



# Executive Summary

## Mission and mandate

The Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC) believes that everyone in Canada has the right to quality palliative care that allows them to die with dignity, free of pain, surrounded by their loved ones, in the setting of their choice. The PCCC believes that achieving quality palliative care for everyone in Canada requires a collaborative well-funded and sustainable national strategy for palliative care and works together in partnership to achieve this goal. The mandate of the PCCC is to act as an advocate for quality palliative care for everyone in Canada.

## PCCC members

The PCCC is a network of over 30 national organizations. Member organizations represent all Canadians, including professional and family caregivers; volunteers; health care professionals (nurses, pharmacists, social workers, spiritual advisors, etc.); those with terminal illnesses, their families, and others with an interest in quality palliative care.

## Background

In June 2000, a Senate of Canada report, entitled Quality End-of-Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian, made several strong recommendations for ensuring that Canadians have access to high quality end-of-life care. One of those recommendations is that the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, develops a Canadian strategy for end-of-life care.

In December 2000, a group of 24 national stakeholders met in Toronto to set the groundwork for the development of a strategy, resulting in the creation of the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada, previously known as the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC), and a working document, Blueprint for Action (2000).

## How the PCCC functions

Within the PCCC are three working groups, as well as an Executive Committee, composed of the chairs of each of the three working groups (Advocacy, Education, and Research and Knowledge Translation).

Pallium Canada serves as the secretariat for the PCCC, providing administrative support for working group tasks.

## PCCC accomplishments

Over the past 20 years, the over 30 national organizations that are members of the PCCC have worked together to improve palliative care for everyone in Canada.

In January 2010, the PCCC released the Blueprint for Action 2010 to 2020 which identified priority areas and recommendations for the last 10 years. Moving forward, the PCCC produced the Blueprint for Action 2020-2025 to continue to improve quality palliative care and access for everyone in Canada and provide a summary of progress made, current knowledge, and addresses ongoing issues and gaps in the field.

## What is palliative care?

Palliative care focuses on the quality of life of people who have a progressive, life-limiting illness. It includes pain and symptoms management, skilled psychosocial, emotional and spiritual support and comfortable living conditions with the appropriate level of care – in the setting of their choice. Palliative care can be provided in conjunction with other treatment plans and is offered in a range of settings by a variety of health care providers.

## The need for quality palliative care

More than 270,000 Canadians die each year. By 2030, it is projected that the rate of deaths in Canada will increase to more than 375,000 deaths per year – a 40% increase. With the population rapidly aging, there is a pressing need to prioritize and expand access to high-quality palliative care services across the country.

An adequately funded, sustainable Canadian strategy for palliative care would address the issues of services, resources, education, research, and support for patients and families, as well as the need for federal-provincial-territorial cooperation to ensure that Canadians have access to comprehensive, compassionate and high-quality palliative care.

