



Compassionate Communities Provincial Strategy - Ontario

Hospice palliative care is aimed at relieving suffering and improving the quality of life for persons who are living with, or dying from, advanced illness or are bereaved. The goal is to provide comfort and dignity for the person living with the illness and his or her family as well as the best quality of life. The wholistic domains of issues often associated with illness and bereavement include: disease management, physical, psychological, social, spiritual, practical, end-of-life care and death management, as well as loss and grief. Therefore, hospice palliative care is not just about dying, it is about living well to the natural end of life.

In light of Canada's rapidly aging population, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario is supporting a new provincial strategy called "Compassionate Communities" to catalyze whole person care throughout the province of Ontario, to benefit patients, family caregivers, and the formal health care system. Consistent with Ontario's Patients First agenda, this enhances access to care and strengthens Ontario's ability to connect, inform, and protect seniors as well as people with chronic and advanced disease and their caregivers.

Using a Healthy Communities framework, the compassionate communities movement intends to ensure seniors and people with life-altering conditions and their caregivers live well from diagnosis to death. Our intersectoral approach is designed to strengthen community action, develop personal skills, create supportive environments, reorient health services and to enable, mediate and advocate for all people who could benefit from wholistic care and their caregivers to optimize their quality of life, deal with loss, and improve population health.

Essential core components of our Compassionate Community movement include:

1. A charter to bring together all levels of governments, business, community groups, grass-roots and service leaders in implementing the social change action that will make a difference at the individual, family (caregiver) and population level;
2. A program for life-long care that addresses all aspects of well being in a single coordinated plan, and lays out future wishes; and
3. A measurement tool to track individual and community progress in improving quality of life and equity—to exponentially improve the value of community care.

There is also a provincial tool-kit with resources to support each of these components.



Compassionate Communities Community of Practice – Ontario

Purpose:

The purpose for the **Compassionate Communities Community of Practice (CoP)** is to connect members across Ontario that are actively involved in a structured Compassionate Community project and offer an infrastructure to support these individuals in sharing knowledge and information. The CoP also offers a forum for building a network of Ontario communities committed to improving population health outcomes for aging and EOL and **CREATING A MOVEMENT ACROSS ONTARIO**.

Conceptual Model:

The conceptual model for our provincial level Compassionate Communities CoP is a combination of Population Health Promotion (PHAC, 2012); The Ottawa Charter (WHO, 1986); The Chronic Disease Management Model (Group Health Research Institute 2003), and Accountable Communities for Health (Cantor 2015).

Goals:

- To facilitate a **forum for dialogue** and exchange of information
- To **share outcomes** for comparable learning
- To **grow leadership** skills and capacity
- To provide opportunities to **support individuals** within the field
- To **foster collaboration** and innovation (i.e., technology; population-level risk screening)
- To **create synergy** and identify common projects
- To **enhance capacity**
- To **cultivate best practices**
- To develop as an active and engaged community of practice **advancing the goals**.

Structure:

- A **Leadership Advisory Team** supports and advises HPCO and the CC CoP on recommended Ontario approaches, tools, resources, promotion, awareness, etc.
- **Project Leads Membership** provides an opportunity for resource sharing, training, education and experience discussions.
- **General Membership** is open to any individuals interested in, considering or working in a structured organization participating in a Compassionate Community/City initiative in Ontario

Join Us to Create and Support the Movement:

If you are interested in becoming a member of the HPCO Compassionate Communities Community of Practice please register at: <https://www.research.net/r/CompassionateCommunitiesMembershipApplication>