



Geoff Thompson, MRTC

Geoff formed the committee for educating service providers, and Wes co-chaired the committee for access to services.

Geoff went on to create a presentation on the subject which caught the interest of CBC. "I was the technical expert on the task force," says Geoff. "My job was to help caregivers understand what crystal meth was and how to deal with those who abused it, including treatment options. I developed a PowerPoint presentation and gave a talk to the local alcohol and drug and mental health counsellors."

The CBC reporter supporting this project learned about MRTC through the Fraser Health Communications Department. He was invited to attend a regular workshop on crystal meth, where he interviewed a client from MRTC, along with Dr. Paul Beckett, MRTC resident physician. Geoff was also interviewed in a documentary funded by the Solicitor General and produced by Gordon Robson. The video details the uses and dangers of crystal meth and suggests viable solutions within the community. MRTC supports the initiative on the war against crystal meth and the effort is paying off. Dr. Beckett reports that the number of meth-related visits to the hospital is beginning to decrease.

MRTC plays key role in war against crystal meth

It began with Gordon and Mary Robson – residents of Maple Ridge and volunteers in many sectors of the community. Working with the homeless, they learned that 90% of them were using crystal meth. They invited people in the community to join them in a war against the devastating drug. Geoff Thompson and Wes Sawchuk, both representing the Maple Ridge Treatment Centre, joined their task force.



Meet New Staff Member Dr. Paul Beckett, MD

MRTC welcomes Dr. Paul Beckett and is very pleased to have him join the team. Born and raised in Pitt Meadows, Dr. Beckett is committed to his patients, stating he feels certain it is the work he was meant to do. He is currently the Chief Hospitalist at Ridge Meadows Hospital and pastor of worship at his church. Dr. Beckett sees MRTC clients twice a week and is available for consultation with staff. He is married with three daughters and word has it that he is also quite the musician!

MRTC hosts Four Season Series development seminars

MRTC is currently developing a series of four seminars with a focus on staff development in the mental health and addictions sector. Four key speakers will be brought in to cover various issues and challenges specific to these professionals, and provide tools and ideas in dealing with them.

The first workshop, slated for this fall, will focus on implementing evidence-based best practice in working with chemical addictions. The workshop will be presented by Dan Reist, Director, Communication & Resource Unit, Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria.

On the Path has been reviewed by Marie Nightingale, Fraser Health Communications Advisor. If you wish to have your name removed from our distribution list please contact Katherine McCombie katherine.mccombie@fraserhealth.ca or call (604) 466-6970.