

Ontario Budget 2016 – \$75M New Investment in Community Hospice Palliative Care.

----Through Budget Talks and pre-Budget consultations, the government heard that it was important to increase funding for hospice care communities to support those in need and their families. ----

The Ontario Budget 2016 contains a significant new investment in community hospice palliative care. While the details will be rolled out over the coming weeks, Finance Minister Charles Sousa announced today that the government will invest \$75 million over the next three years, which will bring the total annual investment in the sector to \$155 million.

At the end of the three years, the annual government funding for residential hospices will be \$55 million dollars a year. This number reflects the Government's commitment to extend funding to 20 additional hospices, and we are given to understand that there is also to be an upward adjustment in per bed funding for existing and new hospices. The Government plans to work with Hospice Palliative Care Ontario in the coming weeks to determine the specifics, and of course we will provide all the details to you, as soon as possible.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Government for the new investment, and particularly to recognize the hard work and dedication of MPP John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care. MPP Fraser has spearheaded the end of life care work over the last year, and has brought a passion and commitment that is impressive and deeply appreciated.

Excerpt from Budget 2016 Pages 119 to 120

More Choice and Supports for Palliative Care

The Province's "Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care" report committed to provide Ontarians with the greater choice, access and equity, and clear accountability with respect to palliative and end of life care, along with more supports for caregivers. John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, has been meeting with patients, families and stakeholders across Ontario towards developing a comprehensive provincial palliative and end of life care strategy.

New Funding for Hospice Services

Over the next three years, the government plans to invest an additional \$75 million in community based residential hospice and palliative care, for a total investment of about \$155 million. This will bring the government's funding of residential hospices to more than \$55 million annually at maturity, to help fulfill its commitment to fund 20 more hospices, almost doubling the number of people who will have access to quality end of life care, including in rural areas.