



End-of-Life Care in Canada, 10 Years Later... More Action Needed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Ottawa, ON) January 28, 2010 – More than 259,000 Canadians die each year.¹ Of those, only a small proportion receive hospice palliative care. By 2026, with the aging population, the number of Canadians dying each year will increase by 40% to 330,000. By 2036, Canada will see more than 425,000 deaths a year.²

“A decade has passed since the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) developed the *Blueprint for Action*, a working document setting out areas for action for end-of-life care in Canada,” explains Sharon Baxter, Executive Director, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA).

The QELCCC members are pleased to announce the release of *10 Years Later: A Progress Report on the Blueprint for Action*, a report measuring changes to end-of-life care in Canada over the past 10 years. While some progress has been made a decade later, there is still much more to be done.

Sharon Baxter says, “How can we ensure that all Canadians have access to high quality end-of-life care? What strategy should the QELCCC pursue to make a difference in living and dying for Canadians? The QELCCC has looked back over the last 10 years of activity and measured the progress made against the goals set out in 2000, and set a path for the future with the release of this progress report.”

To continue to improve care at the end of life for all Canadians, the progress report outlines four priorities of the QELCCC over the next 10 years.

- *Ensure all Canadians have access to high quality hospice palliative end-of-life care.*
- *Provide more support for family caregivers.*
- *Improve the quality and consistency of hospice palliative end-of-life care in Canada. Canadians should expect to receive high quality care in all parts of the country.*
- *Encourage Canadians to discuss and plan for end of life. Hospice palliative end-of-life care will not be a priority in our health care system until it is a priority for Canadians.*

In addition to the above recommendations, the report summarizes for each priority area possible next steps, actions and strategies that the QELCCC will pursue for the next ten years to improve hospice palliative and end-of-life care for all Canadians.

The members of the QELCCC will be gathering in Ottawa on Thursday January 28th, 2010 for the official launch the progress report. The QELCCC believes that all

¹ Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories – 2000 – 2026, Statistics Canada, Catalogue #91-520, p. 110.

² Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories – 2000 – 2026, Statistics Canada, Catalogue #91-520, p. 124.

Canadians have the right to quality end-of-life care that allows them to die with dignity, free of pain, surrounded by their loved ones, in a setting of their choice.

For more information on the QELCCC, or to download a copy of the *10 Years Later: A Progress Report on the Blueprint for Action*, please visit: www.qelccc.ca.

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