



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert Street, Suite 920
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Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
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Quality End-of-life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC)

Via email: IGillespie@chpca.ca

To whom it concerns,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

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Fully Commit to funding and implementing the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada

Many Canadians living with life-limiting illness wish to remain independent and receive the care they need at home or in their community. Improved access to palliative care in a variety of health care settings is critical to making that happen. That is why the Liberal government has made palliative care a priority and a re-elected Liberal government will continue to support access to palliative care.

In August 2017, federal, provincial, and territorial governments agreed to the Common Statement of Principles on Shared Health Priorities, including a commitment to work together to improve access to home and community care, including palliative care. To support this work, the federal government is providing the provincial and territorial governments with \$6 billion over 10 years. Many provinces and territories are using some of this funding to improve access to palliative care. In addition, the federal government has allocated \$184.6 million over five years for home and palliative care for Indigenous communities.

Liberals believe in supporting individuals who are receiving palliative care and we were proud to unveil Canada's first-ever Palliative Care Framework. In Budget 2021 we invested \$29.8 million 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. We have also supported targeted initiatives to help more Canadians get access to palliative care including:

- \$1.9 million for the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association to improve advance care planning;
- \$2 million for the Canadian Virtual Hospice to expand virtual services and resources;
- \$600,000 for the Canadian Home Care Association to improve delivery of care at home; and
- \$6 million to Pallium Canada in order to expand palliative care training across the country so that health professionals are fully able to support Canadians and their families during palliative care.

As we advance our work to renegotiate the home and community care agreements with the provinces and territories in 2022 and support improvements in long term care, we will continue to take an integrated approach to ensure that palliative care is available to Canadians when and where they need it.

Embed palliative care in national long-term care standards

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound impact on the health and well-being of Canadians living in long-term care (LTC) and retirement homes and has impacted access to end-of-life care.

The Liberals have a strong record of working cooperatively with their provincial and territorial partners and have a new \$9 billion plan that will deliver better care for Canadians in long-term care. Additionally, in 2022, we are renegotiating homecare agreements with provinces and territories to improve access to homecare and transitions to long term care and palliative care.



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The Liberal government has been at the table with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), Health Standards Organization (HSO), Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group) and willing provinces and territories to collaborate on the development of two new complementary National Standards for Long-Term Care. The CSA and HSO are engaged in a broad consultation to ensure that the standards will be shaped by the needs of residents, families, and Canada's LTC workforce.

In addition to participating in the Standards Development process led by the experts at HSO and CSA, we will work with partners to introduce a Safe Long-term Care Act that ensures standards of care are upheld across the country.

Ensure full implementation of Bill C-220, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (Bereavement leave)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many critical life events for Canadians, including how Canadians grieve the loss of a loved one.

Over the past several years, the Liberal government has made great progress in modernizing many parts of the Canada Labour Code to ensure that it reflects the realities of today's workplaces and meets the needs of both employers and employees, now and into the future. This included amendments to improve bereavement leave and additional leaves that can be used by caregivers and to provide for greater flexibility on the timing of leave.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Liberal government has put Canadians first, providing the support they need to continue to make ends meet, while staying safe and healthy. We created new benefits to ensure that Canadians access employment insurance benefits more easily, these recovery benefits will help workers affected by COVID-19 and requiring income support.

To ensure federally regulated employees have access to job-protected leave, the Government of Canada amended the Canada Labour Code so these employees can access the Canada recovery sickness benefit and the Canada recovery caregiver benefit.

The Liberal government supported Bill C-220 and a re-elected Liberal government will work toward its implementation to ensure workers in federally regulated workplaces have the support they need following the death of a family member.