









• PALLIATIVE CARE

As proud members of the [Quality End of Life Care Coalition of Canada](#), CASW is seeking commitments from the federal parties to **embed palliative care in national long-term care standards, implement the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada, and swiftly implement Bill C-220 to extend bereavement leave and expand access**. Further, the Coalition believes that to achieve quality end-of-life care for all Canadians there must be a **well funded, sustainable national strategy for hospice palliative and end-of-life care**.

			
<p>The Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) has committed to:</p> <p>double the direct federal investments in palliative care</p> <p></p> <p>A strong commitment, but other pieces absent</p>	<p>The Liberal Party of Canada's (LPC):</p> <p>The LPC platform does not include palliative care or bereavement leave.</p> <p>Budget 2021 proposed \$29.8 million over six years, starting in 2021-22, to Health Canada to advance the government's palliative care strategy and lay a better foundation for coordinated action on long-term and supportive care needs, improving access to quality palliative care. Initiatives could include: raising awareness of the importance of palliative care; providing public education on grief; improving palliative care skills and supports for health care providers, families, caregivers, and communities; enhancing data collection and research; and improving access to culturally sensitive palliative and end-of-life care</p> <p></p> <p>Some commitments absent</p>	<p>The New Democratic Party of Canada's (NDP) has committed to:</p> <p>work with the provinces and territories to expand and improve access to palliative care across the country</p> <p>end private, for-profit long-term care and bring long-term care homes under the public umbrella</p> <p>work collaboratively with patients, caregivers, and provincial and territorial governments to develop national care standards for home care and long-term care, regulated by the same principles as the Canada Health Act. By doing so, a New Democrat government would legally protect access to home care and long-term care services, and ensure a consistent quality of care across the country</p> <p></p> <p>Some strong commitments adjacent to CASW advocacy priorities</p>	<p>The Green Party of Canada's (GPC):</p> <p>CASW was not able to locate palliative care or bereavement policies or statements</p> <p></p> <p>Commitment is absent</p>

As proud members of the [Quality End of Life Care Coalition of Canada](#), CASW is seeking commitments from the federal parties to:

- **Embed palliative care in national long-term care standards**

The annual mortality rate in LTC ranges from about 27% to 52%, with a median life expectancy of about two years. As Canada moves forward on improving long-term care, it is vital that the next government make embedding early integrated palliative care within the LTC sector a top priority.

- **Fully implement the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada**

The federal government must establish centralized and national coordination office, such as the Office of Palliative Care (OPC), to serve as a single focal point and knowledge centre for palliative care at the federal level, with sustainable funding.

- **Swiftly implement Bill C-220 to extend bereavement leave and expand access**

The Bill extends the period of bereavement leave to which an employee is entitled by five unpaid days. It also expands eligibility for the leave to include employees who, at the time a family member passes, are on compassionate care leave to help care for someone who is sick. Bill C-220 passed with unanimous support and received Royal Assent in June 2021 and we call upon all parties to commit to implementing the changes to bereavement leave – including a smooth transition for those receiving the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit to bereavement leave - as part of a commitment to support all Canadians during the challenging time following a loved one's passing.