

Canadian Grief Alliance

Immediate Release | Nov. 16, 2023

Groundbreaking funding to improve support for grieving Canadians

(Winnipeg, Manitoba) – Today the Government of Canada announced \$1 million funding to the Canadian Grief Alliance (CGA) to better support Canadians who are living with grief. The Canadian Grief Alliance partners with the Canadian Virtual Hospice and the Canadian Alliance for Children’s Grief on this work. This funding will enable development of foundational resources and learning opportunities to help Canadians understand and respond to grief. The CGA will deliver an action plan with recommendations to government in 2025.

Paul Adams, spokesperson for the CGA said, “The Government of Canada’s funding marks an important first step in improving support for grieving Canadians. An estimated 10 million Canadians are grieving a death that occurred during the pandemic alone. We look forward to engaging Canadians, and organizations across the country, in a social movement to improve our collective ability to respond to grief.”

Most Canadians are affected by grief - whether related to the death of a person, or the less recognized grief that stems from the loss of a relationship, a life-changing diagnosis, or loss related to any other meaningful aspect of life. Despite grief being a natural, universal experience, many Canadians are uncomfortable talking about it and struggle to respond to others’ grief in a helpful way. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath highlighted the significant gaps in grief support across Canada and the need for improved grief literacy.

“The *Advancing Grief Literacy in Canada* project shows how far we’ve come in our common vision for palliative care in Canada and supporting those experiencing any form of grief. The project will improve access to educational tools and learning opportunities for people who are grieving, as well as their families and friends. I’m grateful to the Canadian Grief Alliance for raising awareness of the importance of palliative care and grief services.”

The Honourable Mark Holland
Canada’s Minister of Health

The Canadian Grief Alliance kicks off its public consultation today and urges Canadians who have experienced any type of loss to participate in this brief survey, to inform their work. The survey closes on Dec. 7, 2023.

[Click here to participate.](#)

Shelly Cory, Executive Director for the Canadian Virtual Hospice stated, “We urge Canadians to share their perspectives on living with all types of losses - death, relationship breakdown, business and job loss.” Cory added, “Your stories about what helped, what was hurtful or harmful, and what support you wish you had access to will contribute to a set of national recommendations to Health Canada and inform resources that help Canadians to support each other.”

Canadian Grief Alliance

Jodi Pereira, Executive Director of the Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief, notes, "It is fitting that this announcement occurs on National Children's Grief and Bereavement Day. We are grateful to the Government of Canada for funding two Canadian Children's Grief Symposium's that will assist specialists, educators, parents, and others to build understanding, best practice, and skills to better support grieving children."

CGA is also announcing the first of its learning opportunities:

- ***Grief and the Holidays webinar***, December 6, 2023, 8:30 pm ET
Grief specialists will explain the often difficult emotions that occur during the holidays and participants can pose questions. Free. [Register](#).
- ***Grief Chats*** monthly webinar series will occur the second Monday of every month starting January 8, 2024, at 8:30 pm ET. Members of the public have the opportunity to share grief experiences and get answers to their questions about loss. Free. [Register](#).

About the Canadian Grief Alliance

The Canadian Grief Alliance (CGA), is a group of leading grief specialists and 160 national and regional health organizations that came together in May 2020 to raise awareness about the impacts of COVID-19 on grief. For the past 3 years, the CGA has actively advocated for improved access to grief support, expanded public education on grief, and dedicated funding for grief research. The CGA is convened by the Canadian Virtual Hospice.

About Canadian Virtual Hospice:

The Canadian Virtual Hospice (CVH) is the world's leading online source of information and support about advanced illness, palliative care, loss and grief. It is recognized for co-designing award-winning knowledge products with diverse populations. It operates: [VirtualHospice.ca](#), [CVHLearningHub.ca](#), [MyGrief.ca](#), [KidsGrief.ca](#), [YouthGrief.ca](#), [VirtualHospice.ca/Caregiving](#), [LivingMyCulture.ca](#), [CaringTogether.life](#), [LivingOutLoud.life](#), [MyGriefToolbox.ca](#), [VirtualHospice.ca/2SLGBTQ](#), [VirtualHospice.ca/MAiD](#) and [CanadianGriefAlliance.ca](#). CVH is a division of the International Centre for Dignity and Palliative Care, Inc. (ICDPC), a registered charity.

About Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief

The Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief (CACG) is the first Canadian national group of professionals working together to build grief informed compassionate communities and ensure the accessibility of well-informed bereavement information and support to grieving children and their families. Our vision is for no child to have to grieve alone and to have the support and resources they need to build hope and resilience for their future. Resulting from a collaborative effort amongst agencies and service providers across the country, the CACG are working to address the barriers experienced by organizations providing services to grieving children and youth and strengthen the supports offered in our local communities.

Canadian Grief Alliance

For further information, please contact:

Nicole Harris
Solv Communications
nharris@solvcommunications.ca
Tel: 204.470.4555

*Production of this document has been made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada.
The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.*