



Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

Association canadienne de soins palliatifs

REPORT: NUMBER OF BEDS IN HOSPICE RESIDENCES IN CANADA, SPRING 2022

Prepared by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	1
Key Information	2
Methodology	2
Summary of Findings	3
Table 1 - Number of Hospice Residence Programs, Associated Number of Beds, and Beds per 100,000 People, by Province/Territory	3
Province or Program Specific Context and Information	4
Hospice Residences.....	4
British Columbia.....	4
Ontario.....	4
Quebec.....	4
Pediatric Hospice Palliative Care.....	5
Additional Context and Limitations of Data	5
Appendix: Additional Tables	6
Table 2 - Canadian Population Distribution 2022, Number of Hospice Residence Programs and, Beds in Hospice Residences per 100,000 People, by Province/Territory.....	6
Table 3 - Number of Hospice Residence Programs, and All Programs in CHPCA Directory, by Province/Territory.....	7
Table 4 – Number of All Ages and Children’s Hospice Residence Programs and Beds, by Province	8
Table 5 – Number of Beds in Hospice Residences per Age Group Served, by Province/Territory.....	9

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Key Information

- **In Canada, as of May 31, 2022, there are 142 hospice residence programs**, including:
 - 122 hospice residence programs for adults
 - 2 hospice residence programs serving the homeless communities, one in Ottawa, Ontario and the other in Toronto, Ontario.
 - 13 hospice residence programs for all ages.
 - 7 hospice residence programs for children under 18.
- **The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) captured 1,530 beds in hospice residences (3.97 beds per 100,000 people) available nationally.**
- 86 beds are dedicated exclusively to pediatric hospice palliative care across Canada in hospice residence settings.

Methodology

Using the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association's (CHPCA) online [Directory of Services](#) (Directory), publicly available information from provincial health systems, and provincial hospice palliative care associations, CHPCA contacted over 360 organisations, via phone and email, that provide in-patient hospice palliative care (HPC) in Canada to update the information available on the Directory, and to collect information on the number of dedicated in-patient HPC beds that they offer.

When contacted, the organisations were asked to categorise themselves according to the following categories:

- Acute care hospital
- Chronic / long term care facility
- Dedicated hospice palliative care unit
- Home based
- Hospice society
- Non-profit organisation / health charity
- Nursing home or skilled nursing facility
- Out-patient care / clinic
- Private clinic / service provider
- Hospice residence

Since many organisations offer multiple types or programs or services, many listings are included in multiple categories. For example, the Pilgrims Hospice Society in Edmonton, Alberta, offers care in a hospice residence, a hospice day program, and home visiting programs – in addition to grief support programs and community outreach. Therefore, [their listing](#) includes, in addition to the hospice residence category, the home based, hospice society, and non-profit organisation / health charity categories.

While there is no existing formal national definition for what constitutes a hospice residence in Canada, the definition provided in Pallipedia by the International Association for Hospice Palliative Care (IAHPC) for inpatient hospice is:

“An inpatient hospice admits patients in their last phase of life, when treatment in a hospital is not necessary and care at home or in a nursing home is not possible. The central aims of an inpatient hospice are the alleviation of symptoms and achievement of the best possible quality of life until death, as well as bereavement support. [...] An inpatient hospice requires a multi professional team that cares for patients and their relatives using a holistic approach.”

- [Inpatient hospice](#). IAHPC Pallipedia. Accessed August 18, 2022.

This definition also states that an inpatient hospice should provide a homelike environment. This definition largely reflects both the current understanding of what constitutes a hospice residence in Canada and the program listings categorised as hospice residences in the Directory.

Summary of Findings

The data in this report will focus on those programs that operate a hospice residence.

As of May 31, 2022, CHPCA counts 1,530 beds in hospice residence settings, or 3.97 beds per 100,000 people in Canada. See Table 1 below for the number of programs, beds, and number of beds per 100,000 people for each province and territory.

Table 1 - Number of Hospice Residence Programs, Associated Number of Beds, and Beds per 100,000 People, by Province/Territory
As of May 31, 2022

<i>Province or Territory</i>	Hospice Residences	Number of Beds	Beds in Hospice Residences per 100,000 people *
<i>Alberta</i>	9	97	2.16
<i>British Columbia</i>	25	446	8.47
<i>Manitoba</i>	2	16	1.15
<i>New Brunswick</i>	4	34	4.27
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	1	10	1.91
<i>Northwest Territories</i>	0	0	0.00
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	3	30	2.99
<i>Nunavut</i>	0	0	0.00
<i>Ontario</i>	60	519	3.47
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	1	10	6.01
<i>Quebec</i>	35	335	3.88
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	1	15	1.27
<i>Yukon</i>	1	18	41.88
Canada	142	1,530	3.97

* Based on the reported population for Q1 of 2022 from Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly](#)

See Tables 2 and 3 for a more detailed overview of the numbers of beds and programs for hospice residence programs broken down by province and territory.

We see the highest rates of beds per 100,000 people in Yukon, which has 18 beds or 41.88 beds per 100,000 people. In contrast, we see zero beds in hospice residence settings in the Northwest Territories and in Nunavut. Among the provinces, we see rates of beds that range from 1.15 in Manitoba to 8.47

beds per 100,000 people in British Columbia. Only three provinces can boast a rate of more than four beds per 100,000 people: New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. There are four provinces and territories with only one hospice residence program: Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Saskatchewan.

Province or Program Specific Context and Information

Hospice Residences

Hospice residences were eager to share current bed counts and updates on programs and activities. Many hospice residences also offer visiting volunteer programs. Some also offer services such as day-programs, medical equipment procurement support, grief and bereavement support services, and respite care. Numerous hospice residences spoke about forthcoming funding and buildings-in-progress, indicating that for many, their capacity is increasing. These forecasted beds were not included in the reported bed counts for the purposes of this report.

Admission criteria and referral requirements vary greatly between hospice residences, even within the same provincial health system; many asked to have context overviews included in their updated CHPCA directory listing. Despite the variety of admission criteria, the working definition of “hospice palliative care” remained largely consistent across most organisations operating a hospice residence. This contrasts with inconsistent and varied definitions used in acute care hospitals, palliative care units, and in long term care facilities (LTC) across and within provincial and territorial health systems.

British Columbia

British Columbian hospice societies offer support (e.g., provide volunteers and volunteer coordination, coordinating medical equipment procurement for clients and patients) to the HPC beds that are operated and managed by the regional health authorities. While these hospice societies do not “own” or operate these beds, they offer crucial support for the beds provided by the health authorities.

Ontario

In Ontario, [the Healthline](#) has updated their listings to include a “Palliative and End-of-Life Care” directory. Expanding on this service, some Home and Community Care Support Services (formerly referred to as Local Health Integration Networks, or LHINs) are creating Google Maps to improve access to information. See example from [Mississauga Halton Palliative Care Network](#) (of note: at the time of this report, there is no hospital information included on this map).

As of May 2022, there are two hospice residence programs in Ontario dedicated to serving the homeless communities, the Ottawa Mission Hospice (Diane Morrison Hospice) [21 beds], and Journey Home Hospice [10 beds].

Quebec

In a call with Santé Québec on May 20, 2022, they indicated that under the [Act Respecting EOL Care](#), Palliative and End-Of-Life Care (PEOLC) is available at all times in all their institutions; this includes LTC facilities and hospitals. The health care team, whether they also provide acute care or are uniquely dedicated to HPC, will provide a tailored approach for each person, based on condition and illness trajectory. In order to access PEOLC, residents of Quebec should contact the local [CLSC intake desk](#),

speak with a home care worker (if the client is in LTC) or ask a hospital staff member (if the client is an inpatient). Family physicians may also be consulted.

Pediatric Hospice Palliative Care

In total, 204 beds in hospice residences are available to children under 18 across Canada. 118 of these beds are offered by hospices that cater to patients of all ages, and the remaining 86 beds are in hospice residence programs specialised in caring for children. These pediatric hospice residence programs are located in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec – with one all-ages hospice in Nova Scotia. Many of the dedicated pediatric hospice residence programs offer a wide spectrum of services supporting families ranging from in-patient care, to respite care, day programs, recreational activities, and mental health support for children, parents, and siblings.

Of note, Canuck Place, the hospice residence program for children in British Columbia, serves children and families living in both British Columbia and in Yukon.

See Tables 4 and 5 for a more detailed overview of the data on the availability of hospice residence programs open to children.

Additional Context and Limitations of Data

This report focuses on the number of in-patient beds in a hospice residence setting that are dedicated or available for palliative care. It does not capture the availability or number of places or beds available in other in-patient settings, or in out-patient, community-based, home-based, respite care, or day-programs that also provide care to the people and families who receive palliative care.

Due to the breadth of services, types of care, and settings of care that hospice palliative care encompasses, the availability of beds in hospice residences can only function as one of many indicators for the availability of hospice palliative care for a given demographic or geographic region. Different provinces or territories aim for different ratios of beds in hospice residences to those in other in-patient palliative care settings, such as long-term care (LTC), palliative care units (PCU) in acute care hospitals, home care, as well as out-patient services. This accounts for some of the variations in the numbers of beds and rates of beds per 100,000 people across provinces and territories. For example, there are no beds in hospice residences available in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. However, there are other programs and/or care settings that provide in-patient hospice palliative care in those territories.

Many HPC organisations often also provide out-patient or other supportive services, such as respite care and grief support, for people and families needing HPC who may not require in-patient care or who opt to receive home-based palliative care. For example, a significant portion of hospice societies operate a volunteer visiting program for local seniors with declining health.

Appendix: Additional Tables

Table 2 - Canadian Population Distribution 2022, Number of Hospice Residence Programs and, Beds in Hospice Residences per 100,000 People, by Province/Territory
As of May 31, 2022

<i>Province or Territory</i>	Population Q1 2022 ¹	% of National Population	Total Beds in Hospice Residences	Beds in Hospice Residences per 100,000 people	% of Total Beds in Hospice Residences Nationally
<i>Alberta</i>	4,480,486	11.6%	97	2.16	6.34%
<i>British Columbia</i>	5,264,485	13.7%	446	8.47	29.15%
<i>Manitoba</i>	1,390,249	3.6%	16	1.15	1.05%
<i>New Brunswick</i>	797,102	2.1%	34	4.27	2.22%
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	522,453	1.4%	10	1.91	0.65%
<i>Northwest Territories</i>	45,640	0.1%	0	0.00	0.00%
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	1,002,586	2.6%	30	2.99	1.96%
<i>Nunavut</i>	39,710	0.1%	0	0.00	0.00%
<i>Ontario</i>	14,951,825	38.8%	519	3.47	33.92%
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	166,331	0.4%	10	6.01	0.65%
<i>Quebec</i>	8,639,642	22.4%	335	3.88	21.90%
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	1,183,269	3.1%	15	1.27	0.98%
<i>Yukon</i>	42,982	0.1%	18	41.88	1.18%
Canada	38,526,760	100.0%	1,530	3.97	100.00%

¹ Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly](#)

Table 3 - Number of Hospice Residence Programs, and All Programs in CHPCA Directory, by Province/Territory
As of May 31, 2022

<i>Province or Territory</i>	Hospice Residences	All Programs in Directory *
<i>Alberta</i>	9	51
<i>British Columbia</i>	25	103
<i>Canada Wide</i>	0	3
<i>Manitoba</i>	2	25
<i>New Brunswick</i>	4	23
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	1	9
<i>Northwest Territories</i>	0	3
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	3	46
<i>Nunavut</i>	0	2
<i>Ontario</i>	60	276
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	1	9
<i>Quebec</i>	35	49
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	1	19
<i>Yukon</i>	1	4
<i>Canada (Total)</i>	142	622

* Note: The total number of programs in the CHPCA Directory also includes other program types including Dedicated Palliative Care Units, Acute Care Hospitals, Long Term Care Homes, Home Care Providers, Community Hospice Palliative Care Programs, and others.

Table 4 – Number of All Ages and Children’s Hospice Residence Programs and Beds, by Province
As of May 31, 2022

Program Type by Province	Hospice Residence Programs Available to Children (0-18)	Number of Beds
Alberta	2	25
<i>All Ages</i>	1	12
<i>Children (0-18)</i>	1	13
British Columbia	4	48
<i>All Ages</i>	3	27
<i>Children (0-18)</i>	1	21
Nova Scotia	1	10
<i>All Ages</i>	1	10
Ontario	8	73
<i>All Ages</i>	5	43
<i>Children (0-18)</i>	3	30
Quebec	5	48
<i>All Ages</i>	3	26
<i>Children (0-18)</i>	2	22
Canada	20	204
<i>All Ages</i>	13	118
<i>Children (0-18)</i>	7	86

Table 5 – Number of Beds in Hospice Residences per Age Group Served, by Province/Territory
As of May 31, 2022

<i>Province or Territory</i>	Adults (18+)	All Ages	Children (0-18)	Total Number of Beds
<i>Alberta</i>	72	12	13	97
<i>British Columbia</i>	398	27	21	446
<i>Manitoba</i>	16	0	0	16
<i>New Brunswick</i>	34	0	0	34
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	10	0	0	10
<i>Northwest Territories</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	20	10	0	30
<i>Nunavut</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Ontario</i>	446	43	30	519
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	10	0	0	10
<i>Quebec</i>	287	26	22	335
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	15	0	0	15
<i>Yukon</i>	18	0	0	18
Canada	1,326	118	86	1,530