

Moving Towards Community-Integrated Hospice Palliative Care in Canada

As the population ages, the prevalence of chronic and life-limiting illnesses will increase. In response, Canada must work towards a system of community-integrated hospice palliative care. High quality hospice palliative and end-of-life care must be an integral part of health care, and available in all settings of care, including hospital, long-term/continuing care, residential hospices, shelters and individual homes. It also means that the palliative approach to care must be part of the treatment repertoire of any health care professional, supported by consultation or referral to a specialist palliative care team when necessary.

The Way Forward Integration Initiative (the Initiative) will engage all settings, sectors, professionals and governments in a dialogue regarding the implementation of community-integrated palliative and end-of-life care. Over the course of the Initiative, we will also encourage engagement and dialogue based upon sound evidence and promising practices. This will result in a Framework with targets and strategies that all stakeholders will have a hand in shaping, and that therefore reflect their needs and challenges, resulting in the ability to implement these strategies at all levels.

Over the course of the Initiative, the Quality End-of-life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) will:

- Change the understanding and approaches among key stakeholders as it relates to:
 - chronic, serious and life-limiting illness and dying
 - hospice palliative and end-of-life care and advance care planning
- Develop a comprehensive National Framework that will enable stakeholders to move towards the community-integration of hospice palliative care across all health care settings.

We will recognize all professions; all illnesses; provincial and territorial governments; and all communities, including urban, rural and remote. Under the leadership of the 34 organizations that make up the QELCCC, this will be the first time in Canada that community-integrated palliative care will be addressed by all settings of care.

The Initiative will result in an understanding of community-integrated palliative and end-of-life care by all stakeholders and will therefore ultimately transform the way Canadians receive care and the quality of their life and death.
It is time to move forward.

To learn more about The Way Forward, please contact Savanah Ashton, Project Assistant at (613) 241-3663 ext. 228 or email info@hpcintegration.ca.

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