



What is a Compassionate Community (CC)?

A community that recognizes that **all-natural cycles** of sickness & health, birth & death, and love & loss **occur every day** within the orbits of its institutions and regular activities.

Its residents recognize that **care for one another** at times of crisis and loss is not simply a task solely for health and social services but is everyone's business.¹

What is The Compassionate City Charter?

A **framework of 13 social changes** that support communities to become more compassionate. This is an international initiative that was released in May 2015.

Area or Sector	Social Change
Schools Workplaces Trade Unions	Will have policies or guidance documents for dying, death, loss, and care.
Churches and Temples	Will have at least one dedicated group for End of Life (EOL) care.
Hospices and Nursing Homes	Will have community development programs that focus on EOL care and will involve local area citizens.
Museums and Art Galleries	Will hold exhibitions on the experience of ageing, dying, death, and loss, or care.
Peacetime Memorial Parade	Representing the major sectors of human loss outside military campaigns.

Celebrate and Highlight the most creative compassionate organization, event or individuals(s) through and incentive scheme (ex: Mayor's Award).

Through various forms of media, our city will **publicly showcase** our local government policies, services, funding opportunities, partnerships, and public events that address our compassionate concerns. As well, all EOL services will be encouraged to share this material.

Our city will work with the local social or print media to encourage and **annual city-wide short story or art competition** to raise awareness of ageing, dying, death, loss or caring.

All services and policies will demonstrate an understanding of **how diversity shapes** the experience of ageing, dying, death, loss, and care.

We will encourage and support institutions for the **homeless and the imprisoned** to have support plans in place for EOL care.

Our city will **establish and review** these targets and goals in the first 2 years. Thereafter, **will add 1 new sector annually to our action plan.**

For the adapted version of the compassionate city charter please visit

<http://www.phpci.info/tools/>

Look at the Numbers – And Reflect

The Canadian Population	Cost of End-of-Life Care per Day (2014)	Population 65+years
2015: 35.8Million	Hospital = \$1100	2015: 16.1%
2063: 51 Million	Long-Term Care =\$700	2030: 22.9%
	Hospice = \$460	2063: 25.8%
	Home = \$100	

Questions for your Community

1. How does this tie into National Palliative Care?

The Way Forward (TWF) Framework is a national plan for use at all levels of government. There are seven objectives required to achieve a system-wide shift in End of Life care. Fifth on the list, **creation of a caring community**, is the aim of this charter.ⁱⁱ

2. How will this change palliative care?

This charter is a **public health initiative** that is designed to highlight the already existing community resource so the residents and organizations know what exists. Also, it seeks to **demystify death** in hopes residents become **more comfortable with talking and planning for death**. The ideal outcome would be **patients/caregivers who are better prepared for death** as well as feeling they have autonomy over the process, which will lead to better mental health and quality of life for all involved.

3. How does this related to our local agenda?

This is in alignment with the desire from **residents to die at home**, the government is looking at ways to reduce medical costs, and the desire to have a **patient/caregiver centre approach**. With these 3 ideas in mind, a community initiative around Caregiving, dying, death, and grieving will help to support this and other areas of focus within palliative care. This CC initiative is seen as **one approach to better supporting patients/caregivers along with the medical field**, in hopes together we can provide good palliative care.

4. How can you help develop the Compassionate Community movement?

Explore the role **YOU can play to support the building of compassionate communities**.

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ⁱ Karapliagkou, Aliko, and Alla Kellehear. "Public Health Approach to End of Life Care: Toolkit." Pg. 72-73. The National Council for Palliative Care. February 17, 2015.

ⁱⁱ Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, The Way Forward National Framework: A roadmap for an integrated palliative approach to care. The Way Forward Initiative, March 2015.