



Dear Member of the Legislative Assembly,

On behalf of the British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association, we welcome you to our 2nd Annual Breakfast. We at the Association, and at our member organizations throughout the province, are working hard to ensure quality of life for all British Columbians affected by life limiting illness, death, and bereavement. We want you to know about our efforts to achieve quality end-of-life care for all British Columbians and how the provincial government can partner with us to make this happen.

BCHPCA is the respected and trusted voice of hospice palliative care in BC, linking patients and families to a full range of resources and services related to hospice palliative and end-of-life care.

Our mission is simple: **to ensure quality end-of-life care for all British Columbians affected by life limiting illness, death and bereavement.**

There is overwhelming evidence that dying persons and their families are best supported by a system that offers individual choices, empowerment, and kindness. 27,000 persons died in BC last year, and approximately 135,000 individuals were directly impacted by those deaths; yet it is estimated that only 22% of these individuals had access to hospice palliative care. The number of deaths in BC will increase exponentially over the next decade, as a result of growth in overall population and specifically, an aging demographic.

Some call it a Tsunami, a “Silver Tsunami”.

The release in 2006 of *The Provincial Framework for End-of-Life Care* by the Ministry of Health begins to provide a solution, and we applaud these efforts.

One issue, however, stands above all others and we need government action to address it: **Hospice Palliative Care is still not a core funded service and it needs to be.** Legislative change is needed to ensure British Columbians receive the services described in the Provincial Framework.

BCHPCA invites you, our elected officials, to work with us to ensure excellence in the delivery of hospice palliative and end-of-life care in BC. Together, we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Pratt
President
BC Hospice Palliative Care Association