



A Busy Fall Ahead for Palliative Care and Grief Support in Nova Scotia

Summer is beginning to wind down, and NSHPCA is preparing for a busy fall of learning, collaboration and community engagement across Nova Scotia.

National Non-Profit Day on August 17 is also an opportunity to recognize the incredible contribution of

Nova Scotia's non-profit organizations, staff and volunteers. Across our sector, community organizations play an essential role in supporting people and families through serious illness, dying, death and grief. Their work strengthens communities, fills important gaps and ensures compassionate support is available closer to home.

From the launch of the next round of **Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants** to the **Nova Scotia Grief Alliance Symposium**, the months ahead will provide opportunities for organizations, healthcare professionals, volunteers and community partners to connect, share knowledge and strengthen supports across the province.

We're also excited to share that NSHPCA is currently developing a printed version of the **Healing Pathways – Grieving Well™ Online Directory**, making it easier for people to find grief and bereavement supports available in communities across Nova Scotia. If you would like to receive a copy for your office or organization once it becomes available, please email mkydd@nshpca.ca.



Coming Soon: 2027 Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants

The next round of Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants is coming soon.

Non-profit organizations, as well as community-based organizations working in partnership with non-profits, will once again have an opportunity to seek funding for community-led initiatives

supporting grief, bereavement and emotional wellness across Nova Scotia.

An information webinar will be held **September 17 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.** Please register [HERE](#).

More information about eligibility, application guidelines and the 2027 funding cycle will be available in September.

Learn more about Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants [HERE](#).



Healing Pathways
COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANTS

coming soon



The next round of Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants is on the way - and we're inviting non-profits, as well as community-based organizations partnered with non-profits across Nova Scotia, to apply for support in delivering meaningful, healing work.

Stay tuned for details on how to apply for the 2027 Healing Pathways Community Funding Grants.

NSHPCA
Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association

NOVA SCOTIA

<https://nshpca.ca/healing-pathways/>



NOVA SCOTIA
griefalliance
SYMPOSIUM
MOBILIZING GRIEF - BUILDING NETWORKS OF CARE

2026 THEME
MOBILIZING Grief
BUILDING NETWORKS OF CARE

Connecting grief professionals to learn, collaborate and strengthen grief support across Nova Scotia.

NOVEMBER 20, 2026
BEST WESTERN PLUS DARTMOUTH

LEARN MORE AT
nsgriefalliance.com



Nova Scotia Grief Alliance Symposium Returns November 20, 2026

Grief professionals from across Nova Scotia will come together on Thursday, November 20, 2026, at the Best Western Plus Dartmouth for the annual Nova Scotia Grief Alliance Symposium.

The 2026 symposium theme, "***Mobilizing Grief: Building Networks of Care***," recognizes that grief is a universal human experience and that meaningful support requires

coordinated action across healthcare, education, workplaces, community organizations, and government. The symposium will bring together healthcare professionals, educators, researchers, community organizations, volunteers, policymakers, spiritual care providers, and people with lived experience to explore innovative approaches that strengthen grief support and build more connected, grief-aware communities throughout Nova Scotia.

Following last year's gathering of approximately 140 participants, additional tickets will be made available for 2026. Attendance is free, with registration opening on **September 15th** on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find out more at nsgriefalliance.com/grief-symposium.



Upcoming Community Events

There are several opportunities for learning, connection and community engagement coming up across Nova Scotia and nationally this fall. Here are a few events currently featured on the NSHPCA Community Events calendar:

Sacred Grief Retreat – August 15 | Port Hawkesbury

A one-day Sacred Grief Retreat will take place at the Evergreen Club in Port Hawkesbury, offering an opportunity for participants to gather in a supportive setting focused on grief.

CMT Community BBQ and Backpack Giveaway – August 22 | Cherry Brook

Hosted by HRM Community Safety, this community event takes place at Graham Creighton Junior High School in Cherry Brook and brings community members together ahead of the new school year.

Good Life, Good Death Conference – October 23 | Arichat

The Seniors Take Action Coalition will host the Good Life, Good Death Conference at École Beau-Port in Arichat. Save the date for this one-day community event focused on conversations around living, aging and end of life.

Canadian Children's Grief Symposium – November 12–13 | Virtual

Presented by the Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief, this two-day virtual symposium brings together those interested in strengthening knowledge and practice related to supporting grieving children and youth.

The Power of Music in Care – November 14 | Halifax

The MUSIC CARE CONFERENCE 2026, presented by MUSIC CARE by Room 217, takes place at Dalhousie University. The one-day conference explores the role and potential of music within care environments.

More events and registration information are available through the [NSHPCA Community Events Calendar](#).

Upcoming Educational Offerings & Roundtable

International Overdose Awareness Day Mini Series – August 31

Join Dr. Marcus Greatheart for *Remaining Human while working in Systems where Grief is a Constant Companion*. This virtual session will explore the realities of working in environments where grief and loss are ongoing experiences and how we can sustain our humanity while supporting others.

Northern Region Roundtable – October 2

Grief Alliance partners and interest holders from across the Northern Region are invited to the Pictou County Wellness Centre for an opportunity to connect, strengthen relationships and contribute to building more grief-aware communities.

The Hidden Weight of Care – October 20

Mia Robertson presents *The Hidden Weight of Care: Navigating Professional Grief in Veteran Long Term Care*. This virtual session will explore the often-unrecognized grief experienced by professionals who develop meaningful relationships with the people in their care.

Explore and register for these upcoming webinars and events at nsgriefalliance.com/events.



Building grief-aware communities across Nova Scotia.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW!



The Hidden Weight of Care:
Navigating Professional Grief in Veteran Long Term Care

Presenter: Mia Robertson

Date: October 20, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM AST
Format: VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

NEW!



International Overdose Awareness Day Mini Series:
Remaining Human while working in Systems where Grief is a Constant Companion

Speaker: Dr. Marcus Greatheart

Date: August 31, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM AST / 2:00 PM PDT
Format: VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

SAVE THE DATE!

Grief Alliance Northern Region Roundtable

Date: October 2, 2026
Location: Pictou County Wellness Centre
Attendees: Northern Region Partners & Interest Holders



SCAN TO REGISTER



LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: nsgriefalliance.com/events

South Shore Hospice Names First Executive Director

The **South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society** has reached an important milestone with the appointment of Denise Green as its first Executive Director.

Green brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in fundraising, partnerships, communications and organizational development, including senior roles with Autism Nova Scotia, Mount Saint Vincent University, United Way Halifax and the Prescott Group.

Born and raised in Lunenburg, she also brings deep connections to the communities the Society serves. The new leadership role will help the Society build on the work of its board, volunteers, donors and supporters while continuing to expand compassionate hospice and palliative care services across Lunenburg and Queens counties.

Congratulations, Denise.

[Read the full story.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society Names First Executive Director

We're pleased to share that **Denise Green** has been appointed as the first Executive Director of the South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society.

Denise brings more than 20 years of leadership experience and deep connections to the South Shore as the organization continues to grow and expand compassionate hospice and palliative care.



Compassion.
Support.
Community.



Denise Green
Executive Director

Opening of South Shore Hospice celebrated at Fishermen's Memorial Hospital

A significant milestone for hospice care on Nova Scotia's South Shore was celebrated recently as all five hospice beds at Fishermen's Memorial Hospital became fully operational. The dedicated hospice space provides patients and families with greater access to specialized, compassionate end-of-life care close to home.



The celebration also recognized the community partners, donors, volunteers and healthcare providers who helped make the hospice possible. The South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society, Health Services Foundation of the South Shore and Fishermen's Memorial Hospital Auxiliary contributed significantly to creating comfortable, welcoming spaces for patients and their families.

Read the [full story](#) from Nova Scotia Health.

National Children's Hospice Palliative Care Day - October 8, 2026



The Canadian Hospice Palliative care Association is pleased to share the theme for the **2026 National Children's Hospice Palliative Care Day** awareness campaign:

Short Lives Can't Wait

Developed by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) in partnership with **Canada's Pediatric Palliative Care Alliance (CPPCA)**, this year's campaign highlights the urgent need to improve access to children's hospice palliative care across Canada.

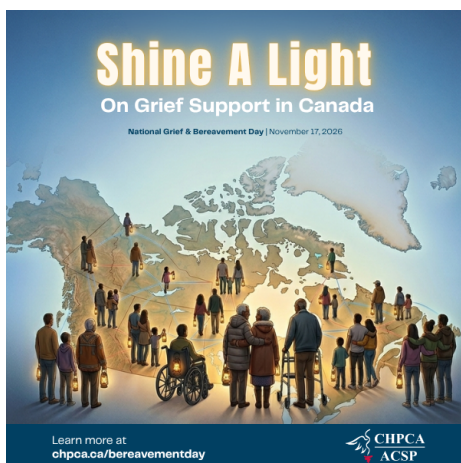
Every year, thousands of children living with serious illnesses and their families face barriers to accessing the specialized care and support they need. Through Short Lives Can't Wait, we are calling on governments, health systems, workplaces, educators, community organizations, and Canadians to work together to close the gap between the care families receive today and the high-quality, family-centred care every child deserves.

This year's campaign focuses on four advocacy priorities:

- **Equitable Access to Care** – Expanding access to children's hospice palliative care in every region of Canada and integrating palliative care earlier throughout a child's illness.
- **Support for Families and Caregivers** – Recognizing family caregivers as essential partners in care and improving access to respite, practical supports, and caregiver resources.
- **Grief and Bereavement Support** – Ensuring families have access to culturally safe, equitable, and ongoing grief and bereavement supports before and after a child's death.
- **Building a Stronger Future** – Strengthening research, education, workforce development, collaboration, and sustainable investment in children's hospice palliative care.

The message behind Short Lives Can't Wait is simple: while a child's life may be short, every moment matters. Early access to children's hospice palliative care improves quality of life, eases suffering, supports families through difficult decisions, and provides ongoing grief and bereavement care.

We invite you to help raise awareness by participating in this year's campaign. Please visit our awareness page to learn how: <https://www.chpca.ca/awareness/national-childrens-hospice-palliative-care-day/>



National Grief and Bereavement Day - November 17, 2026

The **Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA)** is pleased to announce the theme for National Grief and Bereavement Day 2026, taking place on November 17th: **Shine a Light on Grief Support in Canada.**

Grief and bereavement are universal experiences that touch individuals, families, workplaces, schools, and communities across the country. Yet many people continue to navigate loss without the understanding, support, and resources they need. Conversations about

grief are often avoided or misunderstood, and access to support remains inconsistent for many Canadians.

The 2026 theme is a call to bring greater visibility to the realities of grief and the importance of compassionate support. It recognizes that grief is a natural part of life and that everyone deserves access to understanding, connection, support, and appropriate resources when navigating loss.

Learn more about [National Grief and Bereavement Day 2026](https://www.chpca.ca/awareness/national-grief-and-bereavement-day/), discover opportunities to get involved, campaign resources, and ways you can help shine a light on grief support in your community by visiting the CHPCA website: <https://www.chpca.ca/awareness/national-grief-and-bereavement-day/>

Why Membership Matters



The graphic is a promotional poster for NSHPCA membership. It features a dark purple background on the left with the NSHPCA logo (a yellow flower-like icon) and the text 'NSHPCA Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association'. Below this, it says 'Become a Member' in large white letters, followed by 'And be part of the community shaping hospice, palliative care, and grief support in Nova Scotia.' in orange. On the right, a light grey background lists three membership levels: Individual (\$55), Hospice Societies & Foundations (\$100), and Organizations (small/large) (\$150 / \$250). Each level includes a brief description of the benefits.

Membership Levels	
Individual	\$55 Support meaningful change while staying informed and connected.
Hospice Societies & Foundations	\$100 Strengthen your impact with peer connection, advocacy, and operational support.
Organizations (small/large)	\$150 / \$250 Lead, collaborate, and influence the future of care.

When you become a member of NSHPCA, you're doing more than joining an association. You're adding your voice to a growing provincial network working to strengthen hospice palliative care and grief support across Nova Scotia.

Membership connects individuals, healthcare professionals, hospice societies and organizations with opportunities to learn, collaborate, share expertise and influence the future of care. Members receive access to sector updates, educational and networking opportunities, conference savings, voting privileges at the NSHPCA Annual General Meeting and associate membership with the [Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association](#).

Most importantly, membership strengthens NSHPCA's collective voice. The more people and organizations represented at the table, the stronger our ability to advocate for compassionate, equitable and accessible palliative care and grief support for Nova Scotians. Your membership strengthens the network. Your voice strengthens the sector. Together, we can strengthen care.

[Become an NSHPCA Member.](#)

A small gift can make a meaningful difference.

Whether you give **\$25, \$50**, or choose to contribute monthly, your support helps strengthen hospice palliative care and grief supports for Nova Scotians when they need them most.

Your donation helps connect people and families with trusted resources, education and compassionate community supports through serious illness, dying, death and grief.

Give once or give monthly. Every contribution helps bring compassionate care closer to home.



DONATE TODAY

NSHPCA is a provincial, non-profit organization that provides leadership, education, and advocacy in hospice palliative care, grief, and emotional wellness. While we do not deliver care directly, our role is to ensure that individuals and families can access compassionate support by strengthening community capacity, sharing information, and supporting those who provide care.



Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association | 647 Bedford Highway | Halifax, NS B3M 0A5 CA

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