

**Palliative Care**  
**Matters** | Building  
National Consensus

**L'importance des**  
**soins palliatifs** | Forger  
un consensus national

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Strategic Frameworks

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## Disclosure

- No Disclosures

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## Acknowledgements

- Covenant Health Palliative Care Institute
- *Palliative Care Matters* Steering Committee

**What have strategic frameworks and  
plans accomplished for palliative care  
when adopted by countries?**

## The Next 30 Minutes

- Why a National Strategy is needed
- Strategies and frameworks: an international perspective
- Summary & Recommendations

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## Overview

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*“I’d have been her sooner if it hadn’t been for early detection”*

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## Canadian Life Expectancy (2013)

- Median age of death is 81 years.
- Among survivors to age 65, median age at death is 88 years.
- Among survivors to age 80, median age at death is 90 years

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*“I would embrace the aging process if I could lift my arms”*

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- Mixed Dementia
- Type II DM
- Oxygen dependent COPD
- CHF
- OA
- Dependent in ADLs

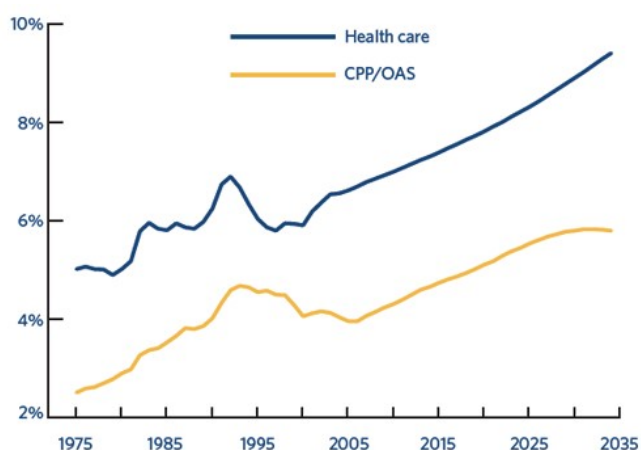
9 million Canadians like this  
in 2036: Doubling of the  
current number

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## Historical and Projected Costs For Healthcare and CPP/OAS



41<sup>st</sup> Parliament Current and Emerging  
Issues, Library of Parliament, 2011

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## Palliative Care Improves Value

### Quality improves

- Symptoms
- Quality of life
- Length of life
- Family satisfaction
- Family bereavement outcomes
- Care matched to patient centered goals

### Costs reduced

- Hospital costs decrease
- Need for hospitalization/ICU decreases

## Barriers to Palliative Care Access

- Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Knowledge gaps
- Public awareness and demand

## Palliative Care in Canada

- Organic – not strategic
- “Locally sourced”
  - Intermittent infusions of public and private funding
- Society specific recommendations and guidelines: No national consensus
- Disparities in access

## What Countries Do This Well?

- Difficult to assess
  - Evaluations based on:
    - composite indices of quality of death
    - measures of service provision
    - location of death
- Top performers
  - Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, UK



# NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE STRATEGIES: A REVIEW

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## Methods

- National survey (Ipsos)
- Systematic review of existing literature by Covenant team
- Personal files (RSM), outreach to colleagues in the international community, journal review

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## Findings

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## Public Opinion Survey Results

- 86% expect the federal government to develop and implement national palliative care standards
- 85% support integrating national standards for palliative health care services into the Canada Health Act
- 89% agree that the federal government should have a plan for implementing a national palliative care program
- 70% are concerned about costs

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## International Palliative Care Frameworks

- Frameworks found for 10 countries.
  - Comprehensive multi-year strategies found for 4
    - Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, UK
  - General strategies - laws guaranteeing access to palliative care services or clinical infrastructure recommendations – found for 6
    - Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Singapore, Spain

## Australia

2000 : National palliative care strategy

- 7 national programs
  - Research capacity, education, QI, on-line resources (practice, policy), needs assessment, clinical trials, health services research

2010 : Reviewed and revised

- 4 new goal areas identified
  - awareness and understanding, appropriateness and effectiveness, leadership and governance, capacity and capability

2015 : Additional initiatives (13) focused within 4 goal areas

## Ireland

1999 : National Advisory Committee on Palliative Care established

- Detailed plan for palliative care infrastructure
- 4 recommendations
  - Adequate public funding
  - Palliative care service priorities should be based on national policy and decided by regional Health Boards
  - Separate protected budget for palliative care within Health Boards
  - Partnership of Health Boards and voluntary service providers

## Ireland

2004 : Audit

- Statutory funding increased by only €44 million, €90 million short of the NACPC-specified budget
- Deficit of 254 specialist in-patient beds identified
- 40% increase in palliative care funding from 2004-2007 (€54 million - €76 million)

2008 : Collapse of the Irish economy

## New Zealand

### 2001 : New Zealand Palliative Care Strategy

- 9 components addressing public awareness, workforce gaps, infrastructure, and research over 5 years

### 2010, 2011, 2013 : Audits

- Progress in areas of workforce development and quality requirements
- Disparities in access
- Limited data on population need, service provision and service utilization
- Lack of public/professional awareness
- Lack of inclusion in national health policy and strategic planning
- Lack of a national strategic approach to palliative care research

## New Zealand

### 2015

- Investment of \$76.1 million (NZ)
  - 60 new palliative care positions.
  - Audit and review by the Ministry of Health due in 2016

## United Kingdom

### 2008 : End of Life Care Strategy

- Addressed awareness, education, workforce, and infrastructure
- Commitment of £286 million from 2009 – 2011 to support implementation
- Audit ongoing
  - Decline in hospital deaths

## Implications



## Factors Promoting Success

- Comprehensive strategies that address public awareness, workforce, research, and infrastructure and involve key constituents within each
- Input and early involvement of senior policy makers
- Initiatives that promote research and create a national system of quality reporting.
- Regularly planned audits of outcomes and milestones
- **Substantial and sustained investment by government funding bodies**

"The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Hubert H. Humphrey, 1977

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**National Strategy**

**Questions**

