

September 1, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Election commitments related to palliative care

On behalf of the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) we ask you and your party to publicly commit to improving access to quality palliative care and grief and bereavement supports in Canada.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified an unfortunate truth: suffering and loss are universal experiences, but palliative care is not. The pandemic has laid bare healthcare system inequities, particularly as they relate to care for seniors and those in long-term care. These challenges will become more difficult to solve for our aging population if steps are not taken immediately. Those living in rural and remote communities, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people, and structurally vulnerable populations have also experienced difficulty accessing palliative care. The next government must act to ensure all Canadians have access to the palliative care and grief and bereavement supports they deserve.

QELCCC is a group of more than 30 national stakeholder organizations dedicated to improving palliative and end-of-life care for all Canadians. To achieve this, there must be a well-funded, sustainable national strategy for palliative care. A robust [blueprint for action](#) has been developed outlining necessary steps to increase equitable access to palliative care services. It is our mission to work together in partnership with governments and other organizations to achieve this goal.

To that end, the QELCCC is calling on all parties to make a commitment to the following three priorities in the 2021 federal election:

1. **Fully commit to funding and implementing the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada.**
2. **Embed palliative care in national long-term care standards.**
3. **Ensure full implementation of Bill C-220, *An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (bereavement leave)*.**

We have included a briefing document outlining some specific details regarding these priorities.

Any plan to address the challenges facing our society coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic must prioritize investing in quality palliative care. It is our intention to share your response broadly through our social media networks and contacts.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you well in the election.

Best regards,

The members of the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada

ALS Society of Canada

Alzheimer Society of Canada

Canadian AIDS Society

Canadian Association for Spiritual Care

Canadian Association of Occupational
Therapists

Canadian Association of Psychosocial
Oncology

Canadian Association of Respiratory
Therapists

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Breast Cancer Network

Canadian Cancer Society

Canadian Frailty Network

Canadian Home Care Association

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care
Association

Canadian Lung Association

Canadian Network of Palliative Care for
Children

Canadian Nurses Association

Canadian Society of Palliative Care
Physicians

Canadian Virtual Hospice

Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

HealthCareCAN

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

Huntington Society of Canada

Kidney Foundation of Canada

Mental Health Commission of Canada

National Initiative for Care of the Elderly

Pallium Canada

Realize Canada

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

SE Health

The College of Family Physicians of
Canada

