

Hospice Care in British Columbia: The Path Forward

A bold collaborative plan for growing hospice care across BC.

PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic and fast-growing number of older adults in BC who are challenged by frailty or serious illnesses have created an unprecedented need for compassion, support, and care in our communities. These experiences can be physically and emotionally painful for the affected individuals and families. Like elsewhere in Canada, increasingly, older adults in BC want to age safely at home and have a say in their care and death—a desire that will challenge the current health and social systems.

SOLUTION

Community hospices are well-placed to support psychosocial, practical and spiritual needs of living with a serious illness, frailty and grief, and to integrate care with other health-care providers. Now more than ever is the time to leverage hospice care across British Columbia to help make their volunteer driven support services more accessible in small and large communities.

A 10-step collaborative plan for growing hospice care across BC.

1 Form the Hospice Care Alliance of British Columbia, representing the hospice sector, government and patient and family groups.



2 Secure reliable funding for hospice organizations.



3 Advocate for a provincial policy and strategy for hospice care.



4 Establish a common definition for hospice care.



5 Establish provincial standards and an accreditation program.



6 Raise public awareness of hospice palliative care.



7 Establish hospice competencies and a provincial training program.



8 Ensure an effective volunteer engagement strategy.



9 Use technology for networking, training and knowledge exchange.



10 Explore partnership opportunities between hospice organizations and underserved communities.



THE PATH FORWARD

A 10-step action plan developed by stakeholders to grow and sustain community-based, volunteer-driven, hospice services already in place. The plan builds on an extensive literature review and a survey completed by 75% of BC hospice organizations to reveal the strengths and challenges of hospice care in BC. Based on this research, a stakeholders' roundtable recommended a concrete, collaborative action plan to leverage and sustain hospice care in BC over the next few years.

AUTHORS

The Provincial Hospice Working Group is a collective of experts in hospice and palliative care in British Columbia: BC Centre for Palliative Care, BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Victoria Hospice, and Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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