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February Newsletter

Impacts of Palliative Care

The Réseau québécois de recherche en soins palliatifs et de fin de vie RQSPAL (Quebec Network for Palliative and End-of-Life Care Research) has produced a video developed by their Student Committee explaining the impacts of a life-limiting diagnosis and the ripples the person living with illness and for their family and friends



This video is available in both French and English.

For Everyone

Canadian Pediatric Cancer Consortium launches to advance research in pediatric cancer care

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research is investing \$23 million to establish the first Canadian Pediatric Cancer Consortium (CPCC). Through the CPCC, a

national network of clinicians, researchers, community of practice caregivers, patients and families is coming to together with the goal to transform pediatric cancer care delivery in Canada by improving access to the latest scientific advances, diagnostic tools, therapies and supportive care. The collaborative project involves pediatric centres and academic institutions from across the country.

[Read more](#)

Chatham-Kent Hospice receives grant for new Cuddle Bed

The Chatham-Kent Hospice is the recipient of a grant from the South Kent Wind Community Fund, a donor advised fund by the Chatham Kent Community Foundation. This grant goes towards the purchase of a new Cuddle Bed for hospice residents. A Cuddle Bed is a regular sized bed that can extend in width to accommodate room for cuddling as well as extend in width for patients over 7 ft. tall. These kinds of beds help hospices offer the most compassionate, end-of-life care possible.

For Professionals

Dignity in Care – Online Training 2023

September 14, 21, 28

Registration for the upcoming Dignity in Care workshop presented by Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov is now open. This 3-day online workshop is designed to enhance the human side of healthcare and focus on the role and application of dignity in all aspects of clinical practice.

[Learn more](#)

ARTICLE: Exploring work-related grief among community service workers providing care for structurally vulnerable populations at the end of life through participatory action research

Written by Melissa Giesbrecht, PhD, of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health of University of Victoria, this study explores community service workers'

experiences of grief while providing care for those who are structurally vulnerable at the end of their lives. The goal of this study was to identify ways of providing better support systems for these community service workers.

[Read article](#)

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: Research study on Canadian physicians' attitudes and experiences providing palliative care to sexual and gender minority individuals

Dr. Alexandre Coholan of the McGill University Health Centre is seeking participants for his research study to characterize attitudes and practices in providing care to sexual and gender minorities among Canadian palliative care physicians. Findings from this study will provide a better understanding of the realities of Canadian palliative care physicians in providing palliative and hospice care to sexual and gender minority individuals in order to improve overall quality care.

Interested Canadian physicians are invited to email Dr. Alexandre Coholan at alexandre.coholan@mail.mcgill.ca.

Dr. Anne Katz's book wins SSTAR Consumer Book award

Congratulations to Dr. Anne Katz, a certified sexuality counselor and winner of the Society for Sex Therapy and Research (SSTAR) Consumer Book award for the second edition of her book *Woman Cancer Sex*. Read articles Dr. Katz contributed to Canadian Virtual Hospice:

[The Exchange – Sexuality at the End of Life](#)

[Sexuality – Breaking the Silence](#)

Nursing fellowship launched at Bruyère

The Hon. Sharon Carstairs, Chair of the International Centre for Dignity and Palliative Care, Inc, which operates the Canadian Virtual Hospice, helped create the Sharon Carstairs/OutCare Foundation Fellowship for Hospice Palliative Nursing with the Bruyère Foundation. The professional development

program at the Saint-Vincent Hospital campus allows nurses to gain skills, knowledge, and expertise in palliative care under the guidance of a project mentor.

[Read more](#)

Dr. Naheed Dosani appointed as Medical Director

Congratulations to Dr. Naheed Dosani for his appointment as Medical Director of the Kensington Health Hospice. Dr. Naheed Dosani is a palliative care physician and health justice advocate who truly exemplifies the definition of humanity.

[Read more](#)

Dr. Kieran Quinn receives 2022 Polanyi Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Kieran Quinn, Sinai Health General Internal Medicine and Palliative Care physician for receiving the 2022 Polanyi Prize for Physiology/Medicine.

Dr. Christine Jones appointed as Medical Director

Congratulations to Dr. Christine Jones for her appointment to Medical Director of the Victoria Hospice. Dr. Jones has attended to patients and families at the Victoria Hospice for more than 20 years. She is a respected palliative care physician, educator, and advocate.

In the News

[Interview with Dr. Jillian Horton about her memoir, *We Are All Perfectly Fine*](#) – CBCLISTEN

[Coast writers find good in grief in David Roche-led hospice pilot project](#) - CoastReporter

Support Groups and Youth Camps

Vancouver Island Youth Retreat

May 12-15

Presented by the Lumara Society, the Vancouver Island Youth Retreat is for youth ages 13-19 looking for an opportunity to connect with peers who are grieving the death of someone they care about. During the three night stay at Strathcona Park Lodge, participants will experience canoeing, hiking, campfires as well as an array of healing modalities including Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Peer Support Groups, and much more.

[Learn more](#)

Bereaved Families of Ontario - Ottawa: closed support groups

In April 2023, BFO-Ottawa is offering 8-week closed groups focusing on various topics experienced by those who are grieving including emotions, how to move forward, and remembering the person. The groups are divided into types of loss including loss of child, loss of parent, loss of spouse/partner, loss of relative/friend/sibling or loss by suicide. Register online using the following links:

- [Loss of Child](#)
- [Loss of Parent](#)
- [Loss of Spouse/Partner](#)
- [Loss of Sibling/Friend/Relative](#)
- [Loss by Suicide](#)
- [Art Therapy](#)

Camp Erin 2023 Applications Open

Gilda's Club of Greater Toronto's Camp Erin is now accepting applications for their 2023 season. Camp Erin Toronto is a free, weekend bereavement camp for youth who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives.

Children and teens ages 6 to 17 attend a weekend camp experience that combines grief education and emotional support with fun, traditional camp activities. Led by bereavement professionals and caring volunteers, campers are provided a safe environment to explore their grief, learn essential coping skills, and make friends with peers who are also grieving.

[Learn more](#)

Hospice Toronto Bereavement Support Groups Open

Hospice Toronto's Bereavement Support program is available to family and friends who are grieving. A dedicated pool of volunteers works one-on-one either by phone, in person or online.

[Learn more](#)

Virtual Support Group for People in Treatment for a Blood Cancer, Survivors, and Caregivers

Presented by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada, this support group will cultivate an atmosphere in which members feel safe and comfortable talking about and working through personal issues and experiences. It will provide the opportunity to share ideas and support each other in a virtual environment. From the comfort of your home, connect with others who are going through or have gone through a similar experience. Build connections through group discussions and share coping methods and practical information. Meetings are professionally facilitated.

Dates

March 15, 2023

April 19, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 21, 2023

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

KidsGrief Q&A March

March 7, 2023

Join children's grief expert Andrea Warnick as she answers your questions.

[Register](#)

Webinar Recordings

KidsGrief Q&A January

In this January webinar, children's grief expert Andrea Warnick answered your questions about children's grief.

- What resources are available to support talking with very young children about a grandparent's death?
- How do we honor my husband who has died with my teenage daughter?
- Is it wrong for children to be present when paying last respects to someone who has passed with the body in the room?

[Watch recording](#)

KidsGrief Q&A February

In this February webinar, children's grief expert Andrea Warnick answered your questions about children's grief.

- How do you address families that dismiss that their child may be experiencing grief?
- How do you navigate your child asking questions about their own death or existence after a family member has passed away?
- How do you support an adolescent grieving a peer's suicide when they do not know how to talk about it?

[Watch recording](#)

Events

Call for Abstracts: CAPO 2023

February 28, 2023

The Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO) is now accepting abstracts for posters, oral presentations, symposia and 90-minute workshops for the 38th Annual Conference to be held from June 20 through June 22, 2023.

[Learn more](#)

CPCNA Webinar: Medical assistance in dying (MAID) in Canada: Today's law and the changes ahead

February 28, 2023

Helen Long and Kelsey Goforth from Dying with Dignity Canada, will provide an overview of the existing assisted dying law in Canada, the changes expected in 2023 regarding assisted dying for those whose sole underlying condition is a mental disorder, and future changes being considered during the Parliamentary Review. They will speak to the eligibility criteria for medical assistance in dying (MAID) and the procedural safeguards in place. Additionally, they will provide statistics on MAID in Canada. The presentation will also cover challenges to access that have endured since MAID first became available.

[Register](#)

Dementia Care “Caring During COVID-19 and Beyond” Professional Development Series

March 10, 2023

The Alzheimer Society Manitoba's Dementia Care “Caring During COVID-19 and Beyond” Professional Development Series concludes with the final online seminar "Does Medication Have a Role in Managing Responsive Behaviours in Dementia?" featuring Dr. Barry Campbell.

[Learn more](#)

Living Til We Die Conference

March 29, 2023

Living Til we Die is hosted by Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities. The goal of this conference is to explore important topics that our industry experiences every day. We'll be there! Drop by our booth and meet Michaela.

[Register](#)

Call for Abstracts: 34th Annual Palliative Education and Research Day

April 3, 2023

Convenant Health Palliative Institute is now accepting abstracts until April 3 for the 34th Annual Palliative Education and Research Day to be held virtually on October 23rd, 2023. The theme of the event is *Personalized Palliative Care: Caring for People and Communities – Honoring people where they are at.*

[Learn more](#)

Seasons Centre Annual Education Day

April 20, 2023

Presented by the Seasons Centre, this hybrid symposium focuses on the theme of cultivating emotional resilience in children and families.

[Learn more](#)

SWHPN 2023

April 23 to 25, 2023

The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network's General Assembly will be held in Denver, Colorado.

[Learn more](#)

HPCO 2023

June 11 to 13, 2023

The Hospice Palliative Care Ontario's annual conference, *Now is the Time*, will be held in Toronto.

[Learn more](#)

CAPO 2023

June 20 to 22, 2023

The Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology's annual conference, Co-

designing Psychosocial Oncology: Optimizing Outcomes for All, will be held in Toronto.

[Learn more](#)

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