



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Making Hospice Palliative Care an Election Issue

Did you know that, in Canada, the average cost per day of an acute care bed is \$1400, compared to the cost of a palliative bed at only \$400/day? And that in Saskatchewan, less than ½ the patients who die in hospital receive palliative care? We need a plan to ensure that *everyone* in Saskatchewan has access to hospice palliative care, earlier in their illness and in the location that is best for them.

Heartland Hospice Moose Jaw needs your help to make Hospice Palliative Care an election issue.

The not-for-profit group wants to encourage the residents of Moose Jaw and area, to visit www.takeaction.cancer.ca and complete the form to challenge our party leaders to make Hospice Palliative Care an integral part of their party platforms. This form will send a letter on your behalf, with a personal message if you wish, to each leader. Once you have completed your challenge, please forward to your friends and family, so that we can show our leaders that access to hospice palliative care in Saskatchewan is important to our community, health region, and province.

By improving palliative care, Saskatchewan can reduce hospital costs, increase quality of life for the patient, and protect families from a potentially crippling financial burden of a critical illness.

Hospice Care takes place in an environment where the care approach is holistic and helps families face life-limiting illness with dignity and comfort surrounded by a circle of support. This care can take place in the home, hospital, or in a designated hospice facility. Heartland Hospice Moose Jaw is committed to providing compassionate, holistic care to those nearing the end of their physical life. The Heartland Hospice vision is to support, educate, and empower hospice clients and their families through networking, public and professional education, advocacy, and community involvement. More information can be found online at www.heartlandhospice.ca.