

Implementing Compassionate Communities in Canada: Emerging Approaches

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Pallium Canada recognizes the significance of bringing Compassionate Communities (CC) from across Canada together to encourage and support one another. Regardless of selected approach, collaboration between CC's on methods of implementing and improving initiatives will strengthen the creation of social change towards death and promoting the public health approach to palliative care at a broader national level.

Compassionate City Charter

The basis for the expansion of CCs across Canada is rooted in the Compassionate City Charter framework by Professor Allan Kellehear, which emphasizes that care for one another during times of crisis — sickness, death, loss and other natural life events — is everyone's responsibility. The charter highlights the need for social changes in 12 key areas within a community, which create the backbone of a CC (see Fig. 1).

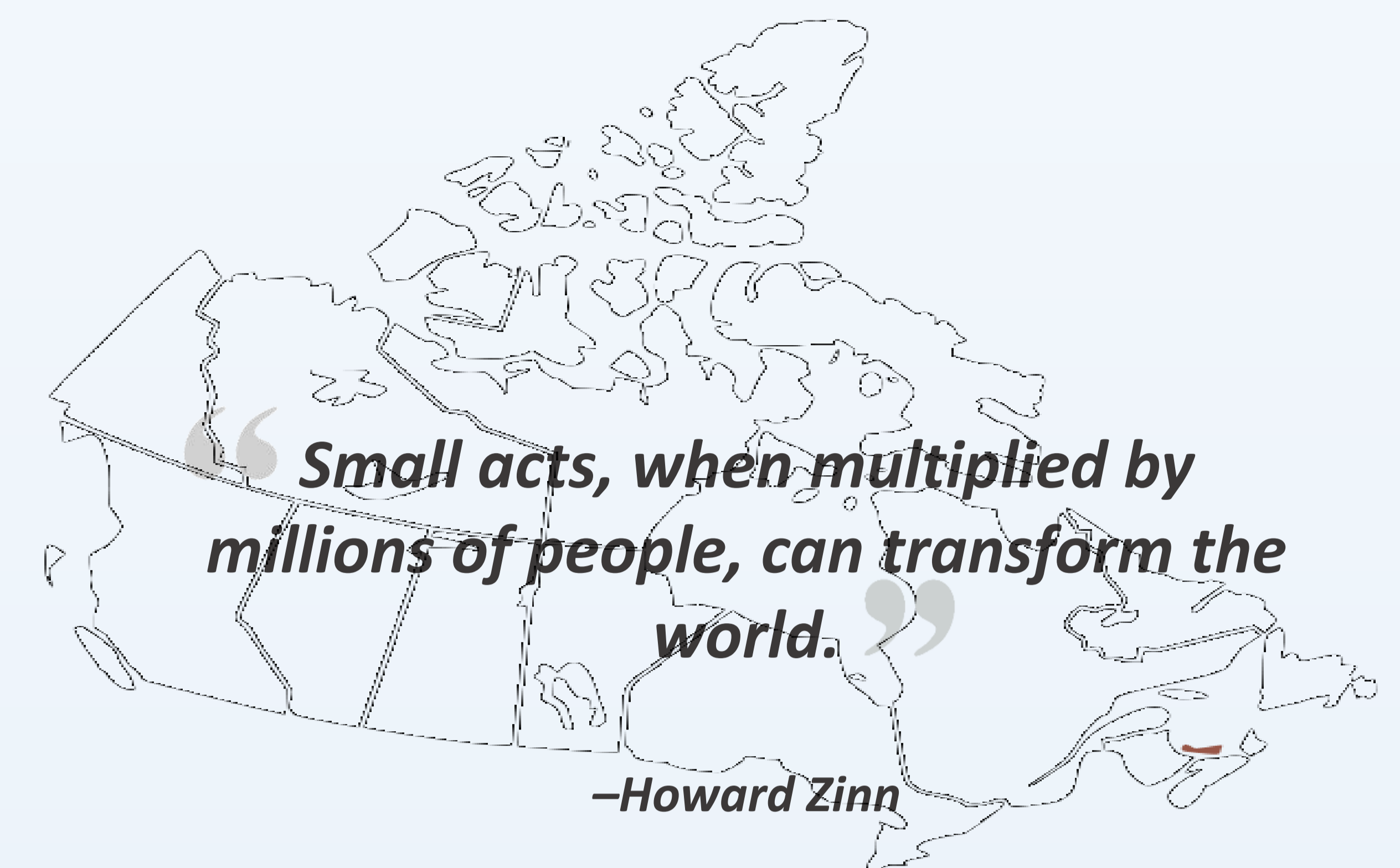


Figure 1: The Compassionate City Model of the 12 social changes framework based on the Compassionate City Charter by Allan Kellehear.

Synergies & Next Steps

Each CC varies in strategy and process; however, the underlying goal of making Canada more compassionate and the use of the Compassionate City Charter framework remains constant. As per Professor Kellehear's design, there is not one perfect process for executing this framework as the current initiatives in Canada clearly show that depending on the type and level of involvement from the community, there is variation in many aspects such as funding, stakeholders, and community involvement.

Pallium Canada's goal to mobilize CCs to support a pan-Canadian approach includes facilitating stakeholder engagement initiatives for CCs across Canada to share ideas, collaborate, and learn from one another. Pallium has begun work with these thriving initiatives to create kits that future CCs can access and build on, fostering the sharing of resources across Canada. In addition, Pallium aims to support a proof of concept for Canadian CCs.

Initiatives & Approaches: A Comparison

In Canada there are currently four emerging approaches to building a CC: volunteer-driven, hospice-driven, province-driven and region-driven. The eight current Canadian CC initiatives described below follow the Compassionate City Charter framework using one of the four approaches. The region-driven approach created an expanded framework focused on all people needing care. This table shows the various processes in Canadian CCs found within the different approaches selected to build a Compassionate City often based on a community's needs. CCs approaches are not limited to these four approaches but can be informative how to initiate a CC project within your community.

Table 1: Emerging Approaches to Building a Compassionate Community

	Approaches	Volunteer-driven			Hospice-driven		Province-driven		Region-driven
Initiative Process	Initiatives	Compassionate Ottawa	Compassionate Toronto	Compassionate New Westminster	Compassionate Burlington	Compassionate Niagara West	British Columbia BC Centre for Palliative Care	Hospice Palliative Care Ontario	Windsor-Essex Compassionate Care Community
Initiation	Lead(s)	Jackie Holzman, former mayor City of Ottawa Jim Nininger, former CEO Conference Board of Canada	Jenny Lau, Palliative Care Physician Bonnie Tompkins, Pallium's Compassionate Communities National Lead	Kay Johnson, Chair Dr. Wendy Johnson, Vice-Chair	Karen Candy, Executive Director of Carpenter Hospice Jennifer Sharman, Community Health Coordinator	Amanda Black, McNally House Hospice Community Engagement Coordinator	Dr. Eman Hassan, Director of Public Health Initiatives, BC Centre for Palliative Care (BCCPC)	Julie Darnay, Manager, Partnerships & Communities of Practice, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO)	Carol Derbyshire, Executive Director, Hospice of Windsor-Essex
	Funding	An Ottawa Community Foundation grant and a donation	No current funding but applying for grants	Grant writing and fundraising events BC Centre for Palliative Care: two seed grants	Lead position funded by Carpenter Hospice	McNally House Hospice	BC Ministry of Health grant	Hospice Palliative Care Ontario	LHIN and Ministry Green Shield Canada Foundation Canada Summer Jobs
	Introduction to Community	Broad community meeting: November 2016	Broad community meeting: May 2017	2 Community Conversations using World Café: October 2016 & June 2017	Met political figures to discuss fit for this initiative: August to October 2015 Needs identification with community partners for building a CC Community awareness: October 2016	Town Hall meeting and public discussion with Dr. Kellehear: 2013 Adoption of CC Model by McNally House Board of Directors within its vision and long-term strategy: 2015	Community outreach and stakeholder engagement events with Dr. Allan Kellehear: May 2015	Provincial Community of Practice to connect individuals involved in CC projects to share knowledge and information: April 2016	Community Meeting - Open Invitation: September 2014
Current Progress	Stakeholders/ Partners	Champlain Hospice Palliative Care Program, Hospice Care, OutCare Foundation; The Council on Aging of Ottawa-Age Friendly Ottawa; Synapcity, Cardus; Pallium Canada	Public Health Toronto; City of Toronto Senior Strategy; Hospice Toronto	Seniors Services Society, Century House, Arts Council; SFU Vanity Office of Community Engagement and Fraser Health; MP Peter Julian, MLA and Minister of Mental Health; Judy Darcy and Mayor Jonathan Cote	All levels of government, library system, art gallery, funeral home, tattoo studio, large workplaces, unions, and residents of Burlington	Town of Grimsby, Public Library, Public Art Gallery and Museum; Town of Lincoln, Township of West Lincoln, Lincoln Library, West Lincoln Library; Stonehouse-Whitcomb Funeral Home, PC Cooking School, Yoga Truly, John Calvin Christian School	Advisory committee (BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, BC Healthy Communities, Family Caregiver of BC, BC Patient Safety and Quality Council)	Ontario CC projects	100+ partnering organizations representing health, education and social services; business; arts; faith; culture; municipalities; community groups; seniors and patient groups; caregivers
	Current Projects	Die-alogue sessions Helping school boards to become CCs Training needs for faith organizations	Planning stage – no project underway	Compassionate business model pilot Talking to kids about the difficult topics (handouts for parents) Unions' policy changes to support caregivers and grieving members Art Competition & Exhibition on dying, death and grief	Creating a compassionate workplace Demystifying death with local library Increasing supports for those in need with local faith organizations Supporting other CCs	"Death Something to Talk About" Project Initiatives Traveling Die-alogues Remember with Recipes cooking class Yoga for the Grieving Heart Building relationships with schools	Seed funding, training workshops, implementation and evaluation tools and individual coaching by a community development specialist Training, tools and resources for volunteers to deliver Advance Care Planning (ACP) community sessions	Virtual bi-monthly meetings for existing and developing Ontario CC initiatives	Community-wide pilots involving seven municipalities and the City of Windsor Tele-Palliative Care Innovative Models of Palliative Care for Vulnerable Populations Health Tapestry Sharing My Journey (enhanced)
Current Impact	Community involvement	45 attendees volunteered for this initiative: May 2017 Welcomed as legitimate partner in the palliative care field by service providers and civic organizations	Exploring and collaborating on funding options with key partners to spread successful programs that have supported Compassionate Toronto	Partnering conversations initiated to provide a hospice residence Community members engaged and awaiting training and volunteering opportunities	Links with stakeholders to support local residents and their families Building a more Compassionate Workplace with the City of Burlington and Cogeco Cable Conversation type events hosted by residents increasing awareness of community database	92 community members engaged at our traveling Die-alogue exhibit	105 public education and community engagement events were hosted by 20 BC community organizations 68 CC projects supported by BC-CPC	Provincial CC Community of Practice with expert Leadership Team, 8 developing projects & general membership Provincial Community Research Collaborative with over 25 leading researchers from across Ontario	Wellness Hubs and end-of-life programs Community events Shining the Light on Compassion Awards Life and Living Well workshops Calling All Faith Leaders: Time to Talk Initial conversations with schools, businesses and trade unions
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