the Mental Health Promotion Team within the WRHA. Under her

leadership a region wide strategic plan has been developed with multiple projects and initiatives occurring in the area of mental health literacy, suicide prevention, mental health promotion in schools, perinatal mental health, promoting resilience across the life span, mentally healthy workplaces and mental health promotion and illness prevention capacity building and knowledge translation. Marion also manages the Early Psychosis Prevention Intervention Team at the WRHA.

Joelle Blanchette is currently working for EPPIS and is a researcher at the University of Brandon.

Code: AM-2

12:30–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:45–2:45 p.m. **Afternoon Session** **PM-1 100 Schools Project: Reaching youth with a powerful message about addiction**

Stephan Richards

Statistics say 90 per cent of people addicted to a substance started using before they were 18, so Stefan Richard wants to reach out to 100 schools this year to offer a message of hope.

Stefan, a father, former pro wrestler, and now a professional speaker, gives a “very raw, very real,” account of how addiction cost him everything, and nearly cost him his life. His hope is to share the story of his own fall and redemption in order to educate and raise awareness about the nature of addiction.

“Drugs do not discriminate,” says Stefan. “Drugs don’t care who is using them.”

Stefan’s own life is a testament to this reality, as he came from a loving, middle-class family, and was enjoying significant success in his wrestling career and personal life when addiction took over. He was on top of the world—a new father whose wrestling career had taken him all the way to Japan—but still managed to hit several rock bottoms at the same time, with one near-fatal overdose.

“Addicts are powerless over their addiction,” says Stefan. “No one dreams of rock bottom—no one sets out to lose their houses or families. Addicts aren’t losers or screw-ups, but are truly in pain.”

Some of Stefan’s own pain stemmed from a lifelong conflict he experienced about his own identity.

“My father is a First Nations man—a Sundance Chief, which is a big honor in Anishnaabe culture, yet my mom is Caucasian, and I look like her.” Stefan said he would show up at Anishnaabe cultural ceremonies, and feel like he didn’t quite belong because of his appearance. Stefan knows that addiction and its causes and treatments are not simplistic subjects, but he believes knowledge is power, and sees his story as a cautionary tale. So, in an effort to show some of those struggling with addiction that redemption is possible, he is aiming to take his story to 100 schools, at the secondary and post-secondary level, in 2014–15. “I’m not someone just standing there giving a bunch of facts,” says Stefan, himself a university student. “I understand youth, and I understand what addiction is like—I have lived it. Even if my story reaches just one person, something good will have been accomplished.”

Code: PM-1

MASTARS

REGISTRATION

Sold out last year! Register early: limited seating!

Full day conference registration includes continental breakfast and sit-down lunch!

Conference Fee

Members.....\$70*

Non-Members.....\$85

*Price drop! Includes MASTARS membership fee. \$70 is your best value! (\$45 conference fee + the \$25 MASTARS membership fee=\$70. Remember: MASTARS members are eligible to nominate students for the Victor Thiessen Memorial Scholarship—this \$500 scholarship is offered yearly and is

only available to students of MASTARS members. Members also receive our newsletter with exclusive information on upcoming SAGE sessions).

No half day registrations accepted.

No walk up registrations accepted.

Please mail completed registrations forms and full payment (please make cheques payable to MASTARS) to:

Susan Tozer c/o

Tec Voc High School

1555 Wall Street

Winnipeg, Mb R3E 2S2

Email: stozer@wsd1.org (no email/phone registrations accepted)

Phone: 1-204-786-1401

Please note:

Registrations will not be processed until payment and completed registration form is received. Register by September 30, to be eligible for the early bird prize of a \$25 registration rebate at the 2014 conference. Hurry! Space is limited and there is no walk up registrations accepted. We sell out every year!