



**SPEAKER'S BIO: Donna May, a Founding Member & Facilitator of mumsDU**

**mumsDU** (moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users) is a coalition of Canadian parents who have lost sons and daughters to overdose and drug related diseases, working together to effect much needed change in Global Drug Policy. The organization's membership openly shares their experiences, opinions and recommendations with community, policy makers and professionals based on their personal experiences navigating Canada's Health, Social Care and Judicial systems with their addicted child.

Donna May, a founding member and the facilitator of mumsDU, is a mother of three with lived experience in the powers that the addiction fueled mental illness of a loved one can have on the parent, sibling, community and Canada as a whole. Implementing the practice of tough love to cope with her daughter's addiction, Donna was quick to learn just how devastating the consequences her personal ignorance towards addiction and how inaction towards her daughter's disease would have on everyone and everything. This realization caused her to reevaluate her unfounded belief in this antiquated practice.

"I've come to recognize that my daughter's life, and the way she lived it, are my life's greatest gift. Without having shared in these experiences with her, and especially because of its tragic outcome, I have grown and learned exponentially. I could no longer remain stuck in that draconian paradigm. A paradigm that has a long proven history of being a colossal failure and a potentially deadly one."

Donna's ultimate goal is for her daughter's experiences in life, and eventual death, to have purpose and meaning in evaluating and implementing effective Drug Policy Internationally.