



Media Release

COME HIKE WITH US!

5th ANNUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE

(April 30, 2007. Ottawa, ON) – On Sunday, May 6, 2007, thousands of Canadians – including a Calgary Stampeder – in more than 90 sites across Canada will take to the hills, parks, and hiking trails for the 5th Annual Hike for Hospice Palliative Care. All funds raised through this unique event stay in local communities to help fund local hospice palliative care programs and services. This year, the Hike for Hospice Palliative Care kicks off National Hospice Palliative Care Week, which takes place from May 7th to 13th.

“The need to support hospice palliative care has never been greater,” stated Larry Librach, Vice President, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. He continued, “This year, over 60% of the 259,000 Canadians facing the end of their life will require hospice palliative care, yet less than 25% of them have access to that care. With a predicted increase in deaths to more than 330,000 by 2020, access to hospice palliative care will become even more critical in coming years.”

“Thanks to the dedication of volunteers across Canada, the Hike is not only an excellent fund-raiser for local hospice palliative care organizations, it is also fun for participants,” stated Sharon Baxter, Executive Director, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, adding, “In Calgary, Hike participants will hike with Randy Chevrier, Calgary Stampeder defensive tackle, while other sites are hosting barbecues or teas in conjunction with the Hike. As always, of course, many people will participate in honor of a loved one.”

Kevin Webster, Bayshore Home Health Managing Director, stated, “Our organization is committed to helping communities build capacity to support families through the challenges presented when meeting a loved one’s desire to die at home – Hike for Hospice allows us to meet that commitment. Bayshore Home Health staff in local community offices from Charlottetown to Vancouver are in the final stages of planning for this year’s event.”

“The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is proud to have supported hospice palliative care in a number of ways for 10 years now,” said Geoff Mitchinson, Chair, The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. “The Hike for Hospice Palliative Care is a valuable initiative in raising awareness of hospice palliative care in Canada. We are pleased to be a founding sponsor for the Hike, and to continue to provide the support it needs to continue.”

Hike for Hospice Palliative Care is coordinated by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, the national association which provides leadership in hospice palliative and end-of-life care. Funding for the Hike is provided by its founding sponsor, The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and Bayshore Home Health.

A complete list of all participating Hike Sites and additional information is available on the CHPCA website at http://www.chpca.net/events/hike_for_hospice_palliative_care.htm.

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