



# A Statistical Overview of Palliative Care in Canada

Briefing Memo | April 2016

Prepared by Peter Jon Mitchell, Senior Researcher

This internal memo highlights some of the data available on palliative care in Canada. A notable consequence of the inconsistencies in care is the lack of uniform definitions, terminology and evaluations applied across the country. If one theme emerges from this exercise, it is that data collection is inconsistent and often incomplete.

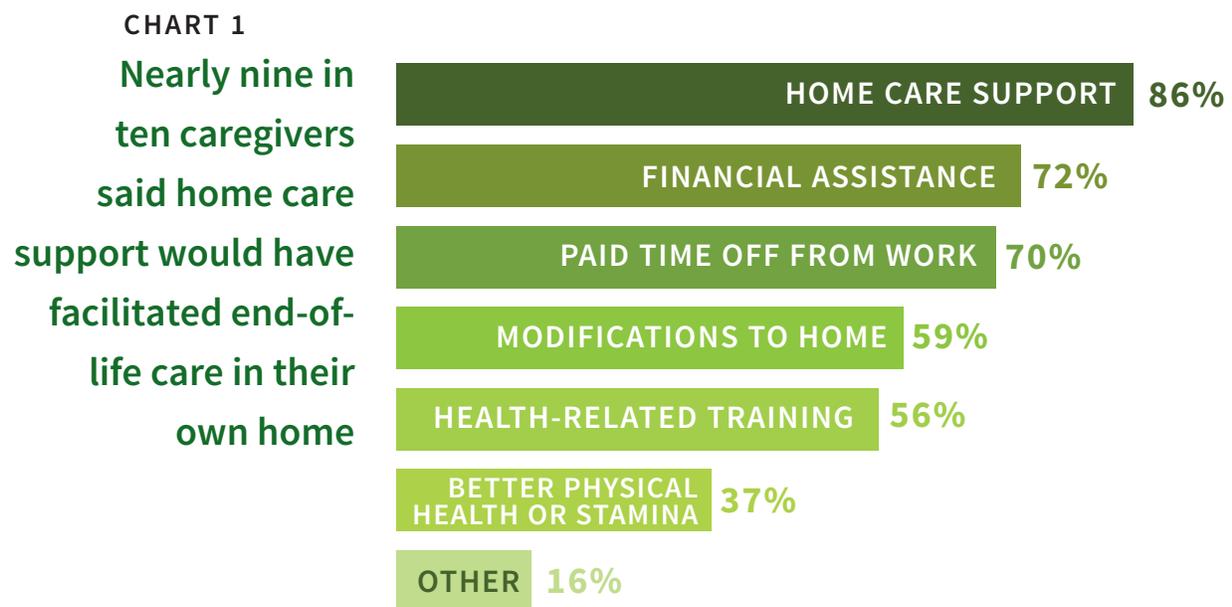
Another challenge in data collection is that palliative care appears to be expanding across the country, resulting in the need to update data. Certainly this is a positive observation as demographic projections suggest that the need for end-of-life care will rapidly expand over the next 25 to 50 years.

## **The need for end-of-life care will rapidly expand over the next 25 to 50 years.**

This brief provides a national snapshot, identifying the gaps in data collection. It then provides short provincial summaries, noting specific provincial budgetary commitments to palliative care and a short review of demographic projections for each province.

## Canadians Providing Care

Palliative care is not merely the domain of medical specialist as friends and families are a significant resource in end-of-life care. Approximately **3.7 million** Canadians report providing some element of end-of-life care to a friend or family member.<sup>1</sup> About **621 000** Canadians contributed to providing palliative care in the previous year. Of those providing end-of-life care, **35 percent** did so in their own homes with an additional **17 percent** reporting that they would have preferred to have provided care in their own home.<sup>2</sup> The chart below demonstrates the support caregivers believe would have been needed to facilitated offering care in their own home.



**Note:** Includes caregivers who would have preferred providing end-of-life care in their own home. Respondents were able to provide multiple conditions. Therefore, responses will not total 100%. **Source:** Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, 2012.<sup>3</sup>

1 End of Life Care, 2012 (2015). *Spotlight on Canadians: Fact Sheet*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014004-eng.htm>

2 Ibid.

3 Source: Reproduced from End of Life Care, 2012 (2015). *Spotlight on Canadians: Fact Sheet*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014004-eng.htm>

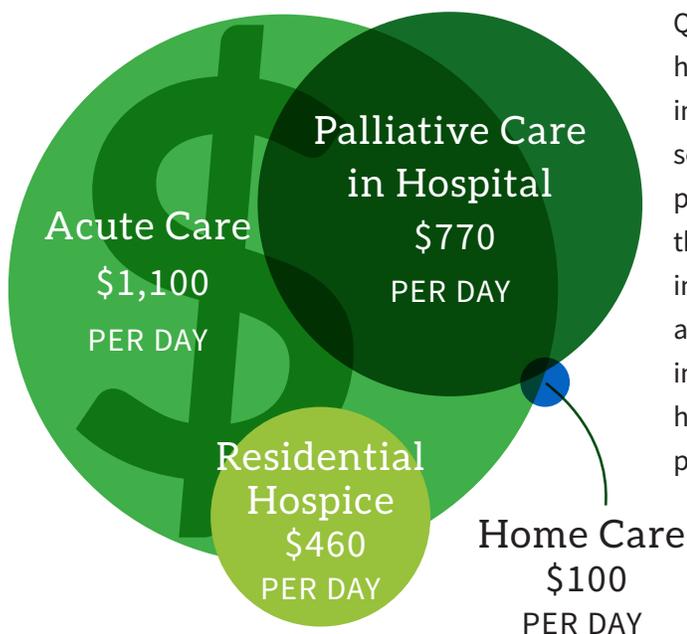
## The Growing Need for End-of-life Care

It's well established that the need for end-of-life care will only increase in the coming decades. A CHPCA report notes that **75 percent of deaths** occur in people **over 65 years of age**.

<sup>4</sup> The portion of seniors age 65 and older in the population will increase from **15** percent as of 2013 to between **24** and **28** percent within the next 50 years. The steepest rate of aging will occur between now and 2030.<sup>5</sup> The number of Canadians 80 years and over will increase most rapidly between 2026 and 2045.<sup>6</sup> End-of-life care will only become a more urgent issue in the years ahead.



## Estimated Costs for Quality Palliative Care



Quality end-of-life care honours the dignity of the human person and for that reason alone is worth the investment. Palliative care also makes strong fiscal sense. According to administrative data from Ontario, palliative care delivered in an acute care setting costs the health care system about **\$1,100** per day. Delivered in a palliative care unit within a hospital, care costs approximately **\$770** per day and about **\$460** per day in residential hospice. Palliative care delivered at home costs about **\$100** dollars per day but family care providers bear additional costs in this setting.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> CHPCA Fact Sheet – Hospice Palliative Care in Canada (2014, October). Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. Retrieved from [http://www.chpca.net/media/330558/Fact\\_Sheet\\_HPC\\_in\\_Canada%20Spring%202014%20Final.pdf](http://www.chpca.net/media/330558/Fact_Sheet_HPC_in_Canada%20Spring%202014%20Final.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Nora Bohnert, Jonathan Chagnon and Patrice Dion (2015). Population projections for Canada (2013 to 2063), Provinces and Territories (2013 to 2038). Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-520-x/91-520-x2014001-eng.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Office of the Auditor General of Ontario (2014). “Chpt 3, sec. 3.08: Palliative care.” 2014 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario.

## Challenges in Measuring the Healthcare Component of Palliative Care

Data collection on palliative care is hampered by little consistency in definitions, an array of delivery systems, and various health authorities administering end-of-life care in any one province. Some regions such as the Edmonton Health Authority studiously collect data and evaluate services while other regions of the country are far less equipped. For this reason, data is often approximate or incomplete. It may be possible to mine more data from regional health authorities and provincial ministry of health sources and budget documents.

The Canadian Medical Association reports that fewer than **30 percent** of people who died in 2014 had access to palliative care.<sup>8</sup> One reason put forward for low access to care is the lack of specific palliative care training and physicians dedicated to end-of-life care.

## How Many Palliative Care Physicians are Practicing in Canada?

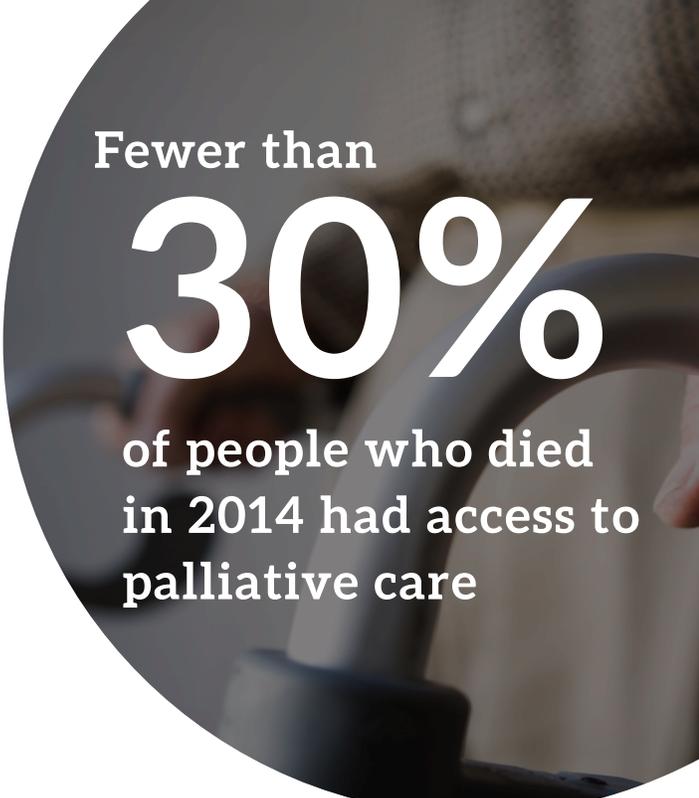
In a February 2015 brief, the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians noted that while the society has over 350 member doctors, “there is no reliable data on the number of palliative care physicians in Canada.”<sup>9</sup> The society suggests that the diverse training, background and amount of time dedicated to a practice that has historically not been considered a specialty, makes collecting data difficult. The society notes that many of its members are family physicians who provide palliative care to their own patients or within their own communities.<sup>10</sup>

Determining the number of dedicated palliative care beds in Canada is hampered by the same challenges, not the least is the various care settings in which palliative care is administered. One source of accessible data on dedicated beds comes from residential hospices. Utilizing data from virtual hospice.ca, provincial health documents, provincial hospice associations, press releases and news items, I was able to determine that there are **approximately 88 operating residential hospices** in Canada accounting for **more than 849 beds**. These numbers will continue to increase over the next several years as several provinces have released plans to fund the expansion of residential hospice care.

8 End-of-Life Care: A National Dialogue (2014). Ottawa: Canadian Medical Association. Retrieved from <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/end-of-life-care-report-e.pdf>

9 Commentary on the Number of Palliative Care Physicians in Canada (2015). CSPCP. Retrieved from <http://www.cspcp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Number-of-Palliative-Physicians-in-Canada.pdf>

10 Ibid.



Fewer than  
**30%**  
of people who died  
in 2014 had access to  
palliative care

## Provinces by the numbers

It is reasonable to assert that provincial commitments to providing palliative care are influenced by health transfers from the federal government. At a recent session of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, federal health minister Jane Philpott indicated that a “good portion” of a \$3 billion promised during the election to fund home care could go towards palliative care but would depend on Health Accord negotiations.<sup>11</sup>

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

In a 2014 presentation, researchers Pippa Hawley and Konrad Fassbender stated there were **377 hospice and palliative care beds** in BC.<sup>12</sup> Utilizing data from other sources would suggest that at least **142 of those beds** are provided by **13 residential hospices**.<sup>13</sup>

*Demographics:* In 2013 people ages 65 years old and older accounted for **16.4** percent of the province’s population. That portion will increase to between **23.9** percent and **27** percent by 2038. This exceeds the national average.<sup>14</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 15,633 people from BC died in hospital accounting for 51.7 percent of deaths.<sup>15</sup>

*Budget measures:* In the 2013/2014 provincial budget, \$2 million in one-time funding was directed to the BC Centre for Palliative Care and \$8 million for hospice organizations. The province promised to double the number of hospice beds by 2020.<sup>16</sup> The 2015 budget allocated \$10 million for hospice services.<sup>17</sup>

### ALBERTA

Alberta has **at least 11 residential hospices** accounting for **at least 152 beds**.<sup>18</sup> Dedicated palliative care beds are also available in local hospitals with at least nine local support organizations. The Edmonton Zone Palliative Care Program uses a community-based model to improve access to palliative care in the best setting for particular patients.<sup>19</sup>

*Demographics:* In 2013 people ages 65 years old and older accounted for **11.2** percent of the province’s population. That portion will increase to between **16.9** percent and **19.6** percent by 2038. Alberta will remain the youngest province.<sup>20</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 12,653

11 Kyle Duggan (2016, April 11). Philpott survives first grilling by health committee. *iPolitics*. Retrieved from <https://ipolitics.ca/2016/04/11/philpott-survives-first-grilling-by-health-committee/>

12 Pippa Hawley and Konrad Fassbender, “Universal access to palliative care; how is BC doing?” (Presentation, Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver BC, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014).

13 Calculations by author based on data from virtualhospice.ca and hospice websites.

14 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

15 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

16 BC Budget Speech 2015 (2015). Balanced Budget 2015. Retrieved from [http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2015/speech/2015\\_Budget\\_Speech.pdf](http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2015/speech/2015_Budget_Speech.pdf)

17 2015 BC Budget: Instant Analysis (2015). H and K Insight British Columbia Public Affairs. Vancouver: Hill and Knowlton Strategies. Retrieved from <http://hkstrategies.ca/insight/2015-bc-budget-instant-analysis/>

18 Calculations by author based on data from virtualhospice.ca, hospice websites and other documents.

19 Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, Palliative Care in the Community: An Environmental Scan of Frameworks and Indicators, the Way Forward initiative: An Integrated Palliative Approach to care, 2013 p. 25. Retrieved from <http://www.hpcintegration.ca/media/43475/TWF-Environmental%20Scan%20Report%20EN%20FINAL.pdf>

20 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

people from Alberta died in hospital accounting for 57.5 percent of deaths.<sup>21</sup>

*Budget measures:* The 2015 provincial budget did not specifically mention palliative care but did pledge \$40 million for long-term care in 2016/17 and \$80 million the following budget year. The province also committed \$30 million in 2016/17 and \$60 million in 2017/18 to phase in a new model of home care.<sup>22</sup>

## SASKATCHEWAN

The province has a Palliative Care Steering Committee and many of the palliative care services are administered under the Home Care Program, though palliative care is not limited to home care.<sup>23</sup> Saskatchewan has **one residential hospice with 10 beds**. There are **9 acute palliative care beds in Regina and 14 in Saskatoon**. According to palliative care doctor Lawrence Clein, there are only **four full-time palliative care physicians** in the province.<sup>24</sup>

*Demographics:* People 65 years old and older accounted for 14.4 percent of the population in 2013. People over 65 years old will account for between 19.4 percent and 22.7 percent of the population by 2038.<sup>25</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 4,847 people from Saskatchewan died in hospital accounting for 52.7 percent of deaths.<sup>26</sup>

*Budget measures:* The 2015/2016 provincial budget does not specifically identify palliative care, but does commit \$10 million in new funding for senior care with \$2 million to increase flexibility within home care.<sup>27</sup>

## MANITOBA

Palliative care in Manitoba can be accessed through the regional health authorities and is provided in acute care, long-term care and home care settings.<sup>28</sup> There are **three residential hospices** accommodating **20 beds**.<sup>29</sup> Manitoba is also home to [virtualhospice.ca](http://virtualhospice.ca), an online resource for patients, caregivers and professionals.

*Demographics:* In 2013 the portion of people 65 and older was **14.4** percent. That portion will expand to between **19.8** percent and **22.1** percent by 2038.<sup>30</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 8,493 people from Manitoba died in hospital accounting for 84.4 percent of deaths.<sup>31</sup>

21 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

22 Alberta Budget 2015. Supporting Jobs. Supporting Families. The Alberta Way. Fiscal Plan Volume. Retrieved from <http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2015-october/fiscal-plan-complete.pdf>

23 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 26.

24 Lawrence J. Clein (2016, January 11). Viewpoint: Improve palliative hospice care in Sask. *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*. Retrieved from <http://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/letters/viewpoint-improve-palliative-hospice-care-in-sask>

25 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

26 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

27 Saskatchewan Provincial Budget 15-16. Keeping Saskatchewan Strong. Retrieved from <http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2015-16/201516Budget.pdf>

28 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 29.

29 Calculations by author based on data from [virtualhospice.ca](http://virtualhospice.ca) and hospice websites.

30 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

31 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

*Budget measures:* Recent budgets have not specifically identified palliative care but budget lines for long-term care and home care have been increasing year over year.<sup>32</sup>

## ONTARIO

The province funds approximately **34 residential hospices** with over **250 beds**, though palliative care is delivered in various settings from acute care to home care.<sup>33</sup> Government estimates suggest 13 500 hospice volunteers supported over 17 000 in-home clients and 4000 people at the end of life a year.<sup>34</sup>

*Demographics:* People 65 years old and older accounted for **15.2** percent of the population in 2013. People over 65 years old will account for between **23.8** percent and **26.2** percent of the population by 2038.<sup>35</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 52,909 people from Ontario died in hospital accounting for 58.3 percent of deaths.<sup>36</sup>

*Budget measures:* In a 2016 announcement, the province committed \$75 million in new funds over three years for palliative care. This pledge increased the total three year funding commitment for hospice and palliative care to \$155 million. The province states that in addition to funding current hospices, the money will create up to 20 additional residential hospices.<sup>37</sup>

## QUEBEC

The Réseau de Soins Palliatifs du Quebec reports that the province has **29 residential hospices** with **245 beds**.<sup>38</sup> Palliative care is also provided in a variety of care settings from acute care to home care at the regional level. A provincial policy for palliative and end-of-life care was approved in 2004 and additional policies and indicators have been developed since then.<sup>39</sup>

*Demographics:* In 2013 the portion of people 65 and older was **16.6** percent. That portion will expand to between **24.3** percent and **26.1** percent by 2038.<sup>40</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 49,150 people from Quebec died in hospital accounting for 80.9 percent of deaths.<sup>41</sup> In Quebec, in hospital deaths include residential and long-term care centres, which accounts for the

---

[www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509](http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509)

32 2015 Manitoba Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016. Retrieved from [http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget15/papers/r\\_and\\_e.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget15/papers/r_and_e.pdf)

33 Calculations based on Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2016, March 11). News Release: Province strengthens end-of-life care with \$75 million investment. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2016/03/province-strengthens-end-of-life-care-with-75-million-investment.html>

and by author based on data from virtualhospice.ca and hospice websites.

34 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2016, March 11). News Release: Province strengthens end-of-life care with \$75 million investment. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2016/03/province-strengthens-end-of-life-care-with-75-million-investment.html>

35 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

36 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

37 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2016, March 11). News Release: Province strengthens end-of-life care with \$75 million investment. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2016/03/province-strengthens-end-of-life-care-with-75-million-investment.html>

38 See Réseau de Soins Palliatifs du Quebec [www.aqsp.org/ressources](http://www.aqsp.org/ressources)

39 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 33.

40 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

41 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

higher than average number of hospital deaths.

*Budget measures:* In a 2015 announcement, the province committed \$10 million a year for 5 years to increase palliative care beds from 825 to 873. An additional \$4.5 was promised to support family caregivers.<sup>42</sup>

## NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick's Extra-Mural Program has been providing in-home palliative care for over 30 years. The province has **two residential hospices** with a total of **20 beds**.<sup>43</sup> Palliative care is provided through various settings at the regional level. A Palliative Care Advisory Committee was established in 2012 to develop a provincial strategy.<sup>44</sup>

*Demographics:* People 65 years old and older accounted for **17.6** percent of the population in 2013. People over 65 years old will account for between **30.9** percent and **32.6** percent of the population by 2038.<sup>45</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 3,966 people from New Brunswick died in hospital accounting for 61.6 percent of deaths.<sup>46</sup> A Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) report states that between 2007 and 2008, 64.4 percent of patients who died in acute care received some form of palliative care.<sup>47</sup>

*Budget measures:* Recent provincial budgets do not specifically identify palliative care services. Much of the current funding flows through the Extra-Mural Program.

## NOVA SCOTIA

The province administers palliative care through regional teams in all 9 district health authorities and through palliative care units in 5 of the district health authorities as of 2013.<sup>48</sup> Although palliative care is administered in long-term care facilities, there are no specifically designated palliative care beds in these facilities. Nova Scotia **does not currently have any residential hospices**.

*Demographics:* In 2013 the portion of the population aged 65 and over was **17.7** percent. By 2038, the portion of the population 65 and over will be between **30** and **32.2** percent.<sup>49</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 4,885 people from Nova Scotia died in hospital accounting for 58.1 percent of deaths.<sup>50</sup> A 2011 CIHI report states that 61.6 percent of acute hospital deaths involved some form of palliative care.<sup>51</sup>

---

42 Caroline Plante (2016, November 16). Quebec promises more palliative care. *Montreal Gazette*. Retrieved from <http://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/quebec-promises-more-palliative-care>

43 Calculations by author based on data from virtualhospice.ca and hospice websites.

44 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 34.

45 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

46 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

47 Canadian Institute for Health Information (2011). Health Care Use at the End of Life in Atlantic Canada, Table 11, p. 19. Retrieved from <https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?pf=PFC1629&lang=en&media=0>

48 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 35.

49 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

50 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

51 Canadian Institute for Health Information (2011). Health Care Use at the End of Life in Atlantic Canada, Table 11, p. 19. Retrieved from

*Budget measures:* In 2014 the province budgeted \$1 million for the development of a palliative care strategy. The 2016 budget pledges \$1.8 million toward the Caregiver Benefit to help 385 family caregivers.<sup>52</sup>

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Palliative care is delivered in long-term care and home care settings through an integrated palliative care program with two hospitals. **A 10 bed palliative care facility was opened in 2015.**<sup>53</sup>

*Demographics:* In 2013, people aged 65 and older accounted for **17.3** percent of the population. That percentage will increase to between **26.9** percent and **30.2** percent by 2038.<sup>54</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 699 people from PEI died in hospital accounting for 54.3 percent of deaths.<sup>55</sup> A 2011 CIHI report states that 27.4 percent of acute hospital deaths involved some form of palliative care.<sup>56</sup>

*Budget measures:* The 2015/2016 provincial budget increased spending on home care, palliative and geriatric care. According to budget line figures, spending on equipment and materials and supplies decreased while administrative and salary costs increased.<sup>57</sup>

## NEWFOUNDLAND

The Regional Health Authorities oversee palliative care in Newfoundland. There are currently **no residential hospices** in the province. The Eastern Health Region has a palliative care leadership team and the regional medical director of palliative care believes the region is at 50 percent of where it should be as a program, though she notes the region has made significant advances.<sup>58</sup>

*Demographics:* People 65 years old and older accounted for **17.1** percent of the population in 2013. People over 65 years old will account for between **31.6** percent and **35.9** percent of the population by 2038.<sup>59</sup> This is the highest projection people 65 and over of all provinces and territories. In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 2966 people from Newfoundland died in hospital accounting for 64 percent of deaths.<sup>60</sup> A 2011 CIHI report states that 54.2 percent of acute hospital

---

<https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?pf=PFC1629&lang=en&media=0>

52 Nova Scotia Finance and Treasury Board (2015). Budget Highlights for Fiscal Year 2015-16. Retrieved from <http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20150409002>

53 CBC News (2015, March 27). Charlottetown's 5.6 million palliative care center opens. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/charlottetown-s-5-6m-palliative-care-centre-opens-1.3013058>

54 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

55 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

56 Canadian Institute for Health Information (2011). Health Care Use at the End of Life in Atlantic Canada, Table 11, p. 19. Retrieved from <https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?pf=PFC1629&lang=en&media=0>

57 Department of Finance (2015) PEI Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/estbud-get2015.pdf>

58 CBC News (2016, February 21). Palliative care in Newfoundland headed in the right direction, says director. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/palliative-care-newfoundland-headed-right-direction-doctor-1.3452086>

59 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

60 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

deaths involved some form of palliative care.<sup>61</sup>*Budget measures:* The recent provincial budget doesn't specifically note funding for palliative care.

## YUKON

Palliative care is provided in various settings from hospitals to homecare. Much of the palliative care outside of Whitehorse is provided by advance practice nurses working with home care nurses.<sup>62</sup> Some patients receive palliative services through Alberta and British Columbia.<sup>63</sup> There are **no residential hospices** in Yukon.

*Demographics:* People 65 years old and older accounted for **9.9** percent of the population in 2013. People over 65 years old will account for between **16.3** percent and **21.8** percent of the population by 2038.<sup>64</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 120 people from Yukon died in hospital accounting for 58.3 percent of deaths.<sup>65</sup>

*Budget measures:* Palliative care was formally funded through the federal Territorial Health Fund until 2015 and is now funded by the territory.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Palliative care is provided through a number of health and care settings. NWT have 9 long-term care facilities but **no residential hospices**.<sup>66</sup>

*Demographics:* In 2013 the portion of the population aged 65 and over was **6.1** percent. By 2038, the portion of the population 65 and over will be between **14.4** and **16.2** percent.<sup>67</sup> In 2012 (the most recent year Statistics Canada has on record), 110 people from Northwest Territories died in hospital accounting for 55 percent of deaths.<sup>68</sup>

*Budget measures:* Palliative care does not receive specific mention in the most recent budget.

## NUNAVUT

While palliative care is provided across various care settings, there is no consistent territorial approach. There are **no dedicated palliative care beds** or **residential hospices** in Nunavut.

*Demographics:* In 2013 the portion of the population aged 65 and over was **3.5** percent. By 2038, the portion of the population 65 and over will be between **7.7** and **8.8** percent.<sup>69</sup> In 2012 (the most recent

---

61 Canadian Institute for Health Information (2011). Health Care Use at the End of Life in Atlantic Canada, Table 11, p. 19. Retrieved from <https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?pf=PFC1629&lang=en&media=0>

62 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 38.

63 Ibid.

64 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

65 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

66 CHPCA (2013). An environmental scan, p. 39.

67 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

68 Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>

69 Bohnert, Chagnon and Dion (2015). Population projections.

year Statistics Canada has on record), 63 people from Nunavut died in hospital accounting for 39.1 percent of deaths.<sup>70</sup>

*Budget measures:* Palliative care does not receive specific reference in the 2016 budget.

## Conclusion

The diverse terminology and delivery of palliative care across the country poses a challenge for data collection. At the same time, palliative care resources in Canada appear to be growing. It may be possible with more dedicated resources to gather data from regional health authorities, budget documents and other localized sources that would allow for greater clarity on the delivery of palliative care in Canada.

---

<sup>70</sup> Statistics Canada (2016). CANSIM 102-0509 Deaths in hospital and elsewhere, Canada, provinces and territories. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1020509>