

## **Communiqué #1**

Feb. 9, 2018

# ***The evolution of hospice palliative care in North Simcoe Muskoka***

The people of our region, community partners and providers, are interested in the direction forward for hospice palliative services. In response, we have prepared this joint communiqué as a first step in our commitment to provide updates on how this important care is evolving into the broader vision of comprehensive care that will create a seamless patient experience.

## **Background**

In June 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) provided direction to the 14 LHINs, in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), to establish the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN). It would be co-chaired by the LHIN and CCO and provide provincial oversight to the mandated regional governance structure, underpinned by the regional network and clinical leads and the regional steering committee.

At the time, the Ministry acknowledged that at the regional level, pockets of excellence in palliative care existed. The new provincial structure was to build on the great work happening at the local level.

NSM LHIN was unique in having a regional **Hospice Palliative Care Network (HPCN)** functioning at that time. HPCN was historically a regional leader for palliative and end-of-life education, training, and palliative care nurse consultants.

In the past year, aligned with the provincial vision for hospice palliative care as outlined in the province's Declaration (*Advancing High Quality High Value Palliative Care in Ontario: A Declaration of Partnership and Commitment to Action*), a **Regional Palliative Care Network (RPCN)** has been established. It is jointly led by the LHIN and CCO.

## **Looking Forward**

The NSM LHIN has been closely studying the best way forward to provide an integrated and more coordinated network of palliative services that are equitable and accessible to the people of all regions of North Simcoe Muskoka. We'd like to marry the historical service delivery presence of the HPCN – and how valuable it is and has been in building a regional palliative program – with the focused and streamlined provincial commitment planning that puts patients and caregivers at the centre.



The NSM LHIN conducted a **Situational Analysis of Hospice Palliative Care Services in North Simcoe Muskoka** (April 26, 2017). Through this analysis and community engagements, health service providers have identified the need for an integrated, coordinated network of palliative services which is more equitable and accessible to people of North Simcoe Muskoka.

Discussions are underway to move toward this greater integration, rather than dissolution, of palliative resources. However, these are very preliminary discussions, and no details have been finalized.

Once we have some details in place, we will share them with you and others who have an interest in building greater integration and capacity. Watch for the next communiqué.

**For more information**

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