

# North Simcoe Muskoka Regional Palliative Care Plan

## April 2013



### BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Minister of Health announced that Palliative Care was a priority for provincial action. The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN engaged the community of Palliative Care providers to develop a plan to implement provincial priorities over the next several years. From that plan a further need was identified to create a strategic plan that would help service providers to understand the goals and direction of the Palliative Care service system. This document provides that strategic direction.

The goal for this plan is for stakeholders to individually and collectively commit to making changes that lead us in this direction.

The North Simcoe Muskoka Palliative Care Network will commit to developing a Work Plan that will assist in leading the system in the directions indicated. Additionally, we will endeavor to identify sector changes that impact on these Strategic Directions.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN:

This plan was developed using the following approach

1. Research – review of the “Current State of Palliative Care” and “Best and Promising Practices in Palliative Care”
2. Key Informant interviews – 14 Palliative Care practitioners were interviewed
3. On line surveys – 44 surveys were completed by physicians, nurses, volunteers, administrators
4. In person planning day – 18 attendees

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

As a result of this work the following 5 key strategic directions were developed:

#### #1: Enhanced Leadership

**The Palliative Care system is focused on a common direction, agencies and individuals collaborate and messaging is clear and consistent.**

- Individual organizational priorities are brought into the overall system-wide leadership and decision making process
- Partners are engaged to provide input to and support of the goals of the overall regional plan
- The Palliative Care system has strong, regional leadership with authority and accountability
- Service is coordinated between all PC stakeholder groups

#### #2: Quality Delivery

**Consistent, high quality Palliative Care is delivered across the region.**

- There is a clear and common regional definition for Palliative Care
- Common tools and guidelines are used across the region
- Best and promising practices and benchmarks are identified, implemented and evaluated

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (CONTINUED):**

### **#3: Culture Change**

**Our community understands end of life needs and accepts the inevitability of death; people identifying home as the preferred location of death.**

- Deliver common messaging about Palliative Care through media, social networking and other broadcast media
- service providers consistently deliver common messaging about preferred location of death
- Ensure programs and services are available that meet the different needs of individuals who choose to die at home
- Promote earlier Advanced Care Planning

### **#4: Equitable System Accessibility and Capacity**

**Services are accessible and consistent across geographic areas and from different service providers.**

- A variety of informal and formal supports and services are available and put in place at the appropriate time
- Providers are aware of their responsibilities and the services provided by other agencies; best practices are shared among providers
- Communities are empowered to take care of their own

### **#5: Education**

**Develop Palliative Care awareness and service provider skills.**

- Staff and volunteers offering Palliative Care in North Simcoe Muskoka are knowledgeable about current best practices.
- Agencies support staff and volunteers in the commitment to attending basic and advanced Palliative Care educational opportunities
- A wide range of training opportunities meeting the diverse needs of providers including volunteers, PSW's, Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers, Clergy and other care providers and the general public will be offered and promoted throughout North Simcoe Muskoka

## **NEXT STEPS**

- THE North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network will communicate this plan to providers of Palliative Care in the LHIN. Providers will be asked to endorse the plan and to commit to using the plan to guide their operations related to Palliative Care Services in North Simcoe Muskoka. Agencies whose primary focus is the provision of Palliative Care will be asked to commit to using these strategic directions to guide their own planning.
- Agencies who provide a variety of services including Palliative Care will be asked to utilize these directions in deciding how to provide Palliative Care Services.
- Annually, the Network will reach out to at least 20 agencies to determine how they are utilizing this plan and what changes they have made in service provision in support this. We will share this information with our Board of Directors, the LHIN and any other agency that requests it.