

Canadian Grief Alliance



Grief services falling through cracks of COVID response

October 28, 2020 – WINNIPEG - As [Canada marks the tragic milestone of 10,000 deaths due to COVID-19](#), the demand for grief services is rising and many have little or no access to grief support.

The Canadian Grief Alliance (CGA), a group of leading grief specialists and more than 150 national and provincial organizations, is encouraging the Government to adopt a proposal to address national gaps in grief services that are leaving hurting Canadians unsupported in their grief.

The CGA applauds the increased investments for mental health services, however, grief services are outside the scope of these programs and are falling through the cracks of the Government's response to COVID-19.

The CGA is calling for:

- a fast-tracked consultation process that will guide a three-year federal investment to improve access to grief supports in communities;
- public education, and
- investment in research to better understanding and respond to pandemic-related grief.

The proposal is supported by leading health, palliative care and bereavement organizations including: the Canadian Medical Association; the Canadian Psychiatric Association; the Canadian Nurses Association; Canadian Association of Social Workers; Canadian Association of Spiritual Care, the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, and 150 other organizations.

In addition to the 90,000 Canadians grieving COVID deaths, another 1.2 million

at the bedside, experiencing isolation, and disrupted rituals like funerals. These Canadians are at increased risk of prolonged and complex grief that can lead to depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide.

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Quotes

"Despite doubling the number of bereavement counsellors and increasing our hours of operation, we still have a 5-6 week waiting list. Since the start of the pandemic, the average number of counselling sessions has doubled from 3 to six – that suggests people are struggling more with their grief."

-Marney Thompson, Director of Psychosocial Services, Victoria Hospice

"The scale of the suffering is difficult to fathom. Right now we have a patchwork of services for those who have lost people who are important to them, that is inadequate in normal times. The pandemic has put new obstacles in the way of those trying to access the supports they need at the same time as it has greatly increased the number of people who need them. Canada needs a coherent policy to address this pandemic of grief."

-Paul Adams, CGA Media Spokesperson

"The need is great and growing. Visitors to MyGrief.ca jumped by 68% in April 2020 over March and through the pandemic remain at double the visits we recorded last year. The greatest service gap is for Indigenous Peoples, Canadians living in rural and remote areas, children, immigrants and refugees, and those providing essential health services. As a country, we need to respond to this growing need."

-Shelly Cory, Executive Director, Canadian Virtual Hospice

For more info or to arrange an interview

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Canadian Virtual Hospice

About

The Canadian Grief Alliance includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and therapists, academics and organizations providing grief services.

Social Work Palliative Network in the US. It is convened by the Canadian Virtual Hospice (CVH), an internationally recognized charitable organization with a track record of developing award-winning online resources that serves 2.4 million users annually.

Organizations Supporting the Canadian Grief Alliance Proposal

National

Canadian Medical Association

Canadian Nurses Association

Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Association for Spiritual Care

The Enchanté Network

Young Adult Cancer Canada

Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Canadian Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Network

All Nations Hope Network

Dying With Dignity Canada

Canadian Association for Marriage & Family Therapy

End of Life Doula Association of Canada

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada

Canadian Alliance for Grieving Children and Youth

Canada Bereavement Registry

Canadian Integrative Network for Death Education and Alternatives

Schizophrenia Society of Canada

Melanoma Network of Canada

Canadian Health Advocates Inc.

Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

Provincial

Alberta

Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association

Covenant Health Palliative Institute

Caregivers Alberta

Hospice Calgary

Red Deer Hospice

Hospice Society of Camrose and District

Healthy Directions
Transitions Music Therapy
Oliver's Funeral Home

British Columbia

BC Hospice Palliative Care Association
BC Centre for Palliative Care
Family Caregivers of BC
Island Health
Vancouver Island Health Authority
BC Bereavement Helpline
Camp Kerry
Kilala Lelum (Urban Indigenous Health & Healing Cooperative)
Abbotsford Hospice Society
Vancouver Hospice Society
Delta Hospice Society
Hospice Society of the Columbia Valley
Prince Rupert and District Hospice Society
Victoria Hospice Society
Peace Arch Hospice Society
Burnaby Hospice Society
Crossroads Hospice Society
100 Mile District Hospice Palliative Care Society
Sea to Sky Hospice Society
Desert Valley Hospice Society
West End Seniors' Network
Moving Forward Family Services
Life and Death Matters
Honour End of Life Care
Pacific Well-Being

Manitoba

Palliative Manitoba
Rainbow Resource Centre
Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.
Cancer Care Navigation Services - Northern Regional Health Authority
Rock Lake Palliative Care
Peguis Home & Community Care
Robert Smith School

New Brunswick

NB COPES Child and Family Grief Center

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Palliative Care Association

Nova Scotia

NS Hospice Palliative Care Association

Doctors Nova Scotia

Caregivers Nova Scotia

Hospice Halifax

Colchester East Hants Hospice Society

Good Grief Halifax

Ontario

Hospice Palliative Care Ontario

Global Institute of Psychosocial and Palliative and End-of-life Care, University of Toronto

Ontario Association of Social Workers

RNAO Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group

Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health at Lakehead University
de Souza Institute

Hope House Community Hospice

Dundas County Hospice

Hospice Outreach Programs of Elgin

Hospice Muskoka

McNally House Hospice

Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care

Hazel Burns Hospice

Hospice Wellington

Dr Bob Kemp Hospice and Bereavement Services

Heart House Hospice

St. Joseph's Hospice Sarnia Lambton

St Joseph's Hospice London

Hospice Northwest

Roger Neilson House

Evergreen Hospice

Hospice Peterborough

Matthews House Hospice

Kensington Health
Near North Palliative Care Network
Bereavement Ontario Network
Bereaved Families of Ontario - South Central Region
Bereaved Families of Ontario – Ottawa
Bereaved Families of Ontario – Kingston
Bereaved Families of Ontario - Midwestern Region
Healing Broken Hearts
Good Grief! Bereavement Healing Services
Gilda's Club of Greater Toronto
The Hummingbird Centre for Hope
Grief Recovery Ontario
Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre
Children and Youth Grief Network
The Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children
Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto
Victorian Order of Nurses - Oxford
Unity Health Toronto
Selah Resources
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry

Prince Edward Island

Hospice PEI

Quebec

Association québécoise de soins palliatifs
McGill Council on Palliative Care
Maison Michel Sarrazin
Réseau Québécois de recherche en soins palliatifs et de fin de vie
Regroupement des Infirmiers-Infirmières Ressources en don d'organes et de tissus du Québec
Palli-aide accompagnement en soins palliatifs Saguenay inc.
Parents Orphelins, l'Association des parents qui vivent un deuil périnatal
Albatros Montréal
Groupe des Aidants du Sud-Ouest Myra's Kids Foundation
West Island Cancer Wellness Center
Hope & Cope
ORA Loss & Living Program, Ste. Genevieve United Church

ADATH Congregation
Connexions Resource Centre

Saskatchewan

Prairie Hospice Society
Morning Star Lodge, University of Saskatchewan
Augustana Lutheran Church
The Good Foundation Inc.

Territories

Hospice Yukon

plus 18 private enterprises.

Les services d'accompagnement du deuil sont absents de la réponse COVID

Winnipeg, le 28 octobre 2020. – Alors même que le [Canada franchit le cap tragique des 10 000 décès dus à la COVID-19](#), la demande de services d'accompagnement du deuil est en hausse et beaucoup de gens reçoivent peu ou pas de soutien dans leur deuil.

L'Alliance canadienne pour le deuil (ACD) regroupe d'éminents spécialistes du deuil et plus de 150 organisations nationales et provinciales. Elle rappelle que le manque de services d'accompagnement du deuil à l'échelle nationale prive de soutien les Canadiens endeuillés. Elle appelle le gouvernement à adopter une proposition pour remédier à la situation.

L'ACD applaudit certes la hausse des investissements dans les services de santé mentale, mais les services d'accompagnement du deuil ne font pas partie de l'offre de ces programmes et sont absents de la réponse du gouvernement à la COVID-19.

L'ACD demande :

- un processus de consultation accéléré pour encadrer un investissement fédéral de trois ans visant à améliorer l'accès aux services

- un investissement dans recherche pour mieux comprendre le deuil lié à la pandémie et y répondre.

La proposition est appuyée par les principales organisations des domaines de la santé, des soins palliatifs et du deuil, dont l'Association médicale canadienne, l'Association des psychiatres du Canada, l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada, l'Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux et l'Association canadienne des soins spirituels, la Société canadienne des médecins de soins palliatifs et 150 autres organisations.

Aux 90 000 Canadiens endeuillés par un décès des suites de la COVID-19 s'ajoutent 1,2 million de Canadiens endeuillés par un décès dû à une autre cause depuis le début de la pandémie. Les restrictions mises en place par la santé publique nuisent à leur travail de deuil en les empêchant d'aller dire adieu à leurs êtres chers, en les contraignant à l'isolement et en perturbant les rituels (funérailles, etc.).

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Citations

« Même après avoir doublé le nombre de nos thérapeutes du deuil et augmenté nos heures de service, nous avons toujours une liste d'attente de 5 à 6 semaines. Depuis le début de la pandémie, le nombre moyen de séances de counseling a doublé de trois à six, ce qui laisse sous-entendre que les gens ont plus de difficulté à cheminer dans leur deuil. »

- Marney Thompson, directrice des services de psychosociaux, Victoria Hospice

« L'ampleur de la souffrance est difficile à appréhender. L'offre actuelle de services pour les personnes qui ont perdu un être cher est disparate et inadéquate en temps normal. La pandémie est venue compliquer davantage la tâche de ceux qui essaient d'accéder aux services dont ils ont besoin tout en augmentant considérablement le nombre de personnes qui en ont besoin. Le Canada a besoin d'une politique cohérente pour faire face à cette pandémie de deuil. »

- Paul Adams

« Le besoin est grand et croissant. Le nombre de visiteurs sur le site MonDeuil.ca a bondi de 68 % en avril 2020 par rapport à mars et se maintient à

autochtones, les Canadiens vivant en milieu rural ou en région éloignée, les enfants, les immigrants, les réfugiés et les fournisseurs de services de santé essentiels. Notre pays se doit de répondre à ce besoin croissant. »

- **Shelly Cory, directrice générale, Portail palliatif canadien**

L'Alliance canadienne pour le deuil

L'Alliance canadienne pour le deuil réunit des psychiatres, des psychologues, des travailleurs sociaux, des thérapeutes, des universitaires et des organismes qui offrent des services d'accompagnement du deuil. Plus de 150 organisations nationales et provinciales appuient sa proposition de réponse au deuil lié à la pandémie. Cette proposition a été adoptée par le Social Work Palliative Network aux États-Unis. L'Alliance est chapeautée par le Portail palliatif canadien, un organisme de bienfaisance de renommée internationale qui a à son actif des ressources en ligne primées consultées par 2,4 millions d'utilisateurs annuellement.

Organismes qui appuient la proposition de l'Alliance canadienne pour le deuil

National

Association médicale canadienne

Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada

Société canadienne des médecins de soins palliatifs

Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux

Association canadienne de soins spirituels

Le réseau Enchanté

Young Adult Cancer Canada

Association canadienne d'oncologie psychosociale

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Réseau canadien autochtone du VIH/SIDA

All Nations Hope Network

Dying With Dignity Canada

Association canadienne de thérapie conjugale et familiale

End of Life Doula Association of Canada

Société de leucémie et lymphome du Canada

Canadian Alliance for Grieving Children and Youth

Registre canadien de deuil

Canadian Integrative Network for Death Education and Alternatives

Société canadienne de schizophrénie

Réseau mélanome Canada

Provincial

Alberta

Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association

Covenant Health Palliative Institute

Caregivers Alberta

Hospice Calgary

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Hospice Society of Camrose and District

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Healthy Directions

Transitions Music Therapy

Oliver's Funeral Home

Colombie-Britannique

BC Hospice Palliative Care Association

BC Centre for Palliative Care

Family Caregivers of BC

Island Health

Vancouver Island Health Authority

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Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.

Cancer Care Navigation Services - Northern Regional Health Authority

Rock Lake Palliative Care

Peguis Home & Community Care

Robert Smith School

Nouveau-Brunswick

NB COPES Child and Family Grief Center

Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Palliative Care Association

Nova Scotia

NS Hospice Palliative Care Association

Doctors Nova Scotia

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Hospice Halifax

Colchester East Hants Hospice Society

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Global Institute of Psychosocial and Palliative and End-of-life Care, University of Toronto

Association des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux de l'Ontario

RNAO Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group

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Selah Resources
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry

Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Hospice PEI

Québec

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Réseau québécois de recherche en soins palliatifs et de fin de vie
Regroupement des infirmiers-infirmières ressources en don d'organes et de tissus du Québec
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Parents Orphelins, l'Association des parents qui vivent un deuil périnatal
Albatros Montréal
Groupe des Aidants du Sud-Ouest
Myra's Kids Foundation
Centre de bien-être de l'Ouest-de-l'Île pour personnes atteintes de cancer
L'Espoir, c'est la vie
ORA Programme Perte et Vivre, Église Unie Sainte-Geneviève
Église unitarienne de Montréal
ADATH Congregation
Centre de ressources Connexions

Saskatchewan

Prairie Hospice Society
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Augustana Lutheran Church
The Good Foundation Inc.

Territoires

Hospice Yukon

et 18 entreprises privées.

Canadian Grief Alliance convened by:



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