



**Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association**

**Association canadienne de soins palliatifs**

## **Advance Care Planning in Canada: A National Framework and Implementation**

The long term goal of *Advance Care Planning in Canada: A National Framework and Implementation* is to raise the awareness of Canadians about the importance of advance care planning and to equip them with the tools they need to effectively engage in the process. The secondary goal is to prepare professionals/health care providers with the tools they need so they can facilitate and engage in the process of advance care planning with their clients.

### **The Project**

*Advance Care Planning in Canada: A National Framework and Implementation* is a five-year project that will:

- Complete a needs assessment/environmental scan identifying the basic components of a National Framework.
- Develop a National Framework through a national consultative process – that remains flexible and facilitates collaboration across sectors.
- Implement the key recommendations in the framework relating to education of professionals/health care providers and public awareness/education. This will include:
  - Engaging professionals/health care providers in advance care planning.
  - The development and dissemination of tools for professional/health care provider education.
  - Educating/raising the awareness of consumers/the public.
  - Engaging consumers/the public in the process of advance care planning.

The project will result in collaboration across Canada to engage professionals and citizens in advance care planning. This is a project of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, but is being undertaken under the guidance of a Task Group which brings together a number of partners. (A list of members of the Task Group follows).

### **National Framework Consultation**

The *Framework* has been drafted and reviewed by over 50 people/organizations across Canada. These included hospice and palliative care organizations; provincial/territorial governments; along with national NGOs and professional associations. The recommended revisions are being made, and the *Framework* will be sent to a second round of consultation with provincial and territorial professional organizations and local/regional health authorities. Two national meetings involving many stakeholders – provincial/territorial governments; NGOs; professional associations; and researchers have been held to seek input into the *Framework*.

**ACP Tools**

An environmental scan of advance care planning across Canada and ACP tools has been conducted by the project. These reports are found on the CHPCA website – [www.chpca.net](http://www.chpca.net). (Click on ‘Projects’ and ‘Advance Care Planning’.) At a national meeting of provincial/territorial governments; professional groups; NGOs and experts in ACP it was recommended that a repository of existing tools be developed and a template of the essential elements of an ACP tool be made available for professionals.

**Funders:**

The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

*National Meeting 2010*: Palliative and End-of-Life Care Unit, Chronic & Continuing Care Division, Health Canada

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR): ACP Research Agenda Priority Setting

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**Advance Care Planning in Canada:  
A National Framework and Implementation  
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