

[View in browser](#)

February edition

Tumbler Ridge Tragedy

In the wake of the Tumbler Ridge tragedy, we hold the community of Tumbler Ridge in our hearts, especially those who died, the wounded, the families, students and school staff, first responders and everyone affected by this tragedy. In a close-knit community like Tumbler Ridge, grief is not carried alone—it is shared by neighbours, friends, and coworkers, who feel the impact deeply. This profound loss is being felt across Canada and around the world as we struggle with the sorrow, confusion, and unanswered questions that follow such difficult events. In moments like these, our strength lies in our compassion for one another—checking in, offering support, and grieving together.

Our partners at the Canadian Grief Alliance have issued a statement about grief and resources that can be helpful.

[Read more](#)

What's new

Understanding homelessness and grief

Our colleagues at the Canadian Grief Alliance have launched a new video series focusing on grief and homelessness.

[Explore more](#)

Support palliative care in Canada – sign the petition!

There is not much time left to add your name to Palliative Care Coalition of Canada's parliamentary petition, which calls for renewed federal investment of \$29.8 million to

advance the Framework and strengthen palliative care across Canada. Please show your support for palliative care by taking 2 minutes to sign the petition.

English

French

Advancing equity in palliative and end-of-life care

The BC Centre for Palliative Care has released a new report distilling key insights from a three-part Knowledge Exchange Series held in Spring 2025, exploring how health system services and community supports can work together to better meet the needs of underserved populations—highlighting both persistent gaps and promising paths forward.

[Learn more](#)

2026 Advance Care Planning (ACP) Day campaign kit

Advance Care Planning Canada's campaign kit is designed to make participation in ACP Day on April 16th easy, flexible, and impactful, whether you're planning an event, adding information to your website, or hosting a simple online activity.

[Learn more](#)

Course for supporting the grief of those who are homeless

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness has developed "**Navigating Grief and Bereavement in the Context of Homelessness: A Guide for Community Support Workers**". This course is designed for community support workers, frontline staff, volunteers, outreach teams, shelter workers, and anyone who serves people experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more](#)

Public review of new National Standards for Palliative Care

The Health Standards Organization is developing a new edition of the Palliative Care Services National Standard of Canada, and is inviting the public to share feedback from February 3 to April 3, 2026. This new edition of the standard aims to provide clear requirements and accountabilities to support clients, care partners, teams,

organizational leaders, and partners as they work together to achieve safe, equitable, comprehensive, people-centred, and high-quality palliative care and end-of-life services.

[Learn more](#)

Call for abstracts for Virtual Learning Institute

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association is now accepting submissions for the 2026-2027 Virtual Learning Institute. The CHPCA welcomes submissions that reflect clinical practice, research, quality improvement, lived experience, education, and innovation, etc., in hospice palliative care.

[Learn more](#)

RESEARCH RECRUITMENT: Partnering for young carers' health and well-being

This CIHR-funded study, led by Roberta Woodgate, PhD, MN, RN, is recruiting young caregivers to establish recommendations and research priorities. Participants aged 12-30 who provide care for a family member or friend and reside in Canada are encouraged to apply.

[Learn more](#)

Will YOU be the International Palliative Care Innovator of 2026?

Have you developed programs, services, resources, or approaches that have improved hospice or palliative care in your health facility, program, community, country, or beyond? Take 15 minutes to submit your innovation to the Canadian Virtual Hospice's 2026 Innovation Challenge at the McGill International Palliative Care Congress in Montreal for a chance to go head-to-head with other innovators in a high-energy innovation power hour. On October 8, 2026, six finalists will have only six minutes each to convince the voting audience and a panel of palliative care judges that they deserve to be named International Palliative Care Innovator of 2026. The submission deadline is midnight GMT on April 15, 2026.

[Submit your innovation](#)

Upcoming webinars

Rites of passage: Changing ways of marking death and dying in our communities

February 19, 2026 | Location: Virtual

Conversations about death and dying are shaped by faith, culture, and community – and they are changing. In this live Conversations with Leaders event presented by Compassionate Ottawa, voices from diverse religious traditions and the funeral profession reflect on how end-of-life rites, practices, and attitudes have evolved in recent years. Speakers will explore the impacts of COVID-19, shifting family and community structures, and emerging conversations. Together, they will reflect on how communities mark the end of life, care for one another in times of loss, and seek meaning, dignity, and connection in the face of death.

[Register](#)

Sitting with grief: Supporting patients & families

February 26, 2026 | Location: Virtual

Grief is a universal experience, yet supporting others through it can be deeply challenging. In this session sponsored by Lakehead University, Eugene Dufour guides healthcare providers in understanding the complexities of grief and offers practical methods for sitting with patients and families during their most vulnerable moments. Participants will gain skills to provide compassionate care while maintaining their own emotional well-being.

[Register](#)

KidsGrief Q&A March

March 10, 2026 | Location: Virtual

Join our webinar hosted by children's grief specialists Andrea Warnick, MA, RN, RP, Colleen Mousseau, M.Ed., RP, and Nicola Elbro, MA, RP, as they answer your questions. Please submit your questions for discussion in advance via the link below.

[Submit a question](#)

[Register](#)

Pregnancy & infant loss: Awareness matters with Michelle La Fontaine

March 12, 2026 | Location: Virtual

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network offers a free webinar to any families who have suffered a pregnancy or infant death are invited to join with others who share in their grief.

[Register](#)

Reading list

Expectations in the Communication About Death and Dying From a Caregiver's Perspective: The End-Of-Life Conversation – Expectation Scale

Communication about the end-of-life is often avoided, despite its association with positive outcomes for those affected and their caregivers. Negative expectations seem to be a mechanism through which avoidance is maintained. In this study, Sophie Kievernagel, Philipps University of Marburg, et al., examined existing expectations in talking about death to a significant other.

[Read more](#)

An Environmental Scan of Services for Adolescents and Young Adults Diagnosed with Cancer

Only about half of Canada's major pediatric and adult cancer hospitals offer specialized programs for young people with cancer, with many of these programs relying on private donations. This study by Nicole Rutkowski, University of Ottawa, et al., provides a comprehensive snapshot of the current landscape of AYA cancer care, highlighting strengths, gaps, and areas of variability across the country.

[Read more](#)

Grief over pet death can be as strong as that for a family member

In a study by Philip Hyland, PhD, a professor of psychology at Maynooth University in Ireland, there is evidence to suggest people grieving the loss of a pet can suffer from prolonged grief disorder (PGD), a mental health condition brought about by the death of a loved one.

[Read more](#)

Watch or listen

[KidsGrief Q&A Webinar recording February, 2026](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4313701582187934>

Events

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: Biennial Provincial Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium

Deadline: March 25, 2026

The 5th Biennial Ontario Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium, presented by Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, is accepting abstracts for oral presentations and posters for the June 17, 2026 event held in Richmond Hill, ON.

[Learn more](#)

BON Education Day

April 16, 2026 | Virtual and Dundas, ON

Bereavement Ontario Network is putting on an education day with guest speakers, with lunch and snacks included.

[Learn more](#)

HPCO Annual Conference

June 14-16, 2026 | Richmond Hill, ON

HPCO2026 is presented by Hospice Palliative Care Ontario. This in-person conference attracts over 800 delegates from across Canada and worldwide, representing all

professions, roles, and care settings across the healthcare continuum.

[Learn more](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

[Place an order](#) for free printed materials,
bookmarks, and tissues

[Email us](#) with a story idea

[Inquire about webinars](#) presented by our
interdisciplinary team

[Update us](#) on palliative care news in your
region

Socialize with #VirtualHospice for more stories and news



Copyright © 2024 Virtual Hospice, All rights reserved.

You received this email from a Canadian non profit charitable organization. We are communicating with you in relation to your employment, business or profession. Please unsubscribe should you no longer wish to receive emails from us.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

1 Morley Avenue, Room PE464, Winnipeg, MB, R3L 2P4 | [Unsubscribe](#)