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Summer Newsletter

***A Story About Care* inspires poetry by palliative care great**

World-renowned palliative leader and writer, Dr. Kathryn Mannix, posted a glowing response on Twitter to Canadian Virtual Hospice's video [A Story About Care](#), featuring volunteer, storyteller, and advocate for the care that matters, Jim Mulcahy.

"This illuminating video from @VirtualHospice moved me to find the poetry in it, and the echoes in me. Thanks for your wisdom, Jim Mulcahy." Her [tweet](#) was accompanied by a moving poem she was inspired to write.

I was touched

Send me someone who is going to look at me,
He said.
It has something to do with my pulse, sure
But it's also to do with the heart.
It's an act of grace – this is your moment, he said,
Your moment to experience the sacredness of being a caregiver.

In his gaze, I become
His friend, his brother, his wife, his Other.

Here, now, at the edge of his life
Not just a nurse, a doctor, a housekeeper, a porter
I stand for all of us. I am all of us.

We might, he said
We might even have the courage to say
'I loved you.'

And he becomes every person I have ever cared for
As he names that simple truth.
Of course it was love.
How else could we endure it?
We are emptied and filled at once as we touch, and are touched.

Kathryn Mannix
July 2023

Dr. Mannix is a retired UK-based palliative care physician and author of several books including her latest, *With the End in Mind*. Over the last three decades, her work has had a tremendous influence on demystifying death and dying in the UK.

Public consultation launched on safe long-term care

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted long-standing systemic challenges in long-term homes across Canada which have a profound impact on the older adults and persons with disabilities who live in these facilities. In response, Health Canada has launched a national online consultation that will inform the development of a Safe Long-Term Care Act to ensure all long-term care

residents live in an environment of dignity, comfort, and respect. The consultation is open to the public. Participate at the link below.

[Learn more](#)

Highlights from HPCO 2023

Hospice Palliative Care Ontario's Annual Conference "Now is the Time" was hosted in Richmond Hill from June 11th to 13th. Canadian Virtual Hospice exhibited to an engaged crowd and was privileged to hear Jim Mulcahy's powerful keynote address which drew a sustained standing ovation.

Congratulations to the following individuals and organizations who were honoured for their contributions to palliative care:

- Holy Prince, recipient of the Carmelita Lawlor Lectorship
- Dr. Alyssa Boyd, recipient of the Dr. S. Lawrence Librach Award for Palliative Medicine in the Community.
- Tracy Human RN, CHPCN (C), recipient of the Dorothy Ley Award of Excellence in Hospice Palliative Care.
- Blair and Kathy McKeil of the McKeil Family Foundation, recipients of the Outstanding Philanthropist Award.
- Journey Home Hospice, recipient of the Mount Pleasant Group Hospice Innovation Award.

ARTICLE: From workshop to action - takeaways on equitable access to palliative care

In this article from Healthcare Excellence Canada, national palliative care leaders and Virtual Hospice team members, Holly Prince and Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, speak to the disparity in access to palliative care and the need to co-create solutions with affected communities. They are two members of the [Improving Equity in Access to Palliative Care](#) collaborative which, with funding from Health Canada, assists communities in improving access to palliative approaches to care with – and for – individuals experiencing homelessness or vulnerable housing.

[Read more](#)

Kensington Hospice takes steps to help Toronto's homeless

This Global news story by Liam Casey details the work that Kensington Hospice is doing to support hospice patients who are precariously housed. Executive Director, Dr. Nadine Persaud, and medical director, Dr. Naheed Dosani, provide insights into the hospice's approach and bring attention to the medical challenges faced by people who experience homelessness.

[Read more](#)

Sarah Alonzi receives Canadian Virtual Hospice Award at CAPO 2023

Sarah Alonzi was presented with the CVH Award in Support of Palliative Care for her work, *Mortality-Focused Language of Palliative Care Descriptions, and Clinician Willingness to Recommend the Service at the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology's 2023 Conference "Co-designing Psychosocial Oncology: Optimizing Outcomes for All"*. The award, given annually, recognizes progress in research, education, and clinical practice in the area of palliative care and grief, and the dissemination of information related to psychosocial care.

Dr. Robin McClure receives teaching award

The 2023 recipient of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Palliative Care Program-funded Teaching Award is Dr. Robin McClure. This award is given to individuals who demonstrate in-depth knowledge in the field of palliative care and display an outstanding commitment to the Section of Palliative Care Medicine of the University of Manitoba.

Last call for Dignity in Care – Online Training 2023

Designed to enhance the human side of healthcare and facilitated by Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov OC, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FRSC, and licensed psychologist, Dr. Lori Montross, this 3-day workshop focuses on the role and application of dignity in all aspects of clinical practice. The workshop includes a review of research, assessment tools, and clinical applications of dignity-conserving care and Dignity Therapy.

[Learn more](#)

Training modules to support working with caregivers available

Presented by the University of Alberta, six Advanced Caregiver-Centered Care Education modules are available online. Each module focuses on a different aspect of working with and empowering family caregivers and comes with a continuing competency certificate.

[Learn more](#)

New palliative care training available for physicians

The Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians released five new physician training courses to help physicians and residents prepare for the Royal College examination for the subspecialty in Palliative Medicine. This 1 credit-per-hour self-learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 35 Mainpro+ credits and is available in both English and French.

[Learn more](#)

Funding announced for hospice and palliative care in BC

On June 1st, the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association received a grant of \$140,000 from the BC Ministry of Health to support the ongoing delivery of high-quality palliative care by British Columbia hospice organizations. The funding enables BCHPCA to significantly broaden its reach and better support its members and community.

[Learn more](#)

Transformations in health care

This special issue of the International Journal of Whole Person Care published by McGill University contains editorials, commentaries, and case studies focusing on personal transformation in the field of healthcare.

[Learn more](#)

The 2022 McGill International Palliative Care Congress video library now available

A video archive of the plenaries and other presentations from the 2022 Palliative Care Congress is now available. This collection includes 52 plenaries, talks, and seminars.

[Learn more](#)

Leadership change at Young Caregivers Association

Executive Director Michelle Lewis has accepted a new position as Chief Executive Officer of the Alzheimer Society of Brant Haldimand Norfolk Hamilton Halton. Cayleigh Sexton has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director of the Young Caregivers Association. We greatly appreciated working with Michelle on caregiving matters and wish her all the best in her new position.

Registrations open for Camp Widow® Toronto 2023

Camp Widow®, created by Soaring Spirits International, provides both practical tools and relevant resources for widowed persons rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of the death of a spouse or partner. Built for those who are widowed, by those who are widowed, the Camp Widow event provides understanding, community, and hope. This Camp Widow event will be hosted by Soaring Spirits Canada from Friday, November 10 - Sunday, November 12, 2023 in downtown Toronto.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

KidsGrief Q&A September

September 19, 2023

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

[Register](#)

Webinar Recordings

KidsGrief Q&A June

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

- What if other disciplines say addressing grief is out of their scope?
- How do you engage with a child in a grief group when their parents made them attend?
- What go-to small group activities for grief camps can be adapted for children 8-18 years old?

[Watch recording](#)

Events

Connected in Care Conference

September 21 to 22, 2023

The Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network are hosting their first biennial educational conference at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites in Richmond Hill.

[Learn more](#)

Palliative Manitoba Conference

September 21 to 22, 2023

Palliative Manitoba's annual conference will be held in Canada Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg with the theme "It's Everybody's Business". Experience a unique

blend of keynotes, educational sessions, and networking opportunities grounded in palliative care. You can also drop by Canadian Virtual Hospice's booth to say hi!

[Learn more](#)

Northwestern Ontario Palliative Care Conference

October 3 to 5, 2023

Presented by Lakehead University, this conference's theme is "Navigating the Journey Together: Providing Care for Ourselves and Others". The event aims to support capacity development in Ontario to provide quality palliative care to those who have received a palliative diagnosis.

[Learn more](#)

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference

October 12 to 14, 2023

The upcoming in-person conference features plenaries, challenge panels, workshops, oral presentations, and posters. Join hospice palliative care professionals, health care workers, academics, advocates, volunteers, and students from every corner of Canada to learn, share, and connect!

[Learn more](#)

Annual Palliative Education and Research Day

October 23, 2023

This year's theme for Covenant Health's annual conference is "Personalized Palliative Care: Caring for People and Communities". This event will be held virtually with presentations from host of the [Waiting Room Revolution](#), Dr. Hsien Seow, PhD, and more.

[Learn more](#)

SAVE THE DATE: BC Hospice Education Day

November 3 to 4, 2023

This event, hosted by Vancouver Island Hospice Federation in partnership with

the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association and the Fraser Federation of Hospices, will focus on promoting wellness for staff, volunteers and patients alike through strategic support and collaboration.

Canadian Children's Grief Symposium

November 14 to 15, 2023

This year's theme is "The Many Faces of Children's Grief" with University of B.C. law professor, Benjamin Perrin, and children's grief specialist, Andrea Warnick, delivering the keynote presentation.

[Learn more](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

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