

Message from the OPCN Partners

Improving access to the provision of palliative care services for Ontarians is unquestionably a tremendous challenge – and opportunity. The need for high-quality palliative care services cuts across all diseases, ages, cultures, care settings and regions of Ontario. As our population grows and ages, increasing numbers of people are living longer with life-limiting illnesses, often combined with multiple chronic conditions.

Through the work of the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN), we can make a significant difference in the lives of patients and families. We know that access to high-quality well-organized palliative care, increases the quality and quantity of life for those living with an advanced, life-limiting illness. At the same time, the healthcare system benefits when resources are used appropriately and efficiently.

Launched in 2016, the OPCN has come a long way in a short period of time (see our [Inaugural Report](#)). Building on that momentum, this Ontario Palliative Care Network Action Plan 1: 2017 – 2020 outlines where we will focus our work, how we are going to get there, what success will look like and what we need to do to continue improving equitable access to palliative care services in Ontario in the future.

More than 200 stakeholders, including Patient and Family Advisors, were engaged in the development of this plan. Under the joint leadership of the LHIN CEOs and CCO Regional Vice-Presidents across the province, each of the 14 Regional Palliative Care Networks provided feedback on the proposed actions, the enablers that would be required to implement the actions at the regional level, and the system-level measurement targets.

As partners in the OPCN, we are committed to working together to implement the bold but achievable actions outlined in this plan. Each partner has a critical role to play: CCO hosts the OPCN Secretariat and is overseeing quality improvement and performance management using evidence-based guidance documents and data assets; the Local Health Integration Networks are leading the implementation of initiatives at the local level and continue to strengthen local engagement with Francophone and First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; Health Quality Ontario is leading the development of the Palliative Care Quality Standard as well as providing expertise in public reporting and quality improvement; and, the Quality Hospice Palliative Care Coalition of Ontario, with Hospice Palliative Care Ontario as its secretariat, is leading engagement with health service providers, and supporting patient and caregiver education. Joining our efforts will be the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, care providers, community organizations, volunteers, families and loved ones, and the many other individuals and organizations who are dedicated to improving palliative care services.

Working together, we will ensure that all Ontarians with a life-limiting illness and their loved ones will have a clear pathway to accessing services that will relieve their suffering and enable the highest quality of life and care possible.

CCO:

- Michael Sherar, President and CEO, CCO; Co-Chair, OPCN Executive Oversight

14 Local Health Integration Networks, represented by:

- Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN; Co-Chair, OPCN Executive Oversight
- Ralph Ganter, CEO, Erie St. Clair LHIN; Member, OPCN Executive Oversight

Health Quality Ontario:

- Dr. Joshua Tepper, President and CEO, Health Quality Ontario; Member, OPCN Executive Oversight

Quality Hospice Palliative Care Coalition of Ontario:

- Rick Firth, President and CEO, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, Secretariat for the Coalition; Member, OPCN Executive Oversight