



# National Physician Survey re Palliative Medicine workforce

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# Project Partners



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# Importance of Palliative Care

- Palliative care provides
  - Better pain & symptom management
  - Better quality of life
  - Better patient and family satisfaction
  - Lower system costs
  - In some cases, increased longevity
- ... but only 30% of Canadians have access to palliative care<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Fact Sheet, 2014



## Growing recognition for improved access to Palliative Care services & supports

- **Motion M-456 passed in Canadian parliament:** Calling for a national strategy for palliative care. Broad support.
- **CMA Resolution 2014:** The Canadian Medical Association will engage in physician human resource planning to develop an appropriate strategy to ensure the delivery of quality palliative end-of-life care throughout Canada. (DM 5-5)



# Why a survey of Canadian physicians ?

- Need to improve access to palliative care services
- There is no comprehensive data about the provision of palliative care in Canada or of the Palliative medicine workforce
- Physicians who practice palliative care may be part-time or full time and may come from a variety of backgrounds ( family medicine, internal medicine, anaesthesia, etc)
- Approvals in place for Royal College subspeciality and Family Medicine Enhanced skills program



# Purpose

Obtain a snapshot of the palliative medicine workforce in Canada, to:

- Create a baseline for future planning
- Measure progress
- Inform negotiations
- Inform a future Palliative Medicine Workforce Plan for Canada



# Topics

- Service models
- Education
- Workload
- Remuneration and payment models
- Factors that attract physicians to palliative medicine
- Barriers to doing palliative medicine



# Methodology

- ✓ Conduct literature search & environmental scan
- ✓ Develop survey instrument
- ✓ Obtain ethics board approval
- ✓ Pilot testing
- ✓ Create a survey cohort database consisting of all CFPC members and Royal College members. Short version for physicians who do not provide Palliative Care
- **ALL physicians who do ANY palliative care are asked to complete the survey**





# Methodology, continued

- Distribute invitations to complete the survey using personal links (November 2014)
- Conduct data cleaning and analysis
- Release & discuss results
- Inform a future Palliative Medicine Workforce Plan for Canada



# Time line

Official release and publicity at the CSPCP's 11 <sup>th</sup> Advanced Learning in Palliative Medicine Conference, Calgary	May 28, 2015
Second release at TVN National Forum in Toronto	June 7, 2015
Publication – time line TBD	



# Future Steps

- Ongoing dissemination and KT
- Development and implementation of a Palliative Medicine Workforce Plan for Canada



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