

Key Messages to Share with Others about Palliative Care Matters

Palliative Care Matters is...

- The conference, held Nov. 7 – 9 in Ottawa, was a turning point in Canada's consciousness and the decisions that need to be made about supporting Canadians suffering from life-limiting illnesses.
- While palliative care has been studied extensively in Canada over the past two decades, this conference was significant in four ways, it:
 1. Engaged the public and focussed on the voice of patients and their families,
 2. Presented extensive research from diverse areas of study,
 3. Included multiple stakeholders – patients, professionals and academics - who came to a common frame of reference, and
 4. Involved a lay panel of Canadian citizens that, like a jury, sifted and sorted the scientific evidence through the lens of their experience and came to a set of recommendations – the Consensus Statement.
- Palliative Care Matters engaged the public through a pre-conference Ipsos survey of 1,540 Canadians, through people who viewed the conference over the web at more than 200 sites, and through the lay panel.

The Consensus Development Conference achieved...

- Twenty actionable recommendations were made by the lay panel in the Consensus Statement, including recommendations to embed palliative care in the national health act, sufficiently and sustainably fund palliative care and make it available to all, integrate palliative care programs together and weave it throughout the Canadian health care systems.

The next step is....

- The third phase is an assessment and plan for implementation prepared by the Conference Board of Canada expected in the spring. This plan combined with continuing support by stakeholders is expected to ensure that resources and changes are brought to bear by the federal government, provincial governments and stakeholder organizations that will achieve an integrated palliative system of care. This plan is intended to meet the needs of our aging population who are living with increasingly complex conditions, and allows them to die a comfortable and dignified death.

What you can do to support the recommendations...

1. Learn more about the Consensus Statement at www.palliativecarematters.ca and talk about the recommendations with your colleagues, patients, family, volunteers, and professionals.
2. Urge your organization to lobby the government and/or support the recommendations of the Consensus Statement and the Conference Board of Canada report in spring.
3. Consider how your organization might implement the recommendations, from allocated funding to education and training to better integration of palliative care programs.