

2023-24 Annual Report

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association | The National Voice for Hospice Palliative Care in Canada



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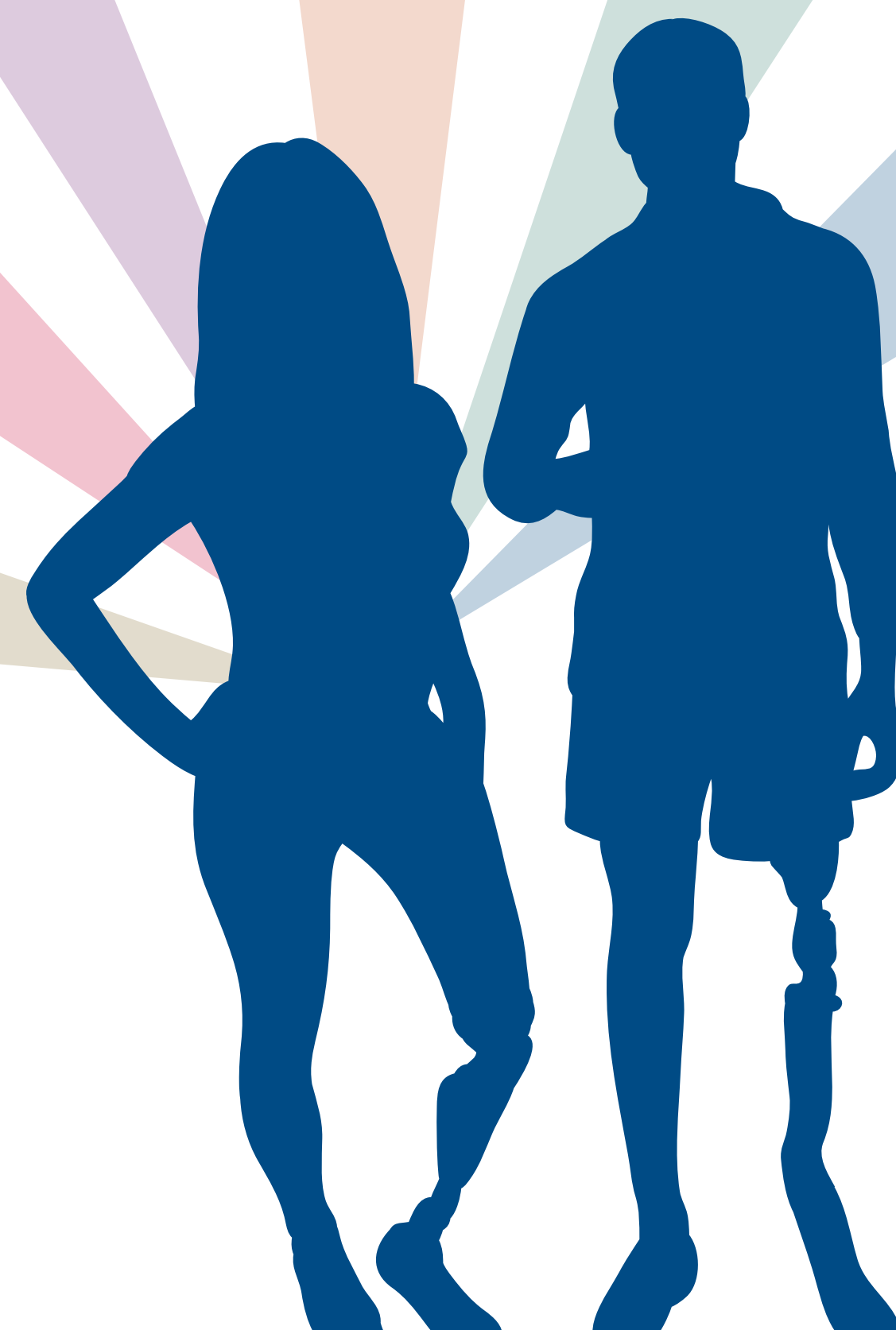
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We acknowledge that the territories where our team is located are the un-ceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People, the traditional un-ceded territory of the Huron-Wendat people, the Treaty Territory of the Fort William First Nation, signatories to the Robinson-Superior Treaty in 1850 and the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

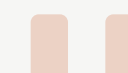
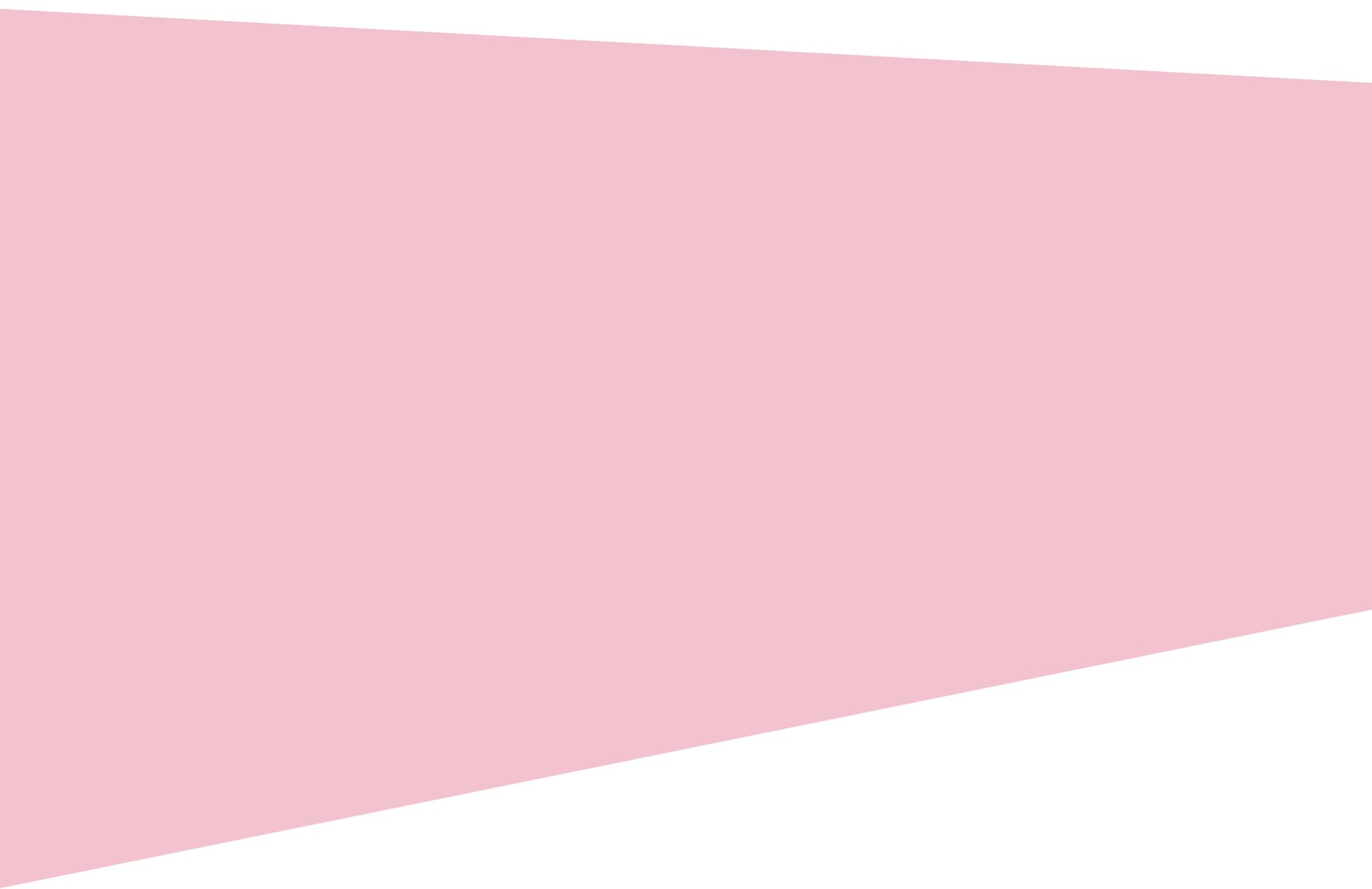


Our Vision

Everyone in Canada has equitable access to quality hospice palliative care.

Our Mission

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association is the national voice for quality hospice palliative care in Canada by providing education, raising awareness, influencing public policy, and collaborating with provincial associations





Letter from the President



As we reflect on the last year, one message resonates loud and clear. People are at the heart of everything the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) does. Whether it's the healthcare professionals providing care, the advocates driving change, or the researchers exploring new frontiers in care, people are the driving force behind our mission.

CHPCA exists to bring people together—patients, families, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community members—to raise awareness, share knowledge, and advocate for policies that improve access to palliative care across the country. After all, illness, dying, and grief affect every one of us. We all have a stake in this.

We know that achieving meaningful change is not something we can do alone. We are deeply grateful for the support of our members, associates and affiliates, partners, and allies in this work. Our united voices are moving the story of hospice palliative care in Canada towards a more equitable, and compassionate future.

This past year, we made significant strides in building that future. Yet, there is still more to be done. We invite you to join us on this journey. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we will build a future where everyone across Canada has access to quality hospice palliative care that allows them to live, grieve, and die well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vivian Papaiz
President, CHPCA

Who We Are

Since 1991, CHPCA has brought like-minded people together to change how we provide healthcare in Canada. To do this, we collaborate with researchers, healthcare professionals, volunteers, community advocates, and partner organizations across the country.

We support education around palliative care by sharing new research findings to care providers. With this knowledge, they are better equipped to improve the lives of patients and families.

We raise awareness of the many benefits of hospice palliative care. Those facing serious illness, their caregivers, and those who are grieving deserve to know how hospice palliative care can support them when they need it most.

We advocate and advance public policy to improve access to palliative care. We engage with government and stakeholders across Canada to embed compassion in the way we provide health care.

Through these collective efforts with our members, partners, and supporters, we can make accessible hospice palliative care across Canada a reality.

Our Why

We know that hospice palliative care can help more of us to live well, to grieve well, and to die well. CHPCA believes that access to hospice palliative care as a part of health care is a fundamental human right. We all deserve support tailored to our needs to give us the best quality of life at any stage of illness.

Patients, caregivers, communities, and health care systems all benefit when palliative care is accessible. It facilitates better quality of life, psychosocial support, and more compassionate care, all while reducing unnecessary medical procedures. With Canadian health care systems facing important challenges, improving access to hospice palliative care today just makes sense.



Staff

As of March 31, 2024

Laurel Gillespie
Chief Executive Officer

Karine Diedrich
Director, Advance Care Planning

Cheryl Spencer
Manager, Operations and Events

Katrielle Ethier
Senior Communications Officer

Nick Walling
Digital Marketing Officer

Merry Parkinson
Project Officer, Advance Care Planning

Emma Bowen
Administrative Assistant

Tara Landry
Communications Officer, Advance Care Planning

Board of Directors

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Vivian Papaiz
President

Jennifer Gurke
Vice President

Margaret (Meg) Milner
Past President

Paulo Martins
Secretary/Treasurer

Officers

Justine Farley

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Alberta

Shannon Freeman
British Columbia

Genevieve Thompson
Manitoba

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New Brunswick

Jennifer Forward
Newfoundland and Labrador

Marianne Arab
Nova Scotia

Christine Gordon
Ontario

Nancymarie Arsenault
Prince Edward Island

Dale Weil
Quebec

Cameron Choquette
Saskatchewan



Awareness

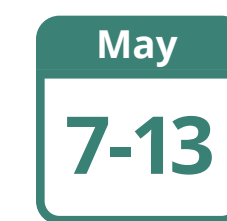
Awareness is the First Step Towards Change

Whether it's about grief, serious illness, or planning for future care needs, the desire to connect with others about life's challenges is deeply human. So often, those with these lived experiences wish that they could speak about more openly about them. That desire to connect drives CHPCA's awareness work. However, simply sharing information about advance care planning, hospice palliative care, children's palliative care, and grief and bereavement is not enough. The awareness must then lead to action, to making individual and collective change.

We design our campaigns to inspire communities to take action to meet the needs of their neighbours. Learning about these important but challenging topics can be daunting to some. So, we broke down the information and tools into bite-sized pieces, and focused on the parts that bring us together. This year, we compiled practical and shareable tips to inspire people to offer tangible support to grieving loved ones. We asked Canadians to take pictures where they see palliative care in their communities with map pins to highlight the variety of places where it can be provided. And, we created stories of advance care planning highlighting how different people think about who they would trust to make health care decisions for them if they couldn't decide for themselves.

By emphasizing human connection and the tangible actions we can each take, we are guiding more Canadians to take a first step towards knowledge and compassion.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week



Palliative care
EVERYWHERE 

Advance Care Planning Day



If not you, **who?**

National Children's Hospice Palliative Care Day



WEAVING THE FABRIC OF CARE

National Grief and Bereavement Day



Reach Out
Support the Grief Journey

The Palliative Approach Blog

After 91 editions, CHPCA’s member publication, AVISO, was retired to make way for The Palliative Approach blog. This blog provides thought-provoking palliative care content for palliative care professionals, champions, and volunteers across Canada. It features articles on the latest research, innovative programs and initiatives, and on building stronger support for palliative care in every community.



Education

CHPCA Conference 2023

How do you spark a palliative revolution? The 2023 edition of the CHPCA Conference brought together more than 400 champions, professionals, researchers, clinicians, and volunteers to do just that. At a time where our health care systems are facing unprecedented pressures and challenges, now is the time to lead from the front. Now is the time to challenge biases and explore new ideas.

“I appreciated the way the conference brings professionals together from across Canada to discuss learnings, challenges and experiences. That is so valuable.” Anonymous Survey Feedback

Held in Ottawa, the 2023 edition of CHPCA’s Conference was the first CHPCA learning event in several years that could be held in-person. This allowed us to bring people together across disciplines, from across the country to connect and to learn. The energy was invigorating, revolutionary ideas were born, and the power of human connection was undeniable.

“Inspiring lectures and people who are leading the charge for a revolution. The conference really embodied the slogan of a revolution as I feel a lot of the attendees felt energized and charged to make the revolution happen.” Anonymous Survey Feedback

Thank you to everyone who made the 2023 CHPCA Conference a resounding success! We look forward to gathering again next time in Nanaimo, BC on October 22 – 26, 2025.



CANADIAN HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

By the numbers . . .



Over 400 registrants



29 workshops



39 posters



52 oral presentations



Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care (LTC) Community of Practice

In its 3rd year, the Palliative Approach in LTC Community of Practice now counts over 400 members including patients, caregivers, and professionals. They meet monthly to learn and share about Advance Care Planning (ACP) and integrating palliative approaches in LTC. The community of practice is co-chaired with Dr. Sharon Kaasalainen of the Strengthening Palliative Approaches in LTC project at McMaster University.



Last Aid

In December 2023, CHPCA acquired the Canadian license for the academically reviewed, international public education program Last Aid. The workshop is like a 'First Aid course for end-of-life' that helps caregivers to build their understanding and confidence as they support those who are dying and grieving. We can't wait to bring a Last Aid course to a community near you!

Advocacy

Naming Grief: Sharing Stories Of Grief on Parliament Hill

Representatives from the grief and bereavement and palliative care communities gathered for a breakfast reception on Parliament Hill in honour of National Grief and Bereavement Day. The event shone a light on the need for greater awareness of and increased support for grief and bereavement.

Attendees were invited to share their stories of grief, and to speak the names of those they lost. Through these stories of resilience and vulnerability, attendees bore witness to one another's grief, at the seat of government in Ottawa. CHPCA facilitated this event to underscore the need for our leaders in communities to reach out, and to bear witness to the grief within each of us.

Grief does not discriminate, which is why we need leaders from all sectors and all communities to champion better supports for the bereaved. From policymakers tabling legislation to improve bereavement leave policies in workplaces, to a friend dropping off groceries to their grieving neighbour, we must all find where we can reach out and help.



A Seat at the Table

CHPCA is a member of several groups and initiatives advancing public policy priorities for palliative care, grief, and caregiving. These include the Care Champions Table of the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, Canadian Grief Alliance, Health Charities Coalition of Canada, Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance, and a lifetime membership to the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.



**Palliative Care
Coalition of Canada
Coalition canadienne
des soins palliatifs**



Continued Action with the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada

The Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC) is a group of over 30 national organizations dedicated to improving palliative care for everyone in Canada for which CHPCA was the Secretariat from 2000-2022.

CHPCA continues to participate in the Education and Advocacy Committees of the PCCC. As a member of the Advocacy committee, CHPCA took part in the working group to develop the PCCC’s response to Health Canada’s report to Parliament on the Framework for Palliative Care and supported the Pre-Budget Submission ahead of the 2024 federal budget.

Collaboration

Reaching Out, Listening, and Supporting Accessibility

Everyone deserves to have a say in planning for their future health and personal care. That's why this year, the Advance Care Planning (ACP) Canada team launched a new project to make ACP more accessible for people with disabilities.

Our team knew that collaboration with people and organizations from the disability community would be the key to success. Their insights and lived experiences are necessary for us to achieve our goals. They will help us ensure that our resources are truly accessible, and that they meet their needs.

The disability community is diverse and made of many groups with unique needs and priorities. We had to expand our network to make sure we had as much representation as possible at the table. So, we attended new events and reached out to new stakeholders. There, we found allies who wanted to contribute to making ACP more accessible for their communities.

Our team conducted a survey and an environmental scan of accessible ACP resources and support in Canada with our partners. Those results helped identify gaps in the currently available resources. We started developing and testing several accessible resources to address those gaps. We also organized focus groups, surveys and meetings to hear from people with disabilities and those that support them. Those insights are also helping to guide these resources. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with and to learn from our partners. Together, we can make ACP more accessible for everyone.

PACE for PSWs

This year, **over 1,000 Personal Support Workers (PSWs)** completed the PACE for PSWs online courses. These courses help PSWs, and those in similar roles, to integrate a palliative approach when caring for patients. The program is a partnership between CHPCA, Life & Death Matters and Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO).



PACE for PSWs



Support

The support of our funders, sponsors, donors, and members are the bedrock of our work. Your contributions help us to bring more compassion to patients and families across Canada when they need it most. Thank you!



Our Donors

We are immensely grateful for every gift to CHPCA from community members and organizations. Though space does not allow us to acknowledge everyone who donated in 2023-2024, those who gave over \$500 this year are listed below.

Armagh Contractors Limited
 Hanna Barton
 Phil Boyd
 Cenovus Energy Inc.
 Claire Dooley
 Daniel Fleming
 GHD
 Sheila Jackson
 Rob McCulloch

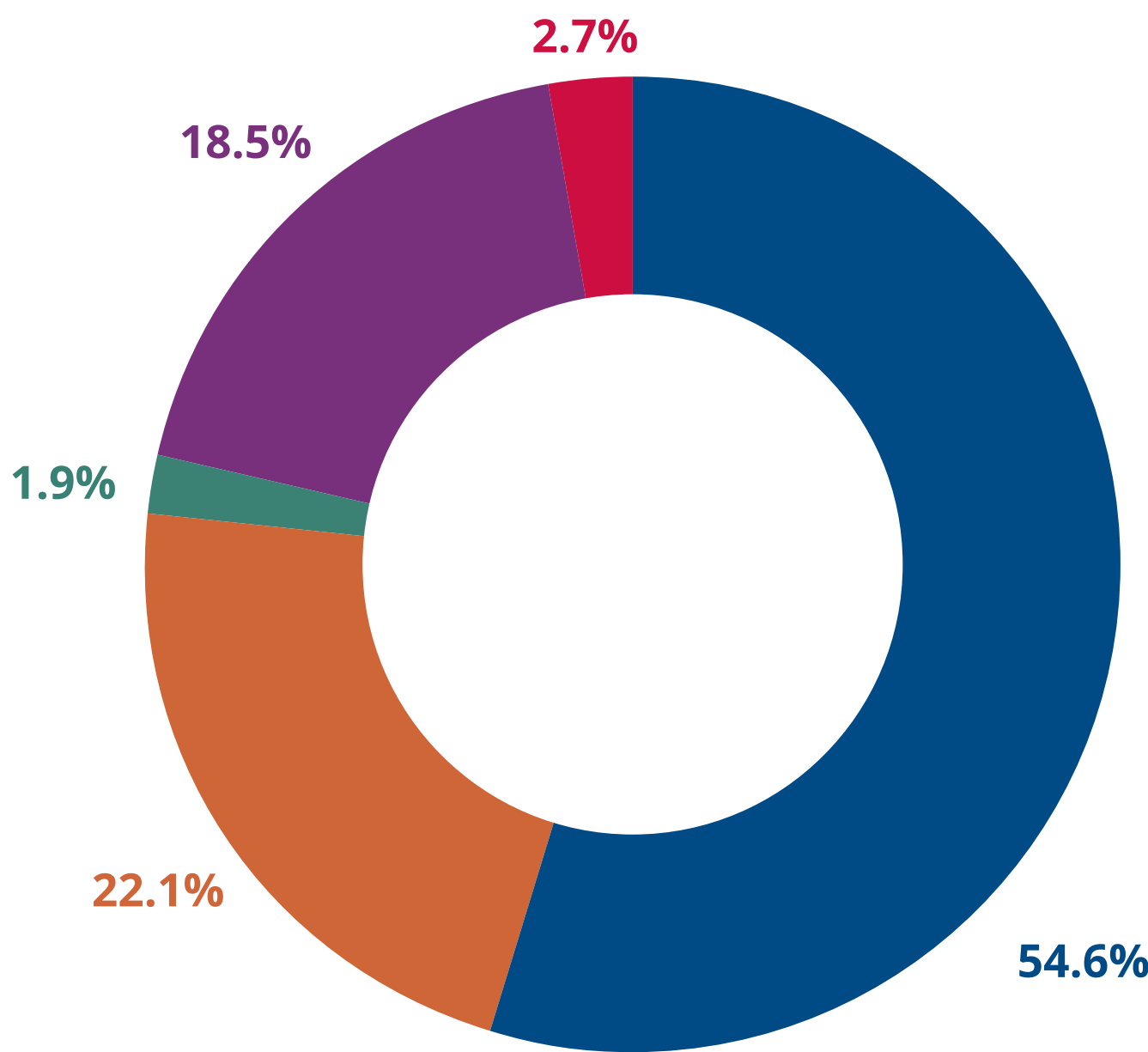
Paul Musson
 Travis & Kate Olafsen
 Karen Peladeau
 Mary Pushie
 Gwen Risk
 George Szewchuk
 Domenico Torriero
 David Trebilcock
 Clementine Van Veen

In Kind Support From Community Partners



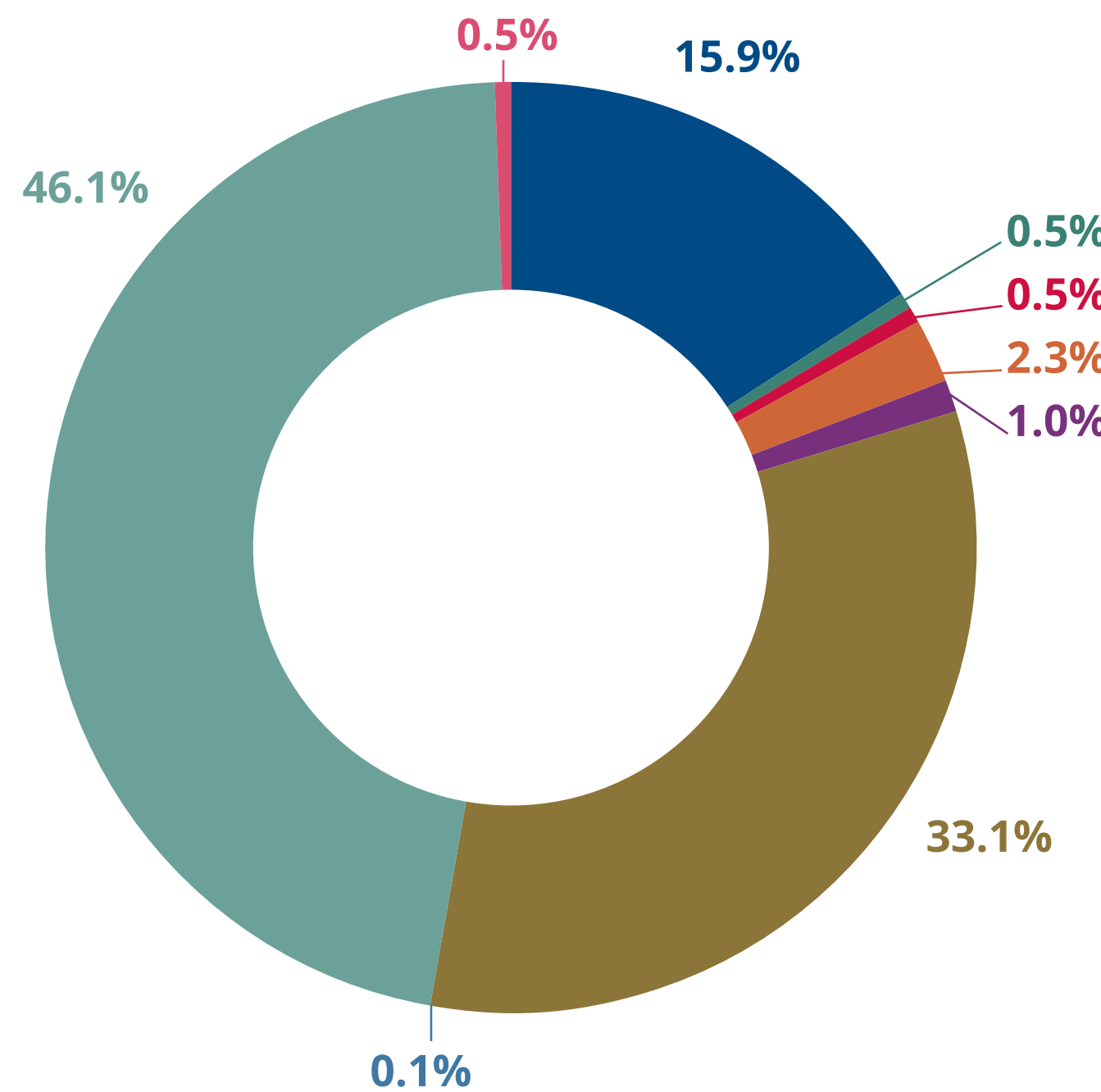
Financial Overview

Revenue



- Grants** \$836,634
- Education & Conference** \$338,208
- Membership fees** \$29,529
- Donation** \$281,869
- Services** \$40,826
- Total Revenue** \$1,527,066

Expenses



- Travel, Meetings & Conferences** \$207,069
- Bank Charges** \$6,823
- Memberships** \$6,375
- Office Expenses** \$29,529
- Occupancy** \$13,003
- Professional Fees** \$430,620
- Education & Training** \$1,916
- Compensation** \$600,591
- Amortization** \$6,091
- Total Expenses** \$1,302,017



Full audited financial statements are available on CHPCA's website.



Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
Association canadienne de soins palliatifs

Together for a more compassionate Canada.

Learn more and give today:

chpca.ca/donate

