

# VOICES Meeting Guidelines

## Victims of Institutional Child Exploitation Society

We as representatives of VOICES would like to thank all of you for coming to this meeting today as we update and inform you of what we are doing and where we are in relation to the Restorative Inquiry. Before we start I would like to explain a few rules of order that we feel would be important in having a productive, informative and successful meeting. These meetings **belong to the residents not us.**

At all of our meetings we are aware of the fact that these meetings may trigger feelings that may become traumatic for some of you and in such cases we ask that if you need to get up and leave the room, **We understand"**

I would like to say at this time that We, VOICES are **not counselors** and We **do not** have the necessary insurance to provide counselling to anyone. We are not professional councillors but we do have a 1-800 number where those requiring professional counselling support can call and have a professional deal with their problems. We want to let you know that there are options available and you are not alone.

These meetings are **information sessions only** and are intended as a resource, where we as past residents can come together and support each other based on our experiences at the home. We must recognize that all of us have a story and are here to heal. Telling our stories and having others hear them is part of the healing process; that we as former residents so desperately need to allow us to move forward with our lives. We as former residents are no longer invisible, we want to be heard, we want to matter.

These meetings are based on Respect, Confidentiality, Dignity, Compassion and support for each other. We are here to ensure a safe environment for everyone.

We ask all those present here abide by to the following Rules.

- 1-Respect each other and remember that **"Everyone has a Voice"**
- 2-When one person speaks, we must allow them to express their feelings without being cut-off.
- 3-We must be aware of others, their voices and their need to be heard and respected.
- 4-All meetings are based on Confidentiality and we ask that **what is heard in these meetings stays within these meetings and that we Respect other's Confidentiality.**