

Name

Email

Dear

I am writing to you to support the Canadian National Grief Strategy proposal (www.canadiangriefalliance.ca) that the Canadian Grief Alliance (CGA), a group of national leaders in grief and bereavement, developed to respond to the volume and complexity of pandemic-related grief. This proposal was put forward to the Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, in May of 2020. The proposal helps address the current and growing plight of over 2.5 million Canadians grieving deaths from all causes since the start of the pandemic.

All deaths during this period have been negatively impacted by public health restrictions designed to contain the virus. Canadians have been left to grieve these deaths in isolation; their grief experience made more complex and complicated by the pandemic. And these numbers will only continue to rise. Limited grief services available pre-pandemic simply cannot meet the growing demand of needs that are currently being experienced. Without good grief services and supports, we know that the mental health risks for Canadians will increase.

Currently, Canada's mental health spending does not include any provisions for grief and bereavement support or services. While additional monies have been allocated to mental health services over the past 11 months, grief continues to fall through the cracks. Indigenous Peoples, those living in rural and remote areas, children and immigrants and refugees are disproportionately impacted.

It is anticipated that pandemic-related grief will have significant, long-term effects on health costs and our economy. The CGA expects this fallout to be substantial. A national response to pandemic-related grief is urgently needed.

More than 150 organizations support the CGA National Grief Strategy. National organizations supporting the CGA proposal include:

- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Psychiatric Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Association of Spiritual Care

*(see complete list below)

While the CGA has not yet received a comprehensive response from the federal government on its urgent call for a National Grief Strategy, we are hopeful that your support will encourage the Minister to take very seriously the grief of so many Canadians and to make it a priority, now. The CGA stands ready to support the federal government in implementing a Canadian Grief Strategy, thereby urgently responding to bereaved Canadians' growing and unique needs.

Please advise Minister Hajdu that you support the urgent need for a federally funded National Grief Strategy to improve timely access to grief services that will help to mitigate both the health and economic fallout expected from pandemic-related grief.

Sincerely,

National

Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Psychiatric Association
Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Association for Spiritual Care
The Enchanté Network
Young Adult Cancer Canada
Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
Canadian Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Network
All Nations Hope Network
Dying With Dignity Canada
Canadian Association for Marriage & Family Therapy
End of Life Doula Association of Canada
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada
Canadian Alliance for Grieving Children and Youth
Canada Bereavement Registry
Canadian Integrative Network for Death Education and Alternatives
Schizophrenia Society of Canada
Melanoma Network of Canada
Canadian Health Advocates Inc.
Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

Alberta

Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association
Covenant Health Palliative Institute
Caregivers Alberta
Hospice Calgary
Red Deer Hospice
Hospice Society of Camrose and District
Children's Grief Centre
Healthy Directions
Transitions Music Therapy
Oliver's Funeral Home

British Columbia

BC Hospice Palliative Care Association
BC Centre for Palliative Care
Family Caregivers of BC
Island Health
Vancouver Island Health Authority
BC Bereavement Helpline
Camp Kerry

Kilala Lelum (Urban Indigenous Health & Healing Cooperative)
Abbotsford Hospice Society
Vancouver Hospice Society
Delta Hospice Society
Hospice Society of the Columbia Valley
Prince Rupert and District Hospice Society
Victoria Hospice Society
Peace Arch Hospice Society
Burnaby Hospice Society
Crossroads Hospice Society
100 Mile District Hospice Palliative Care Society
Sea to Sky Hospice Society
Desert Valley Hospice Society
West End Seniors' Network
Moving Forward Family Services
Life and Death Matters
Honour End of Life Care
Pacific Well-Being

Manitoba

Palliative Manitoba
Rainbow Resource Centre
Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.
Cancer Care Navigation Services - Northern Regional Health Authority
Rock Lake Palliative Care
Peguis Home & Community Care
Robert Smith School

New Brunswick

NB COPES Child and Family Grief Center

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Palliative Care Association

Nova Scotia

NS Hospice Palliative Care Association
Doctors Nova Scotia
Caregivers Nova Scotia
Hospice Halifax
Colchester East Hants Hospice Society
Good Grief Halifax

Ontario

Hospice Palliative Care Ontario
Ontario Association of Social Workers
RNAO Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group
Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health at Lakehead University
de Souza Institute
Hope House Community Hospice
Dundas County Hospice
Hospice Outreach Programs of Elgin
Hospice Muskoka
McNally House Hospice
Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care
Hazel Burns Hospice
Hospice Wellington
Dr Bob Kemp Hospice and Bereavement Services
Heart House Hospice
St. Joseph's Hospice Sarnia Lambton
St Joseph's Hospice London
Hospice Northwest
Roger Neilson House
Evergreen Hospice
Hospice Peterborough
Matthews House Hospice
Doane House Hospice
Kensington Health
Near North Palliative Care Network
Bereavement Ontario Network
Bereaved Families of Ontario - South Central Region
Bereaved Families of Ontario – Ottawa
Bereaved Families of Ontario – Kingston
Bereaved Families of Ontario - Midwestern Region
Healing Broken Hearts
Good Grief! Bereavement Healing Services
Gilda's Club of Greater Toronto
The Hummingbird Centre for Hope
Grief Recovery Ontario
Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre
Children and Youth Grief Network
The Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children
Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto
Victorian Order of Nurses - Oxford
Unity Health Toronto
Selah Resources
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry

Prince Edward Island

Hospice PEI

Quebec

Association québécoise de soins palliatifs

McGill Council on Palliative Care

Maison Michel Sarrazin

Réseau Québécois de recherche en soins palliatifs et de fin de vie

Regroupement des Infirmiers-Infirmières Ressources en don d'organes et de tissus du Québec

Palli-aide accompagnement en soins palliatifs Saguenay inc.

Parents Orphelins, l'Association des parents qui vivent un deuil périnatal

Albatros Montréal

Groupe des Aidants du Sud-Ouest Myra's Kids Foundation

West Island Cancer Wellness Center

Hope & Cope

ORA Loss & Living Program, Ste. Genevieve United Church

Unitarian Church of Montreal

ADATH Congregation

Connexions Resource Centre

Saskatchewan

Prairie Hospice Society

Morning Star Lodge, University of Saskatchewan

Augustana Lutheran Church

The Good Foundation Inc.

Territories

Hospice Yukon

And 18 private enterprises.