



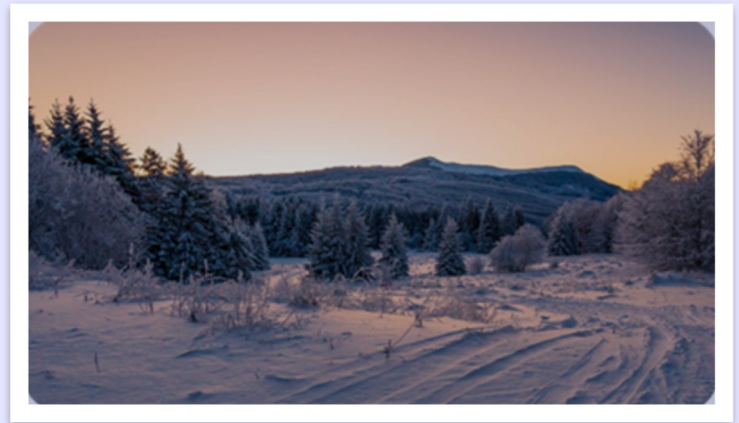
Provincial Palliative and End-of-Life Care Newsletter and Education Bulletin

January 2025

Provincial Palliative and End-of-Life Innovations Steering Committee

Happy New Year to all our partners who work together to ensure quality care for patient with life limiting illnesses, and for those close to them. Thank you to those of you who participate on the Provincial Palliative and End-of-Life Innovations Steering Committee (PPAL/EOL ISC), Working Groups and Communities of Practice. We hope you had a wonderful Holiday season filled with what matters most to you. 2024 was a busy year with many great accomplishments.

Here are some of the highlights:



<https://pixabay.com/photos/snow-fields-trees-conifers-4963715/>

- Provincial Palliative and End-of-Life-Care (PEOLC) Grand Rounds continue in collaboration with the Provincial PEOLC Operational Dyad group. Since 2022, eight Provincial Grand Round sessions have been held, with topics ranging from education on PEOLC assessment tools to conversations on PEOLC. Recordings of past presentations can be requested by e-mailing palliative.care@ahs.ca. See the education bulletin for more information on the next Grand Rounds presentation.
- The final launch of Connect Care is now complete. The provincial PEOLC team continues to support the prioritization and implementation of optimization tickets for PEOLC and ACP/GCD workflows in Connect Care.
- There have been some significant publications this year including:
 - An article by CHPCA featuring an update about the evolution of PEOLC in Alberta. [Building Capacity, Bridging Gaps – The Evolution of Palliative and End-of-life Care in Alberta - CHPCA](#)
 - The Alberta edition of the Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care was created by the University of Calgary's Division of Palliative Medicine, Alberta Health Services, the Covenant Health Palliative Institute, and the Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association, in collaboration with Pallium Canada and the Joshua Shadd Pallium Research Hub at McMaster University. [Alberta Palliative Care Atlas](#)
- Funded by Alberta Health, the Provincial PEOLC team and the Capacity management team are embarking on year 3 of leading the following two Continuing Care Transformation initiatives:
 - To increase the number of new Palliative Home Care clients by 500 by March 2026.
 - To increase hospice capacity by 25 beds by March 2026.





Team Transitions

We acknowledge Maril Murray's departure from our team, effective November 8, and extend our gratitude to Maril for her dedicated service. We are thrilled to announce that Melanie Doiron will be returning and has accepted the position of Manager at the Palliative Institute. We welcome her into the role on December 16, 2024.

The Palliative Institute invites you to consider engaging with the following opportunities:

Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Community of Practice

Join us on January 30th from 2-3pm via ECHO, designed for frontline practitioners in hospice caring for individuals at end of life. Stay tuned for the focus topic and register through our [website](#).

PalliLearn Facilitator Opportunity

The PalliLearn series for February-March 2025 is now open for registration. PalliLearn is a series of short public education courses to develop knowledge and confidence to offer meaningful support when someone is sick, dying, caregiving or grieving. We are currently seeking Alberta health professionals with palliative care experience who are interested in becoming facilitators. Details and registration are available on our [website](#).

Advance Care Planning Symposium

Mark your calendars for Monday, March 3, 2025 (4:00-5:30 PM), as we host an online symposium bridging healthcare and legal professionals. This event aims to:

- Facilitate understanding of advance care planning (ACP)
- Promote collaboration across sectors
- Align practices between healthcare and legal professionals

Building on recent joint practice principles and continuing legal education curriculum, the symposium seeks to spur meaningful practice change. To ensure proposed solutions are practical and impactful, we're actively engaging practitioners and organizations from both healthcare and legal sectors.

Members of the legal and health care sectors who have roles related to advance care planning are invited to attend. To join the Advance Care Planning Symposium, please contact: maureen.douglas@covenanthealth.ca

On-going educational opportunities can be found here: [ECHO Hub](#)



Provincial Palliative and End-of-Life Care Grand Rounds



An Introduction to Improving Palliative Care for People with Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IDD)

Presenter: Bob Parke

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

8:00-9:00 am via Teams

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 221 688 665 595

Passcode: TC2Kg9KR

Dial in by phone

[+1 403-910-7226,,440663657#](#) Canada, Calgary

[+1 587-412-5456,,440663657#](#) Canada, Edmonton

[+1 587-601-5449,,440663657#](#) Canada, Fort McMurray

[+1 587-801-5679,,440663657#](#) Canada, Medicine Hat

[+1 587-813-5835,,440663657#](#) Canada, Lethbridge

[+1 587-819-5646,,440663657#](#) Canada, Red Deer

[+1 587-743-0446,,440663657#](#) Canada, High Level

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 440 663 657#

Join on a video conferencing device Tenant key: 559793803@t.plcm.vc Video ID: 114 567 776 8

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

If you are joining this meeting by phone, please use the listed number or click "Find a Local Number" to locate a dial in number in your region



Provincial Education Online Opportunities! Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP)



Funded by:



Education Opportunity for Health Care Aides: Palliative Care

As an HCA, you may be eligible for no-cost education on palliative care. The Pallium Canada Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care course for HCAs is funded by Alberta Health and will support learning on palliative and end-of-life care.

About the Course

This Pallium Canada Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) HCA course features the following:

- interactive, self-learning online modules completed at your own pace (approximately 8 - 10 hours of work),
- short quizzes at the end of each module to assess knowledge, and
- learners receive a LEAP certificate of completion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify individuals who could benefit from a palliative care approach.
- Recognize the meaning of key terms related to Advance Care Planning.
- Identify pain types and causes of pain.
- Recognize the role that HCAs play in helping the care team select medication.
- Recognize the impact that delirium has on patients and families.
- Recognize the difference between individuals experiencing normal grief, and those at risk of more complicated grief.
- Identify the 'Dignity Conserving Care' approach to support individuals and maintain hopefulness.

For more information about the eligibility to participate in this opportunity, please contact your AHS Zone Coordinator as listed below and provide them with where you are located so they can assist you with registering for the LEAP HCA online course. ***Please note private companies / organizations and students are not eligible*.**

Zone	Email Contact
Calgary	palliative.education@ahs.ca
Central	CentralZoneLEAPRegistration@albertahealthservices.ca
Edmonton	EZPCP@albertahealthservices.ca
North	NorthZoneLEAPRegistration@albertahealthservices.ca
South	SZSHSupportReporting@ahs.ca

If you have any additional questions, please contact palliative.care@ahs.ca



Covenant Health Palliative Institute—Education

Psychosocial-Spiritual Alberta Community of Practice (COP)

In palliative and grief care, there is often a component of suffering that we cannot “fix” or “take away”. Instead, we are called to be a companion and be supportive, foster coping, processing, treatment, and sometimes healing. This COP seeks to develop the clinical and self-care skills of professionals providing psychosocial-spiritual care to palliative patients, families and the bereaved in Alberta.

These free monthly sessions are open to social workers, spiritual care providers, nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, creative arts therapists, occupational therapists, Indigenous liaisons, counsellors, psychologists, and other clinicians providing emotional and spiritual support.

For details visit [Psychosocial Spiritual Alberta Community of Practice](#)

To Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Upcoming Sessions:

Session 2: Culturally Safer Care, Juliet Foster, RN, Indigenous Nurse Navigator — December 19th, 12-1 PM

Session 3: Mindful Self-Compassion, Dr. Charlie Chen – Jan. 16, 2025

Session 4: How To Care, What To Say, Becky Van Tassel- Feb. 20, 2025

Session 5: Skill Building For Difficult Conversations, Kimberly Crosby – March 20, 2025

Session 6: Dementia & Grief, Becky Van Tassel– April 24, 2025

Session 7: Poetry in Therapy, Joanne Morcom – May 15, 2025

Session 8: Suffering and Spirituality in End-of-Life Care, Wenda Salomons & Craig Traynor- June, 2025

For information view [ECHO Hub](#) or contact PalliativeInstitute@covenanthealth.ca



Hospice Calgary

DYING TO KNOW Education Series

Winter 2025 Sessions

This online education series provides information on preparing for end-of-life, strategies for staying resilient through challenging times, and help for care partners to become more confident in their roles.

Feb 18, 2025 | 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Volunteer Voices: A Conversation about Volunteering in Palliative & End-of-Life Care

Facilitator: LeeAnne Alexander

Volunteer Voices: Jackie Baker (Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley), Susan Endersby (Foothills Country Hospice Society), Betty George (Wellspring AB), Marie Claire Williams (Our Companion Program)

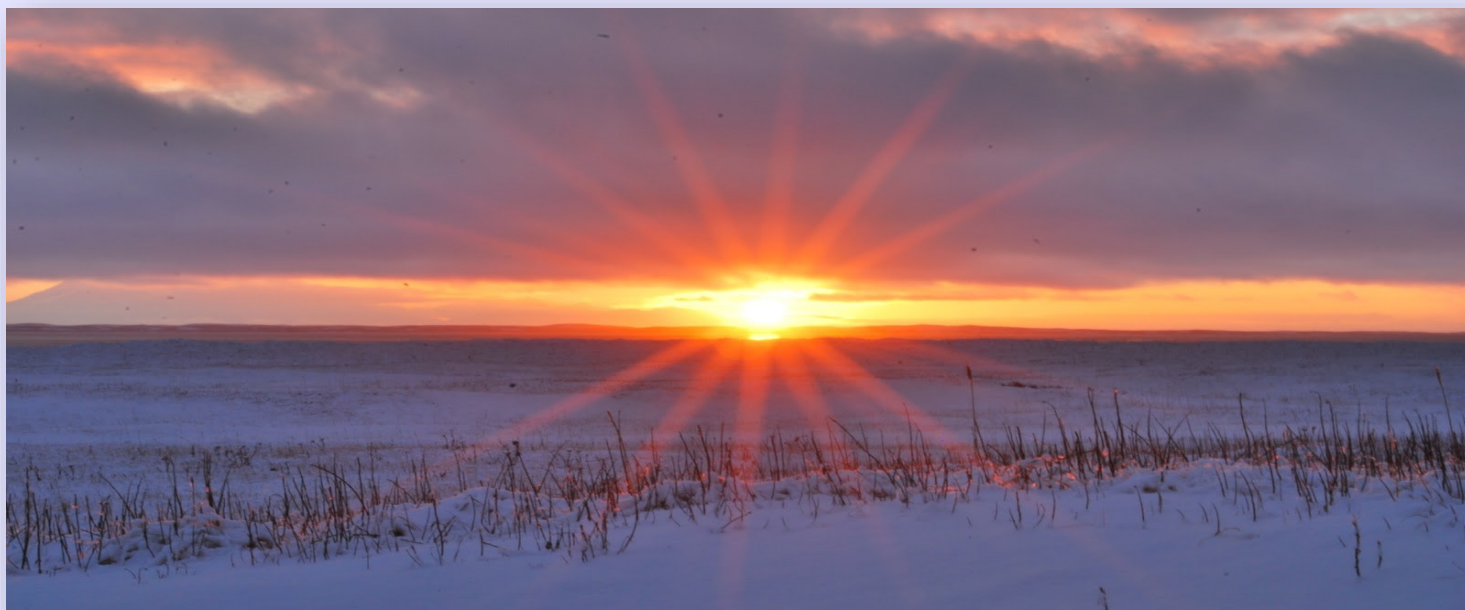
Volunteers are essential members of the advanced illness and palliative care teams. With full hearts, trained volunteers enhance the quality of life of individuals and their loved ones throughout the trajectory of an advanced illness through to end-of life and bereavement. During this presentation, you will meet a panel of volunteers who will share their experience.

March 18, 2025 | 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Sitting in Silence: Creating a Space for Grief

Presenter: Becky VanTassel

Knowing what to say or do when someone is experiencing grief can be challenging. In this interactive and practical session, participants will explore the practice of companioning grief. Participants will identify helpful ways to support individuals through grief and loss and will leave with practical suggestions on what they can say and do.



Advanced Care Planning Canada

Advance Care Planning Canada is excited to announce two new resources to support your advance care planning journey!

First, the My ACP Mini Guide is perfect for those who want to review or update their advance care plan quickly. It covers the essentials in a concise format, ideal for individuals who've already considered their care preferences and need a quick reference.

For professionals, facilitators, or educators, the ACP Guide Activity Bundle offers 6 dynamic, accessible activities. This flexible resource helps spark meaningful conversations and guides others through the planning process.

Visit advancecareplanning.ca to download the electronic version or order your hard copy. And for a limited time, we're offering the My ACP Guide or the My ACP Mini Guide for free, including mailing costs. (Maximum order 25 copies of each).

You can also send us an email at info@advancecareplanning.ca. Order yours today!



CHPCA CONFERENCE

CHPCA Conference 2025 : Save the Date!

Mark your calendars – Join CHPCA and hundreds of hospice palliative care professionals and volunteers in Nanaimo, BC for our biennial national conference on October 22 - 25, 2025.

[Stay tuned for more details!](#)



Advance Care Planning/Goals of Care Designation (ACP/GCD)

Connect Care work of enhancing just-in-time ACP/GCD clinical guidance in Best Practice Advisories, Patient Storyboard and GCD order was completed and went live on October 16th 2024. This work also included new tip sheets and guidance around Green Sleeve reconciliation.

Provincial ACP/GCD has submitted several Connect Care optimizations tickets requests informed by recent ACP/GCD Human Factors recommendations.

MyCare Conversations links has been added to the ACP/GCD Health Professionals website under “Tools to use with Patients & Families”.

Work continues to complete the remaining 6 tip-of-the-month one-pagers which focus on highlighting available resources for common ACP/GCD questions and issues that clinicians have.

Advance Care Planning Canada shared they have updated and re-branded their ACP resources and website to be more inclusive and accessible to those living with disabilities.

Provincial ACP/GCD was invited to present to the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council about Advance Care Planning in Dec 2024.

Provincial PEOLC Team Contacts

General questions or comments email: palliative.care@ahs.ca



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