



Palliative care

Provincial election 2016

Submitted palliative care experiences

I am fortunate to be a three time cancer survivor but have lost friends to the disease - having palliative care for end of life is critical to both patient and their loved ones!

Mavis McConnell

Despite continued, repeated, and constant efforts, we cannot get our Health Region to dedicate a second palliative care room in our hospital. We, as a Foundation, have committed and agreed to fund the room and renovations. Our MLA, Bill Boyd, our Region, Heartland have simply ignored the need and fact it is required here. We are 2 hours from Saskatoon, we cover a large area, and some of our residents have been told, go to Saskatoon, etc. far away from family and friends. This is a travesty. Welcome to Heartland, and no care health. It must be addressed.

RJ MacDougal

My brother-in-law recently passed away from cancer at the age of 66. He was fortunate that his last week of life was spent in a beautiful setting, a small hospice in Calgary. The facility, though aging a bit, offered many spaces for family to gather, a chapel for contemplation, staff that knew the dying process and necessary drugs well, and could offer calm palliative care. It was not all perfect, but with good palliative care for all those dying of a terminal illness, there will be less need for physician or self assisted suicide. Doesn't this sound better than a bed in the rehab wing of a nursing home or a hospital bed where family physicians are afraid to prescribe the drugs in the amounts needed for calm, pain free and lucid palliative care. Can you make this a priority?

Terry Jago

My mother died a traumatic cancer death on a hospital ER gurney under glaring lights instead of in a calming, dimly-lit cancer ward bed at RUH in Saskatoon. If Saskatchewan had a proper palliative care program she could have passed with dignity and with less stress on the rest of her family. How many of you political candidates will actually read this personal note? I will consider voting for only those who respond.

Carol Wittman

My grandmother had a stroke this summer and was in need of palliative care. We were told this service was unavailable to her and so our entire family took 2 weeks off of work to help her around the clock until she passed. I felt very let down by our health system. Luckily she had family to help but if we had not been around, I don't know what would have happened.

Alicia Finch

It has been said that time heals and I totally agree with that sentiment. What doesn't heal is the nagging feeling I have that my mom and dad could have passed away in more suitable surroundings with a greater network of supports which would have addressed both their and their children's (and grandchildren's) needs which included support around preparation for death, grief following death as well as spiritual and psychological support.

Del Wagner

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Canadian Cancer Society, Toll-free: 1-888-939-3333
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RJ MacDougal

My family lost our Mother July 4, 2015. We were fortunate in that we were able to keep our Mother in her own home for the last 11 days of her life. All her children and grandchildren were able to spend time with her and our Father in her last days. We include a surgeon, a dietician and veterinarians. We were able to access guidance in her care through the Saskatoon Health Region. Most other people do not easily access this support. We knew a palliative care physician and one of our sisters works within the Health Region as a dietician and were able to access assistance much more quickly than others without these connections. We also had in our family knowledge and the ability to care for her. Please consider the care of our seniors and those in need of palliative care at the end of their lives. It is truly lacking in our society. I am personally involved with the Rose Garden Hospice Association Inc. We are working towards a free standing hospice in Prince Albert.

Arlene Just

I am the chair of Rose Garden Hospice Association. We have been trying for 8 years to build a stand alone hospice in Prince Albert to service Prince Albert and surrounding including the north, residents. My experience is very personal as my mother died 8 years ago from colon cancer at the age of 49, within a year and a half of being diagnosed. At the time of her diagnosis I just had my first child and her first grandchild. The cancer moved and spread very quickly despite our efforts. Due to medical and pain issues she spent many days and her last days in the hospital. The setting was not ideal as a peaceful place to die. We are a very close family and wanted to be with her at all times, the hospital setting made this impossible to accommodate especially since I had a younger child. This needs to change! We need to provide our dying with dignity and compassion in the last days. A hospital that is comprised of mainly acute care giving and very little palliative care can not provide this setting.

Marina Mitchell

I am a board member of Kindersley and District Health and Wellness Foundation.

I can agree that "where warranted and possible" palliative care doctors may be possible. However, in "rural centre" locations such as Kindersley, family doctors, in most cases not "specialists" in palliative care, do their best. Our issue is, that despite continued, repeated, and constant efforts, we can not get our Health Region to dedicate a second palliative care room in our hospital.

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I can appreciate in a province widely dispersed, and limited population, central and regional care facilities are the only possible model. We have too much land, not enough population.

BUT, we must have available rooms, and ability to pass in peace and proximity to loved ones. Family docs do what they can where "specialists" are not accessible. It's a fact.

So, how's about making access to rooms in regional centres a focus. This is the real crisis, and one "our" health region does not appear, historically, to have any desire to provide.

We can not have everything everywhere, but, we had better have something somewhere. ?These folks who built this province and nation deserve this at the least.

Good idea, but please expand, and be aware. We are part of Saskatchewan too.

RJ MacDougal

I am a young person, and honestly, I have not experienced the death of my parents or 3 grandparents...yet. But when I do, I hope that they can have the best care possible. In my mind, this is hospice palliative care. This care is not only for the aged, but anyone who is experiencing the end of their life. Whether you are 9 or 99, it is important for both the patient and families to have the holistic support that hospice palliative care provides. It is my dream that all in Saskatchewan will have access to this innovative service.

Amy Gieni

On March 5/2016 at the forum in Craik, all 5 political parties said that they agreed in provincially funded palliative care for all Saskatchewan residents regardless of where they live. If elected, how would you insure that this would happen?

Glynnis Eberts

Patients and families need to receive quality palliative care earlier in their disease process, so that they can have access to pain and symptom management. Palliative care is about quality of life in the time that you have remaining! We would not need to have Physician Assisted Death if we had better palliative care. Rural Saskatchewan does not have adequate access to pain clinics or physicians trained in pain management! This needs to be improved.

Charlene Malayney

I am president of Heartland Hospice Moose Jaw. I ask that hospice and palliative care become a pre election discussion and a post election discussion as well. In my position as president of this organization, I'm inspired by the attitude of people who are simply asking that a discussion happen in this province and that there be an openness of mind among politicians to exploring the research and data that supports the need for hospice and enhanced palliative care services in the province of Saskatchewan. I invite you to check out our website at:

<http://www.heartlandhospice.ca>

Please view the video where a palliative care patient who we interviewed (now deceased) makes the case for hospice.

DeLmer Wagner

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I have worked in homecare in MJ and Regina for over 20 years, I am a CNA . Homecare can only work close to 24 hours a day, it is more like 12 hours at night and a few hours in the day, for the last 2 weeks of a persons life. Up till that time it is maybe a couple of hours a day, or a few hours respite a week for the family. This is not enough care for all involved

Carole Boudreau

My mom is in the final stages of her battle with Lung Cancer and was recently hospitalized for Pneumonia. Palliative Care was too full for her to get the care and attention she deserves. My mom has worked hard her whole life to get here-sad but she was forced to retire when she got Cancer. Palliative care is an amazing program but is greatly understaffed and very limited in regards to how many patients get in the unit. We have an aging population who deserve to pass with dignity and to compassion from caregivers as this is their last days.

Brandie Yeo

We have experienced this with our parents.

Dying in an acute care bed when there was no Palliative bed available.

This is tough not only on the patient but the family.

I really would like to make a Hospice Facility available for patients and families.

With the onset of the "baby boomers" it would seem prudent to make this a priority.

Stella Richards

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