



Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

Association canadienne de soins palliatifs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2011

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PALLIATIVE AND COMPASSIONATE CARE TO LAUNCH THE REPORT *NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN: CARE OF VULNERABLE CANADIANS* ON PARLIAMENT HILL TODAY

Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) applauds recommendations as a strong first step

(Ottawa, ON – November 17, 2011) QELCCC applauds the recommendations on palliative end-of-life care put forth today by the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care (PCPCC) in its report *Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians*.

This ground-breaking report reflects testimony from hundreds of Canadians at 24 hearings and local round table meetings held across the country. It offers several recommendations for improving palliative end-of-life care, suicide prevention, and elder abuse.

The recommendations on palliative end-of-life care include:

- Federal government re-establish a Palliative Care Secretariat with adequate funding to conduct and support research, and facilitate communication and collaboration between the various levels of government, and community stakeholders.
- Development of a flexible integrated model of palliative health care delivery that takes into account Canada's geographic, regional and cultural diversity, along with a funding mechanism for implementation by provinces and territories
- Federal government, through either Health Canada or the recommended Palliative Care Secretariat, fund a national public awareness campaign on palliative and end-of-life care.
- Federal government expand the provisions of the E.I. based compassionate care benefit to a minimum of 26 weeks coverage.

“We are very pleased with the recommendations put forth by the committee,” stated Sharon Baxter, Executive Director of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and Secretariat of the QELCCC, “We need to be able to provide the best possible end-of-life care to Canadians dying from all types of illnesses across all settings of care.”

Canada's population is aging and, combined with increasing rates of chronic disease, the demands for hospice palliative care will continue to grow. Seniors are the fastest-growing age group or population. Currently, an estimated 4.9 million Canadians are 65 years of age or older (14%). By 2036, it is estimated that 25% of Canadians will be 65+. Less than one third of dying Canadians currently have access to or receive hospice palliative and end-of-life care services – depending on where they live in Canada. Even fewer receive grief and bereavement services.

The recommendations put forth in this report also reflect those in the QELCCC's study: *Blueprint for Action: 2010-2020*. They include:

- Ensure that all Canadians have access to high quality hospice palliative end-of-life care
- Provide more support for family caregivers
- Improve the quality and consistency of hospice palliative end-of-life care in Canada
- Encourage Canadians to discuss and plan for end of life.

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

The mandate of the QELCCC is to act as an advocate for quality end-of-life care for all Canadians. The QELCCC is a network of 34 national organizations. Member organizations represent all Canadians including: professional and family caregivers; volunteers; health-care professionals; disease groups; those with terminal illnesses, their families and others with an interest in quality end-of-life care.

The Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care is an all-party group of MPs whose goal is to improve care for elderly, dying, and vulnerable Canadians.

The following organizations have endorsed this release:

ALS Society of Canada
Alzheimer Society of Canada
Canadian AIDS Society
Canadian Association of the Deaf
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Association for Spiritual Care formerly Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE)
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Breast Cancer Network
Canadian Cancer Action Network
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Healthcare Association
Canadian Home Care Association
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
Canadian Lung Association
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Pharmacists Association
Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists
Long Term Care Planning Network
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada
The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
Huntington Society of Canada
National Initiative for Care of the Elderly
Ovarian Cancer Canada
The Pallium Foundation
VON Canada