A Stakeholder Analysis of the Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long Term Care (SPA-LTC) Model

BACKGROUND
• As the population ages, an increasing amount of individuals will die in long-term care (LTC) homes
• Despite this increasing statistic, current palliative approach models are not well suited for LTC settings and the frail, elderly population they aim to serve

RESEARCH TOPIC
• To analyze components of the current palliative model of care in LTC and refine them for use within a Canadian context

METHODOLOGY
• Using a sequential mixed methods design, this study completed a scoping review; this assisted in the development of the Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care (SPA-LTC) model
• A stakeholder analysis was completed with both quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (focus groups) components

KEY FINDINGS
• 46 articles related to palliative programs, training/capacity building, family support, advance care planning (ACP), and goals of care were included in the scoping review
• 21 LTC staff provided feedback about the model to guide revisions
• 35 key stakeholders endorsed the importance of all activities of the SPA-LTC model, but questioned its feasibility to introduce the palliative approach concept and begin ACP discussions with family members and residents in an LTC environment

CONCLUSION
• The SPA-LTC model was well-received and endorsed by a variety of LTC stakeholders, including staff, decision-makers, and researchers
• Future emphasis needs to be placed on the integration of ACP discussions in LTC