



## **Mind the gap: Are Canadian long-term care homes ready to take on a palliative care mandate?**

Lead Author

**Paulette Hunter**, University of  
Saskatchewan

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### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The last several years have seen a global movement calling for a palliative approach to long-term care. Currently, such an approach remains uncommon despite obvious need.
- The aim of this paper is to explore the readiness of Canadian LTC homes for a palliative care mandate by exploring efficacy for palliative care, self-reported patient-centered behaviour relevant to palliative care, and quality of work life at LTC homes in four Canadian provinces.

### **HOW WAS THIS STUDY DONE**

- We relied on a cross-sectional design and gathered self-report data
  - A survey was conducted in four separate long-term care homes in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.
  - Each employee working regularly at the home was invited to participate either personally or by workplace mail.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Some strengths in readiness are a fairly robust quality in work experience, with those involved in patient care somewhat more likely to experience satisfaction at work.
- Our results also suggest that staff involved in patient care are feeling more efficacious in palliative care as they gain experience.
- Identified weaknesses included an apparent failure to make gains in the practice of patient-centered care with increased work experience, a relatively greater vulnerability to burnout symptoms among direct care staff, and a higher (though still infrequent) risk of experiencing trauma for staff involved most directly in patient care.
- We also documented the existence of some systematic differences in self-reported patient-centered behaviour and work satisfaction across the four participating homes.