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PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
COMITÉ DE PROGRAMME SUR LES SOINS PALLIATIFS

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## **Palliative Care Communities of Practice in Family Medicine (CPFM) update**

Happy New Year to all members of the Palliative Care Program of Communities of Practice in Family Medicine of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (formerly SIFP: Special Interests or Focused Practices).

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as the Chair of this very active committee and provide you with my commitment to seek your opinion and respond to your needs.

As a family physician of twenty years of practice, I am constantly reminded of the value of continuing comprehensive care, and the critical role of the Family Physician in the delivery of palliative and end of life care to all Canadians.

Our committee's work plan involves many activities aimed at enhancing the quality of palliative care in Canada. Our ability to provide access to high quality palliative care for all Canadians is predicated on our ability to increase capacity, comfort, and knowledge within family physician groups across this beautiful country. With that in mind, we will reach out and connect with Chapters and members to ensure that our work responds to your interests and needs.

Here is a brief overview of what our committee is working on:

### **Family Medicine Forum (FMF) PROGRAMS:**

We were pleased to offer three presentations at the 2014 FMF in Quebec City. At our conference, members had the opportunity to attend the LEAP (Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative and End-of-Life Care) as a preconference workshop. We are grateful to Pallium Canada for their support. As well, we were able to provide joint sessions with the Care of Elderly/Hospital Medicine Committee. We anticipate that we will be able to provide joint sessions again this year, as a reminder of the importance of integrating palliative care into all care settings. Finally, at the 2014 Conference we were able to enjoy a joint networking breakfast with the Developmental Disabilities Program Committee. This session was both informative and well attended. In closing, please be assured that planning is currently underway for FMF 2015.

### **WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS:**

The Palliative Care website has been updated and includes links to a number of resources including the Palliative Care Files and Advanced Care Planning Canada at <http://www.cfpc.ca/PalliatCareComm/>. Information on Certificates of Added Competence (CAC) can be found on the CFPC website at <http://www.cfpc.ca/ProjectAssets/Templates/Category.aspx?id=7164&terms=certificate+of+added+competence>.

We also review on a regular basis and post media information of relevance to Palliative Care in Canada.

**PALLIATIVE CARE FILES:**

As a commitment to continuing education, we constantly seek to provide you with up to date and timely palliative care articles as part of our palliative care files. These are published quarterly in the Canadian Family Physician <http://www.cfp.ca/>.

**TASK FORCE ON END OF LIFE CARE:**

The task force held a Colloquium on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 and will meet again to continue the discussion on how best to promote education to members of the College as well as the public.

**UPDATE ON Certificates of Added Competence (CAC):**

The College of Family Physicians of Canada has established the mechanism for awarding CACs to family physicians in one of five domains of care in family medicine: Palliative Care, Care of the Elderly, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine Anaesthesia, and Sport and Exercise Medicine. An initial call out for applications for CAC's will go out in January. These initial CACs will be awarded to family physicians who have previously acquired competencies deemed worthy of recognition in the approved domains either through successful completion of a residency training program or through practice experience and professional development.

**HHR SURVEY:**

As a member of this program you should have received this survey in the last few months. This survey will provide us with information regarding the current palliative care workforce and help us to ensure that the palliative care needs of Canadians are met as we move forward.

A link will be provided on our website to access the results of this survey; results will also be released at the Advanced Learning in Palliative Medicine Annual Conference in Calgary on May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

**NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY:**

The Palliative Care Communities of Practice continues to have formalized connections with the Quality End of Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC), the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) as well as other organisations such as Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA), the Way Forward, Speak up and Pallium Canada. Stay tuned for information regarding Advanced Care Planning day, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

These are just a few highlights from our work. As a committee, we continue to strive to improve access to high quality palliative care for all Canadians regardless of location, diagnosis or age, through the provision of continuing comprehensive care in a collaborative setting.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, questions or requests and encourage you to access our website frequently over the next months. Please contact Maureen Desmarais, CPFM Coordinator at [palliativecare@cfpc.ca](mailto:palliativecare@cfpc.ca).

In closing, it is our pleasure to continue to work with all of you in enhancing the care we provide to all Canadians,

Sincerely,  
Mireille Lecours, MD, CCFP  
Chair, CFPC Palliative Care Committee

On behalf of the Palliative Care Program Committee Members:

Dr. Mireille Lecours, PE – Chair

Dr. Fiona Crow, MB

Dr. Mehrnoush Mirhosseini, AB

Dr. Stephen Singh, ON

Dr. Grace Ma, QC

Dr. Jeff Myers, ON