



National Hospice Palliative Care Week 2018

Towards a more compassionate Canada, Eh!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(May 9, 2018, Fredericton, NB) – This year, National Hospice Palliative Care Week runs from May 6-12. The theme for 2018, “Towards a more compassionate Canada, Eh?” encourages Canadians to consider ways community involvement can support the dying and bereavement process.

For National Hospice Palliative Care Week 2018, Hospice Fredericton and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association is calling on Canadians to answer these questions:

- What makes a compassionate community?
- How can compassionate communities support end of life care?

“When we think about death and dying we often imagine a hospital setting, and that can be a very frightening image for people,” says CHPCA Executive Director Sharon Baxter. “When individuals are actively engaged in their communities they surround themselves with a network of caring allies who can support their end of life wishes and contribute to living well. Within a compassionate communities model, living and dying well becomes everybody’s business.”

For this year’s campaign, the CHPCA has created four downloadable posters that visually represent the different ways compassionate communities can support living well, as well as a backgrounder and resource list. In addition, Canadians throughout the healthcare sector as well as individuals are encouraged to use the hashtag **#MyCompassionateCanada** to share their experiences with compassionate care, ideas for living well, and their thoughts on how we can come together to support each other now and at the end of life.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week is coordinated by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. Funding for National Hospice Palliative Care Week is provided by GlaxoSmithKline, Purdue, CBI Health Care and Innovative Medicines Canada. For more information and downloadable resources for National Hospice Palliative Care Week, please visit www.chpca.net/week.

- 30 -

Hospice Fredericton - is a federally registered not for profit organization which provides support services to individuals and families coping with advanced illness, death and bereavement. Just over 2 years ago we expanded our services to open Hospice House – which is home to a 10 bed residential hospice and the JT Clark Adult Day Centre.

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association – the national voice for hospice palliative care in Canada – is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in care for persons approaching death so that the burdens of suffering, loneliness and grief are lessened. The CHPCA operates in close partnership with other national organizations and continues to work to ensure that all Canadians, regardless of where they may live, have equal access to quality hospice palliative care services for themselves and their families.