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HLTC3968IT-2016-1354

Dear Health Directors:

RE: Capacity building in First Nations Communities through Palliative Care Training

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Ministry) is working with the Chiefs of Ontario, Health Canada and other partners to initiate initial steps to build community capacity and improve access to palliative services in First Nations communities.

During Parliamentary Assistant (PA) Fraser's Palliative Care Engagement Sessions in 2015 with First Nations leadership, he heard that communities lack access to services that address their cultural, spiritual and other needs, including culturally appropriate training, tools and supports to improve palliative care.

The Ministry would like to support community capacity building through funding culturally appropriate palliative training in First Nations communities by providing one-time funding in 2016-17 and 2017-18 for palliative care training.

There are three options that have been approved by the partners for the training. Communities may choose more than one option as people may have differing needs.

1. In-person, on-site workshops "Palliative Care for Front Line Workers in First Nations Communities" organized and delivered by the Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH), Lakehead University. The target group is front-line care providers and community members (nurses, personal support workers, home makers, mental health workers, health directors etc.).
2. In-person, Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) workshop for registered health care providers (physicians, nurses, registered social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists). These LEAP workshops are developed by Pallium Canada for clinicians.

3. Individual on-line courses organized and delivered by St. Elizabeth Heath Care. There are a variety of courses that can be accessed via the internet.

Please see **Appendix** for more information on the programs.

The ministry invites First Nations communities to complete and submit the enclosed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to indicate your communities' interest in participating in this training opportunity. All EOI submissions must be received by the Ministry by January 20, 2017.

We look forward to partnering with you to build community capacity and improve access to culturally appropriate palliative care services in First Nations communities. Should you have any questions or would like assistance in completing the enclosed Expression of Interest, please contact Nila Sinnatamby, 416-327-8416 or Vena Persaud, 416-212-0778.

Sincerely,



Ms. Vena Persaud
Manager
Provincial Agencies Cancer Care Ontario/Related Programs
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

In Collaboration with:

Ms. Vanessa Follon,
Regional Coordinator, Home and Community Care Ontario Region,
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada

Ms. Tracy Antone,
Director of Health, Chiefs of Ontario

Enclosure