

Ontario Palliative Care Network

March 31, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

On March 10 and 11, 2016, we attended important meetings in Toronto that brought together the LHIN CEOs, CCO RVPs and other stakeholders to launch the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN). This is a new direction for palliative care across Ontario where programs will be more aligned, aiming to ensure that quality and performance will be measured consistently, while patients and families will have a voice at the palliative care decision tables.

The OPCN is a partnership of community stakeholders, health service providers and health systems planners who are developing a coordinated, standardized approach for delivering palliative care services in the province. It aligns with the *Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care* which highlights a commitment to improved access and equity in palliative and end-of-life care at home and in the community. The expectation moving forward is that every LHIN in Ontario will eventually have a Regional Palliative Care Program in place to ensure consistent delivery of care across the Southeast.

As the Co-Executive Leads we've had the chance to discuss the draft Common Elements proposed by the Implementation Advisory Group of OPCN (slide deck attached). There is still work to do to ensure they are right and will guide the development of an effective Regional Palliative Care Program for the South East.

We value and welcome your feedback as we roll out this provincial strategy locally. To that end, we are interested in hearing your feedback on some of the questions that were asked at the launch event. Please provide your feedback by responding to a [quick survey, which is available online](#) (page 38 of the RPCP presentation attached). We will continue to follow-up as we move through the process to ensure we capture input from all stakeholders in the design of the RPCP.

At their next meeting on April 11, the South East HPC Steering Committee will look at your feedback and begin to identify next steps to ensure we are prioritising our focus in the most appropriate areas while the provincial palliative care landscape evolves. This is a great opportunity to look at the current SE Palliative Care work plan and assess our existing structures to identify regional opportunities that align with this provincial initiative.

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Together, we express our sincere thanks for your ongoing commitment and leadership as we move ahead with the shared goal of improving the quality and access to palliative and end of life care for patients and families in the South East.

Kind regards,

Brenda Carter



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Paul Huras



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South East
Regional Cancer Program
in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario



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South East Local Health
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