



Palliative Care
Coalition of Canada
Coalition canadienne
pour les soins palliatifs

Annual Report 2025



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Background and History of the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada

In December of 2000, a group of 23 national stakeholders met to set the groundwork for the development of a Canadian strategy for end-of-life care. The result of this meeting was the creation of the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC), and a working document entitled *Blueprint for Action* (2000).

Within the PCCC, an Executive Committee and three Working Groups were established to undertake the work of the coalition. This model will be changing in 2026, to have an elected Executive Committee and to have Project Teams instead of Working Groups.

The PCCC has been meeting on an annual basis since 2000. The goal of each annual meeting is to create a work plan for the coming year based on the current iteration of the *Blueprint for Action*. The membership of the PCCC remains strong and is currently made up of 37 member organizations.

Since its establishment in 2000, the PCCC has seen some remarkable successes. These successes include:

- a role in the establishment of the Secretariat on Palliative and End-of-Life Care in 2001.
- the production of *Hospice Palliative Home Care in Canada: A Progress Report and Dying for Care – Status Report*.
- participating in the development of the report *Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians*.
- production of the *Blueprint for Action: 2010-2020*, and its 2020-2025 update.
- participation in the development of the *Advanced Care Planning Framework* and the *Speak Up* campaign.
- spearheading *The Way Forward: An integrated palliative approach to care in Canada initiative*.
- strong support for Bill C-277 until its Royal Assent in December 2017.
- and assisting MP Charlie Angus with Motion M-456.

The PCCC members have also attended countless parliamentary events, round table discussions, educational conferences, and research symposia – all in the interest of advancing palliative and end-of-life care in Canada.

Every five years, the PCCC produces an updated *Blueprint for Action*. Through this report and other endeavours, the PCCC aims to change the standard for palliative care in Canada.

The latest version of the *Blueprint for Action (2025-2030)* is available on the PCCC website (www.palliativecarecoalition.ca), and sets out four priorities of equal importance to build toward:

- Engaged, Informed Public
- Skilled, Supported Care Providers
- Knowledge to Improve Quality of Care and Life

- Equitable Access to High Quality Palliative Care for All

The Blueprint also sets out specific initiatives the coalition will undertake to achieve each priority as well as the desired outcomes of our work.

Mission and Mandate of the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada

The PCCC believes that all 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 the setting of their choice. The PCCC also believes that to achieve quality end-of-life care for all Canadians, there must be a well-funded, sustainable national strategy for an integrated palliative approach to care. It is the mission of the PCCC to work together in partnership with other like-minded national organizations and institutions to achieve their goal.

Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC)

For more information about the PCCC, please visit www.palliativecarecoalition.ca.

Member Organizations

- ALS Society of Canada (ALS Canada)
- Alzheimer Society of Canada
- Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)
- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC)
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT)
- Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO)
- Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)
- Canadian Breast Cancer Network (CBCN)
- Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)
- Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA)
- Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA)
- Canadian Lung Association (CLA)
- Canadian Network of Palliative Care for Children (CNPCC)
- Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)
- Canadian Palliative Care Nursing Association (CPCNA)
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA)
- Canadian Society of Palliative Medicine (CSPM)
- Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)
- Canadian Virtual Hospice (CVH)
- Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC)
- Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA)
- College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
- Covenant Health Palliative Institute
- HealthCareCAN
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
- Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)
- Kidney Foundation of Canada
- Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC)
- National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE)
- Ovarian Cancer Canada (OCC)
- Pallium Canada
- Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative (PCPCRC)
- Realize
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
- SE Health (SE Health)
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)

Special Update for 2025: Preparing for a New Model

For 25 years, the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC) operated through volunteer working groups and an Executive Committee supported by a Secretariat provided by a member organization. This model became unsustainable in 2025 when the current Secretariat's term ended, and no other organization could assume the role.

To address this challenge, the Executive Committee initiated extensive consultation with members. The process began at the June 2025 6-Month Members Meeting, where members engaged in an open discussion about the coalition's future structure and sustainability. The conversation focused on understanding the value of the PCCC, what members needed from the coalition, and what they could contribute in return. Members were asked to consider whether the coalition could function without a Secretariat and what such a model might look like. Following the meeting, an online survey was conducted in June and July to capture additional feedback. Responses confirmed strong support for the continued existence of the coalition and its mandate, as well as its role in advocacy, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Members reiterated their preference for having a Secretariat but acknowledged that none could assume the role for 2026. Members also shared ideas for operational models without a Secretariat, identified areas where they could contribute—such as time, expertise, and in-kind services—and expressed hopes for flexibility in project participation. While there was interest in exploring membership dues, no consensus was reached, and the topic was deferred for future consideration.

The Executive Committee reviewed the members' feedback and proposed an updated governance model with revised Terms of Reference. A special membership meeting was held in November 2025 to review the proposed model and discuss options.

The new governance model eliminates the Secretariat for 2026 and distributes its responsibilities among the Executive Committee. The Executive will include elected positions such as Chair or Co-Chairs, Membership Director, and Secretary, along with project team leads selected by their teams. Working groups and annual workplans have been replaced by project teams focused on specific initiatives. Each member organization is expected to have at least one active participant in a project team or on the Executive to ensure engagement and sustainability.

The revised Terms of Reference, approved by members through an online vote in November, represent the only feasible governance model for the foreseeable future. They maintain core principles—advocacy, collaboration, knowledge creation and exchange, and commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility—while emphasizing shared responsibility and flexibility. An evaluation of the new model will occur in late 2026.

2025 Activities and Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee Report

The Coalition has four active subcommittees:

- Executive Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Research and Knowledge Translation (KT) Committee
- Education Committee

The chairs of the three main sub-committees, as well as the Coalition Secretariat (Pallium Canada) make up the members of the Executive Committee. The Coalition Secretariat chairs the Executive Committee. Members of the 2025 Executive Committee were:

- Jeffrey Moat (Secretariat / Executive Committee Chair)
- Chris Klinger
- Carolyn McCoy
- Daniel Nowoselski
- Adriana Rengifo
- Julie Wilding

The Executive Committee oversees the work of the Coalition and manages the efficient and effective administration of the Coalition, as well as seeks opportunities and develops partnerships that actively promote access to quality palliative care in Canada.

The Executive Committee members met eight (8) times between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Over the past year, the Executive Committee's activities included:

- Onboarded one new member organization.
- Conducted outreach to potential members.
- Adjudicated the Hon. Sharon Carstairs P.C. Award of Excellence in Advocacy.
- Prepared and distributed newsletters to all members in May and October 2025, showcasing key initiatives and achievements across the coalition.
- Organized and hosted the Annual General Meeting in January, the 6-Month Meeting in June, and a Special Membership Meeting in November.
- Led a members' survey in June 2025.
- Developed updated Terms of Reference and held an online members' vote for their approval.
- Preparing a pre-read package for the January 16, 2026, Annual General Meeting of the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada, including securing two keynote speakers.

2. Advocacy Committee Report

Daniel Nowoselski (Co-Chair)	
Cheryl Cameron	Monique Lizon
Kim McMillan	Leah Salvage
Cheryl Spencer	Carrie Thibodeau
Kimberly Thibodeau	Chris Weiss
Laurence Worthen	

Objective:

The PCCC provides a forum to develop and amplify a collective voice on issues of importance in hospice palliative care to all or a subset of members at the Federal level, including raising awareness of the importance and urgency of palliative care among the public at large or with specific stakeholders, responding to issues/opportunities in a timely manner, and supporting policy development/refinement. This group can serve to amplify the voices of health care providers, (clinician) researchers, and millions of patients, caregivers, and family members.

2025 Activities:

In a year of significant changes, the Advocacy Committee did its best to introduce or reintroduce palliative care to decisionmakers and ensure palliative care was part of the federal government's health care agenda, through the following actions:

1. Federal election:
 - Developed a “menu” of policy options to pitch to parties on what they could do to prioritize palliative care in the next election.
 - Pitched an op ed, but had difficulty breaking through the political dynamics of the campaign
 - Shared the menu with parties before the election
 - Post-election, we reached out to decisionmakers in key portfolios to discuss palliative care, along with our menu
2. Breakfast on the Hill – November 19, 2025
 - The committee hosted a reception to showcase palliative care in a novel way, through a museum-style interactive exhibit where decisionmakers could meet with and discuss palliative care one-on-one with providers & leaders in the community
 - The event brought together over 40 leaders and providers in palliative care to meet with decisionmakers and journalists to discuss the challenges and opportunities in palliative care in Canada and Canada's 40th place ranking in the world in palliative care

- While the committee wished for greater attendance amongst decisionmakers, we received very positive feedback on the event and have leveraged the event for further meetings and interactions with decisionmakers
 - In the leadup to this event, the committee developed an [online petition](#) to further our pre-budget asks (see below), which was circulated to PCCC members. We continue to collect signatures on the petition and hope to have it introduced in Parliament.
3. PCCC Pre-Budget Submission:
- We updated our Pre-Budget submission for the Finance Committee and the Minister of Finance's pre-budget consultation processes.
 - Asked for extending and doubling the funding from Budget 2021 for palliative care.
 - Improved our narrative about why palliative care should be a priority for the government.
 - Completed outreach to share our asks
4. Submission to the Expert Committee on Pharmacare:
- Submitted a letter to the Expert Committee on Pharmacare, encouraging them to consider palliative care medications as a priority in the rollout of pharmacare
 - The new federal government has since backed away from its commitments on pharmacare, so it is unlikely that any final recommendations will be acted on in the short term
5. Collaboration with the Education Committee on the CPAC Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Competency Framework
- Conducted outreach in collaboration with the education committee on adding further disciplines to the Framework
 - Based on our outreach, we have facilitated a connection between CPAC and the Medical Radiation Technologists, and hope to add disciplines involved in rehabilitation (i.e., occupational therapists) in future years to the Framework as well

Our meetings included:

- MP Michael Cooper (Conservative, St. Albert-Sturgeon River)
- MP Anna Roberts (Conservative, King-Vaughan and Shadow Minister for Seniors)
- MP Maggie Chi (Liberal, Don Valley North and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health)
- Eric Nicol, Director of Policy to Hon. Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors)
- MP Dan Mazier (Conservative, Dauphin-Swan River and Shadow Minister for Health)

We also have been in discussions with the Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of Health's office, and MP Matt Strauss (Conservative, Kitchener South-Hespeler and member of the Standing Committee on Health) for meetings and hope to schedule them soon.

3. Education Committee Report

Adriana Rengifo (Co-Chair)	Julie Wilding (Co-Chair)
Lisa Carroll	Bonnie Cooke
Cailey Crawford	Kristen DeCaria
Judy Donovan-Whitty	Holly Finn
Salina Fukumoto	Hazel Markwell
Carly McPhee	Diana Rasmussen
Cheryl Spencer	Karla Thorpe (former member)

Objective:

Facilitate awareness of educational/training resources of PCCC members and other organizations; inform and support activities of advocacy and research committees.


2025 Activities:

During 2025, the Education Committee focused its work on the development and facilitation of a new initiative: the Interprofessional Community of Practice (COP). This COP emerged following the initial ECHO session in February 2025, where strong participant interest highlighted the need for an ongoing collaborative learning space. Holly Finn at Pallium played a key role in ensuring that all attendees from the initial session received timely information about subsequent sessions.

COP Sessions

- Interprofessional Rehabilitation – Engaging in a Palliative Approach February 7, 2025
- Integrating Spiritual Care Through Psycho-Spiritual Needs Assessments in a Palliative Approach: June 20, 2025
- Communication Access in Palliative Care: September 19, 2025
- Beyond the Myths: A Multi-Disciplinary Look at Palliative Care: November 21, 2025
- *Upcoming session: Nursing engaging in a palliative approach, January 23, 2026*

The COP emphasizes communication, role clarity, and person centered care within interprofessional practice. This learning series was intentionally designed for healthcare providers across all disciplines—whether they are experienced in a palliative approach or newly exploring it. Through practical case studies, expert insights, and real world collaboration strategies, participants engaged in meaningful discussions that supported the integration of palliative care principles into their existing practice.



Participants included clinicians seeking to enhance the palliative aspects of the care they provide, as well as professionals interested in deepening their understanding of the roles and contributions of other disciplines. The COP fostered a collaborative, patient centered model of care and strengthened interprofessional relationships across the community.

Additionally, the Education Committee collaborated with the Advocacy Committee and with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer regarding planning next steps to embedding new interprofessional disciplines in the next iteration of the Palliative Care Competency Framework.

4. Research and Knowledge Translation (KT) Committee Report

Chris Klinger (Co-Chair)	Carolyn McCoy (Past Co-Chair)
James Downar	Cathy Lumsden
Jeff Moat	Kate Murzin
Diana Rasmussen (ex officio)	Jocelle Refol
Kumanan Wilson	

Objective:

To facilitate research and knowledge translation (KT) toward the PCCC and its member organizations and to engage in broader stakeholder consultations in the area.

2025 Activities:

Four Research and Knowledge Translation (KT) Committee meetings were held from January to December 2025, facilitating work on all Work Plan (WP) items.

The Research and Knowledge Translation (KT) Committee did not undertake new research in 2025, but rather focused on knowledge translation.

Work Plan Item 1: Knowledge Translation and Mobilization

- The Committee developed an infographic to aid in the dissemination of the scoping review on Interventions for Grieving and Bereaved Informal Caregivers: A Scoping Review of the Canadian Literature (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/08258597221101826>) and launched it at the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) Conference in October 2025 and made it available for the Breakfast on the Hill event in November 2025
- The PCCC *Research Priorities* and *Blueprint for Action* were introduced at the Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative's (PCPCRC) semi-annual Meetings in Spring and Fall 2025, respectively.
- Posters on *Interventions for Grieving and Bereaved Informal Caregivers* and the *Blueprint for Action* were displayed at the CHPCA Conference in October 2025 – these are available for PCCC member organization conferences.

Work Plan Item 3: Advocacy to Increase Palliative Care Research Funding

- The Committee continued its work toward a joint meeting with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) President, the Institutes' Scientific Directors, and the Joint CIHR/Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Committee on (hospice) palliative care research funding in line with the PCCC's scoping review on gaps in research (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7661142/>)

- Committee members contributed to the rapid response on a British Medical Journal (BMJ) publication on a Palliative Care Commission in Canada and its role for change (<https://www.bmj.com/content/388/bmj.r610/rr-8>) and attended the Breakfast on the Hill event in November 2025.

2025 Financial Report

Palliative Care Coalition of Canada		
Income Statement		
January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025		
	2025	2024
Revenue		
Pallium Foundation of Canada (in-kind)	8,726	10,719
Total Revenue	8,726	10,719
Expenses		
Personnel	8,726	10,446
Contracted Services (web hosting, rebranding, etc.)	0	80
Printing / Photocopying	0	193
Total Expenses	8,726	10,719
Profit (Loss)	0	0

Palliative Care Coalition of Canada		
Balance Sheet		
At December 31, 2025		
Assets	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-24
Cash	0	0
Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue - CHPCA	0	0
Deferred Revenue - Other	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0
Equity	0	0
Total Liabilities and Equity	0	0