

January 7, 2014

Advancing Hospice Palliative Care in 2014

Dear Member:

As BCHPCA enters the New Year, we would like to take a few moments to communicate with you on our progress in advancing quality hospice palliative care services in British Columbia over the past year and also to announce our plans for the coming year.

A Renewed Focus on Advocacy

BCHPCA began this past year with a meeting with the Ministry of Health to advocate for support for hospice palliative care services in the province. The Government later released its “Provincial End-of-Life Care Action Plan for British Columbia” which confirms support for quality hospice palliative care in the spectrum of care services.

During the Provincial Election, BCHPCA continued its advocacy, asking each candidate if they knew what hospice palliative care services were available in their local communities, if they knew about the costs and stresses of care likely to be faced by loved ones, and if they knew how to prepare their own advance care plans.

BCHPCA requested each candidate read the Action Plan, endorse BCHPCA and its Members as Partners in Care, including planning and education, and support equitable access and individual choice in hospice palliative care services for British Columbians in every region of the province.

A Priority on Political Advocacy

The new Government of BC committed to the expansion of hospice palliative care in British Columbia and following the election, BCHPCA was invited to meet with the new Minister of Health to discuss the Action Plan and how BCHPCA and its Members can be involved as partners in future planning and implementation.

BCHPCA offered an individual education session for the Minister and his loved ones on hospice palliative care services and support for preparing their own advance care plans. BCHPCA is pleased to report that the Minister has accepted this offer.

BCHPCA Strategic Plan

Societal Vision

Dying and grieving are part of life. Every British Columbian will have a personal advance care plan and access to responsive, quality care when dying or grieving.

Mission

BCHPCA leads in

- promoting responsive, quality hospice palliative care in British Columbia
- educating British Columbians on personal advance care planning
- advocating for equitable access to responsive, quality care

Organizational Vision

Every British Columbian adult will have a personal advance care plan in a secure provincial registry accessible to their care providers.

Strategic Goals

BCHPCA will

- engage and educate British Columbians, including public leaders, about responsive, quality care and advance care planning
- develop resources with its partners for British Columbians to discuss, document, and register their advance care plans
- increase and diversify sustainable revenue and other resources, and recruit effective people to implement its strategic plan

BCHPCA proposes to offer similar sessions, in partnership with our Program Members, to all MLAs and their loved ones in electoral areas throughout BC.

A New Strategic Plan

This past summer, BCHPCA developed a new Strategic Plan that will direct the activities of the organization over the next five years – 2014-18. The Plan is intended to promote quality hospice palliative care in British Columbia through education, planning and advocacy.

BCHPCA's vision is that all British Columbians will have personal advance care plans in a secure provincial registry accessible to their care providers and they will have equitable access to responsive, quality care when they need it.

BCHPCA incorporates its advocacy strategy in the Plan: to engage and educate British Columbians, including public leaders, about responsive quality care and advance care planning. It is our intent that through this education, they will become advocates for the care services they and their loved ones need in future.

A Strategic Forum

To build BCHPCA's education, planning and advocacy capacities, as well as those of our Members, we are introducing a new Strategic Forum in alternating years with our Conference. The first Forum will be held on May 9-10, 2014 and we are inviting you to attend. It will focus on advocacy through education on advance care planning.

BCHPCA recognizes many of its Members currently offer education in their communities on death and dying and advance care planning – education that could inform future advocacy strategies. BCHPCA is requesting you complete the attached education survey by January 24, 2014 and we will follow up with respondents who have identified current initiatives.

This promises to be an exciting year for BCHPCA and for the advancement of hospice palliative care in British Columbia. Building from our Strategic Plan and its focus on public education and care planning, it is our expectation that there will be increased advocacy for quality hospice palliative care services and growing support for responsive and equitable care for British Columbians in the coming years.

MYL Gerard
M.Y. Lorraine Gerard
Executive Director

Margaret Milner
Margaret (Meg) Milner
President

Values

BCHPCA

- respects its relationships and partnerships
- is compassionate and caring
- is progressive and focused
- is trustworthy

advocacy
from Latin *advocare*
to call to one's aid