



About the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada

The QELCCC, a national network of 34 national professional and health organizations, believes that all Canadians have the right to quality end-of-life care that allows them to die with dignity, free of pain, surrounded by their loved ones, and in the setting of their choice. The mandate of the QELCCC is to advocate for quality end-of-life care for all Canadians.

Recommendation one: make the Compassionate Care Benefit more flexible

With the continuing increase of the seniors population and caregivers receiving the Compassionate Care Benefit, we recommend that the Compassionate Care Benefit should include a two-week period for bereavement. The Compassionate Care Benefit is one of five special benefits of the Employment Insurance system and is currently received by a person when their loved one requires support and care in the final weeks of life. The maximum amount of time currently allotted to the benefit is 26 weeks.

Our recommendation will not cost any additional funds; just amend the benefit to be more flexible to the practical experiences of grief and bereavement. Palliative care does not necessarily end when someone has died. Family members, potential recipients of the compassionate care benefit, may need support as they grieve the loss of a loved one and try to manage numerous strains and stresses. Bereavement programs are often part of the comprehensive care offered as part of palliative care.

By extending the Compassionate Care Benefit, more Canadians will have access to the time necessary time to heal, minimize economic hardships and help them take care of some of the more practical business following a loved one's death.

Recommendation two: create a Canadian Palliative Care Implementation Collaborative

The QELCCC believes that in order to fully implement the report "the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada" tabled by Health Canada, a Canadian Palliative Care Implementation Collaborative will be needed to help advance the state of palliative care for all Canadians. The QELCCC recommends a financial commitment to support the implementation of the Framework through a Canadian Palliative Care Implementation Collaborative. This entails a federal government investment of \$15,000,000 in an annual investment over 5 years with a potential for renewal at the end of the 5-year cycle.

A Canadian Palliative Care Implementation Collaborative will enable a fully engaged strategy with a patient-centric approach to palliative care. This will be achieved through active communication and collaboration among stakeholders and governments; establishing standards for palliative care services across the country; and working with caregivers' organizations and patient groups to identify supports for patients and family caregivers, including those that are QELCCC members.

Many Canadian jurisdictions name community palliative care as a priority, however, few Canadians receive palliative care at home in their last year of life. Please consider the QELCCC's recommendations as part of the 2019 election platform.