

## BACKGROUNDER

### *Synthesis of Recommendations from National Reports on Hospice Palliative Care*

#### **About “The Way Forward” Initiative:**

In 2012, the federal government announced one-time funding of \$3 million over three years to support the development and implementation of a framework for community-integrated hospice palliative care models in Canada. “The Way Forward: An Integrated Palliative Approach to Care” ([The Way Forward](#) initiative), led by the Quality End-of-life Care Coalition of Canada and managed by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, aims to improve access to hospice palliative care in a broader range of settings.

A number of discussion documents have been developed to seed stakeholder dialogue, and help inform the development of the framework. This Backgrounder on the discussion document *Synthesis of Recommendations from National Reports on Hospice Palliative Care* summarizes the 85 recommendations stemming from nine government-led public consultations over the last two decades.

#### **The Context for Action:**

The consultations and ensuing reports contain recommendations on hospice palliative care that can be grouped into five broad themes: access to care; supports for family caregivers; quality of care; advance care planning and public awareness; and federal responsibility. As illustrated in the discussion document, many of those recommendations may help inform the work of The Way Forward initiative. Highlights are below.

#### **Areas of Opportunity:**

##### *Access to care*

- Establish common data definitions, technologies and policies within health-care regions, and standards of care nationally, to facilitate smoother transitions between care settings and jurisdictions.
- Cover hospice palliative care services under all jurisdictional health insurance plans.
- Develop rural hospice palliative care delivery utilizing home care services and long-term care homes.

##### *Supports for family caregivers*

- Amend the Compassionate Care Benefit to improve access and eligibility, and amend the Canada Pension Plan to allow for a drop-out provision or a credit for family caregivers.
- Create a national strategy to reduce the burden faced by family and informal caregivers through respite care, system navigation, information and education, home care supports and bereavement care.

##### *Quality of care*

- Support additional research in areas such as socio-economic impacts and models of hospice palliative care.
- Develop multi-disciplinary education and training to support community-integrated hospice palliative care.
- Build health human resource (HHR) capacity through activities such as creating an HHR workforce plan, disseminating best practices, and cross-cultural training and materials.
- Develop and report on indicators for quality end-of-life care.

##### *Advance care planning and public awareness*

- Continue raising awareness of end-of-life care issues and services, and expand the advance care planning discussion to include the role of hospice palliative care throughout the course of a life-limiting illness.
- Support ongoing research, development and measurement of advance care planning tools and resources.

##### *Federal responsibility*

- Encourage appropriate programs and funding for populations that receive direct health-care service delivery from the federal government, particularly First Nations on reserve and the Inuit.

To access the full discussion document visit: <http://www.hpcintegration.ca>