

[View in browser](#)

September edition



The Canadian Healing Quilt

A place to honour, a place to remember

Canadian Virtual Hospice, Elder Albert McLeod, and Palliative Manitoba have launched the Canadian Healing Quilt (HealingQuilt.ca) with funding from The Winnipeg Foundation. The HealingQuilt.ca is a virtual space to honour and remember someone you care about who has died. Families and friends can gather virtually on HealingQuilt.ca to share stories, photos, and special memories in a lasting digital memorial quilt square. The quilt square will become part of a virtual mosaic of quilt squares from across Canada and a compassionate online community of understanding and healing. The Healing Quilt was envisioned by Elder Albert McLeod and is rooted in Indigenous tradition: star blankets and quilts offer protection in life and honour those who have died.

There is no cost to create a quilt and the process of creating a quilt square can be helpful to those who are grieving.

Visit HealingQuilt.ca and share broadly with your networks. Contact info@virtualhospice.ca for newsletter content or to order postcards. Help amplify the

launch by sharing on social media.

Press release

Grief Assistant is live on AboutGrief

AboutGrief's Grief Assistant is here to help answer your questions and find information across the platform. Information provided is not a substitute for health advice.

[Learn more](#)

Grief Chats webinar series available on AboutGrief

Canadian Grief Alliance and Canadian Virtual Hospice's popular Grief Chats webinar series is available on [AboutGrief.ca](https://www.aboutgrief.ca). Check out all the recordings and including special topics such as Men grieve too, Pet Loss, Grief and the Holidays, Grieving an anticipated loss, Culture and Grief, Grieving a relationship, and more.

[Learn more](#)

NEW! Grieving a pet video series

In a new video series, Melissa explores the unique aspects of grief when a pet dies, including unrecognized grief, disenfranchised grief, and the sense of judgment she experienced around what losses are worthy of grief. Melissa is the co-founder of Through Rough Times, a service in Toronto for people receiving healthcare treatment who need care for their pets.

[Learn more](#)

What's new

Getting More Comfortable with Death and Grief

As part of the Hospice Halifax lecture series, social scientist Mary Ellen Macdonald, PhD, delivered a public presentation titled *Getting More Comfortable with Death and Grief: Taboos, Stigmas and Ways Forward* to an engaged audience in April 2025. Cartoonist Susan MacLeod captured snippets from the event in these drawings.

[Learn more](#)

Grief Gatherings ongoing in September

Grief Gatherings is back for 2025. From September 19 to 28, Grief Matters will have lots of activities and events across Nova Scotia, with the hope of having Gatherings across the country. Interested in hosting an event? You do not need to be a grief professional, just a person who cares about grief and has something to share.

[Learn more](#)

Manual on the Use of Essential Palliative Care Medicines for Adults

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care team recently announced the launch of their *Manual on the Use of Essential Palliative Care Medicines for Adults*. Authored by Dr. Lukas Radbruch, et al., this resource fills a critical gap by facilitating safe and effective use of essential medicines, helping to alleviate health-related suffering around the world. It is designed to support health professionals who provide generalist or palliative care in the community.

[Learn more](#)

Grief Notes: Virtual Grief Groups for Children & Youth

Registration is open for IWK Health's new program – Grief Notes: Virtual Grief Groups for Children & Youth. These 8-week virtual grief groups are for children and youth ages 7-18 who reside in NS, NB, and PEI and have experienced the death of a significant person. The groups will be facilitated by Linden Hardie, MSW, RSW, and Meaghan Jackson, Certified Music Therapist, and will include song-writing, mindfulness activities, and discussion. Concurrent support will be provided to the parents/caregivers of group members.

[Learn more](#)

Reading list

The impacts of visitor restrictions for palliative patients during the COVID-19 pandemic on family members and healthcare providers

Written by Natasha Hansen, PhD, et al., of Horizon Health Network, this study explores the impact of COVID-19 visitor restrictions on family members of patients with a life-limiting diagnosis or who received palliative care during the pandemic, and health care providers (HCPs) for patients with life-limiting diagnoses within New Brunswick, Canada.

[Learn more](#)

Telehealth adoption in palliative care: a systematic review of patient barriers and facilitators

Telehealth is increasingly used in palliative care, and its application is seen as one possible solution to improve access to palliative care services, thereby providing additional support for patients with advanced cancer. Led by Ann Kirby, PhD, of University College Cork, this research identifies the barriers and facilitators of telehealth adoption by patients with advanced cancer to determine the type of healthcare services needed to meet their needs.

[Learn more](#)

BOOK: Victory Lap

The book *Victory Lap: A No-Fear Guide to Living Well with Serious Illness*, written by Dr. Pippa Hawley and Gaby Eirew, has a fresh new edition. This book provides insights, information, and practical advice designed to help people handle the demands and limitations of illness so that they can focus on living as well as possible in whatever time they may have.

[Learn more](#)

Research recruitment

2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada Study

Led by project director Nick Mulé, PhD, of York University, *2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada: Improving Livelihood and Social Wellbeing* is a community-based research project examining and addressing 2SLGBTQ+ poverty across the country. This study is looking for individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, are at least 16 years of age, and live in Canada to participate.

[Learn more](#)

[Take survey](#)

Resources

AI Scribe Program enrollment now open

Eligible primary care clinicians can now begin the registration process for a fully funded AI scribe tool. The goal of the AI Scribe program aims to empower clinicians to collect, use, and share patient health data more effectively and effortlessly, enabling easier participation in Connected Care initiatives while streamlining their daily interactions across the health system.

[Learn more](#)

Awards

Helene Hudson Memorial Lectureship Award

Emilee Jentink, RN, is the recipient of the Helen Hudson Memorial Lectureship Award for her research, *Integrating Early Palliative Conversations into Glioblastoma Care: A Nurse-Led Advance Planning Model*. With over 13 years of oncology nursing expertise, Emilee is a leader, educator, and advocate for nurse-led solutions that improve patient experiences. Her work is redefining how and when palliative conversations begin. This memorial lectureship in honor of Helene Hudson, an oncology nursing leader in Manitoba who helped establish the outpatient oncology clinic at Winnipeg's Victoria General Hospital in 1977.

Watch or listen

KidsGrief Q&A September, 2025 - [Watch recording](#)

Indigenous Voices: Supporting Healthy Ways of Living Through Grief and Loss -
The Power of Emotional Release - [Watch recording](#)

PODCAST: Catch-Up on Kids Mental Health

The Catch-Up on Kids Mental Health podcast is hosted by Janet Morrison and showcases leading experts in children and adolescent mental health. Children's grief specialist, Andrea Warnick, and team feature in this 2-part feature.

Part 1

Part 2

PODCAST: What Now? On the threshold of life, death, and grief

Hosted by palliative and bereavement healthcare professionals Julie Brown, Red Keating, and David Kennedy, this podcast delves into the profound and universal experiences of dying, death, and grief.

Listen in

Upcoming webinars

KidsGrief Q&A October

Date: October 14, 2025 | Location: Virtual

Join 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 question](#)

[Learn more](#)

4-part webinar: Navigating Palliative Care

Date: September - December, 2025 | Location: Virtual

Join the Canadian Palliative Care Nursing Association for a four-part webinar series designed to equip nurses with the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills needed to deliver high-quality palliative care across all settings. From foundational principles to advanced symptom management and end-of-life support, this series explores the nurse's pivotal role in caring for patients and families during some of life's most critical moments.

[Learn more](#)

Events

Connected in Care

Date: September 24 - 26, 2025 | Location: Toronto, ON

Presented by the Sunnybrook Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network, this year's conference aims to bring together health care professionals and bereaved families with a shared goal of improving the quality of compassionate and skilled care and support for individuals and families who experience a pregnancy loss or infant death.

[Learn more](#)

CERAH Conference 2025

Date: October 2 - 3, 2025 | Location: Thunder Bay, ON

The theme for this year's conference is *Aging Through the Life Cycle* and will take place at The Superior Inn Hotel & Conference Centre. The event is hosted by Lakehead University's Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH).

[Learn more](#)

Palliative Care Education and Research Conference

Date: October 20, 2025 | Location: TBA

Learn about palliative care needs and enhance knowledge of the practical aspects of palliative and end-of-life care at this year's Palliative Care Education and Research

Conference hosted by Covenant Health. This year's theme is *Mind the Gap*.

[Learn more](#)

CHPCA Conference 2025

Date: October 22 – 25, 2025 | Location: Nanaimo, BC

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference is the country's premier hospice palliative care conference.

[Learn more](#)

Informal Guys Group

Date: October 24, 2025 | Location: Penetanguishene, ON

Hospice Huronia is hosting a guys group for men who have experienced loss. Sessions are once a month on a Monday with a focus on a project.

[Learn more](#)

CANO-ACIO 2025

Date: October 29 - November 1, 2025 | Location: Banff, AB

The CANO/ACIO Annual Conference will include a workshop day, keynote presentations, joint symposia, concurrent oral sessions, posters, networking opportunities and more.

[Learn more](#)

5th Annual Canadian Children's Grief Symposium

Date: November 12 - 13, 2025 | Location: Virtual

Presented by the Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief, this year's conference theme is *Building Personal and Community Resilience*. Registrations open in August.

[Learn more](#)

SAVE THE DATE: CAMP WIDOW

Camp Widow is a beacon of hope, healing, and community for widowed people across Canada and beyond.

Upcoming camps:

Camp Widow Toronto – May 2026

Camp Widow Calgary – September 2026

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](#)