



BY  
 Pallium Canada

# The Palliative Care ECHO Project

Semi-Annual Report

November 2021



## Palliative Care ECHO Project: Semi-Annual Report

Welcome to the first semi-annual report on the Palliative Care ECHO Project.

### About the Palliative Care ECHO Project

The Palliative Care ECHO Project is a 5-year national initiative, led by Pallium Canada and its hub partners from across Canada, that aims to cultivate communities of practice and establish continuous professional development among health care providers across Canada who care for patients with life-limiting illness.



# Project Highlights

## Hub partners

Since officially launching in March 2021, a total of 6 hub partners have joined the project:

- BC Centre for Palliative Care
- Canadian Association for Long Term Care
- Canadian Home Care Association
- Montreal Institute for Palliative Care
- North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network
- North West Regional Palliative Care Program

Hub partners are at the heart of the Palliative Care ECHO Project and are critical to the creation and delivery of ECHO programs that will meet local or regional needs. Through the leadership of these amazing organizations, existing programs and resources can reach more learners and new programs can be rapidly developed, shared and deployed to fill gaps and



# Project Highlights

## ECHO Program Accomplishments

ECHO Programs are in the process of being developed and delivered by both Pallium Canada and its hub partners. Each hub has done an assessment to determine the educational needs of learners within their network. ECHO sessions often include interactive, case-based discussions and will cover a variety of palliative care topics.

Pallium and its hub partners have delivered 3 ECHO series and 6 standalone sessions to date. This includes the successful launch of the Quality Improvement Collaborative Series, which focused on the early identification of patients who would benefit from a palliative care approach as well as the first Personal Support Worker Series. Currently there are 5 ECHO series underway and another 7 series and 4 standalone sessions that are planned to launch in the coming months.

The table below lists the ECHO series and the corresponding stage:

Hub	Delivered	In Progress	Upcoming
Pallium Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal Support Worker Series 1</li><li>• QI Collaborative</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal Support Worker Community of Practice (COP) Series</li><li>• Long-Term Care COP Series</li><li>• Heart COP and Liver COP</li><li>• Primary Care Provider COP</li><li>• Journal Watch</li></ul>
BC Centre for Palliative Care	Psychosocial Series	Paediatric Series	
North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network		Toolkit Series (e.g., the Surprise Question, ESAS, etc.)	
Canadian Home Care Association		Pain and Symptom Management at Home	
Montreal Institute for Palliative Care		Family Caregiver Series	
North West Regional Palliative Care Program		Palliative Care for Rural and Underserved Communities series	
Canadian Association for Long Term Care			Leadership in Long-Term Care Series

In addition to these programs, we have partnered with the CAPACITI program, who offers a free education program for interprofessional primary care teams across Canada who want to learn how to integrate a palliative care approach in their practice. Two introductory sessions were held to share information on the program, and modules have now launched.

# Evaluation and Research

## A New Evaluation and Research Plan

In early 2021, Pallium Canada partnered with the *Dr. Joshua Shadd - Pallium Canada Research Hub* at McMaster University and a team of international experts to develop a research and evaluation plan for the national Palliative Care ECHO Project. An environmental scan was undertaken to inform the new framework. This included a critical review of the literature related to program and education evaluation models, frameworks and approaches.

This framework will guide the evaluation activities related to the Palliative Care ECHO Project programming as well as Pallium Canada's LEAP programs. It describes key areas or constructs that need to be evaluated or studied in order to understand the impact of the programs and their implementation. This framework combines elements from the New World Kirkpatrick Model (NWK) as well as the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research.

Pallium is now in the process of taking steps to implement this evaluation and research plan by updating feedback survey questions and looking at our data capture tools. We will share more information about this research and evaluation work as it evolves.



# Results and Impact

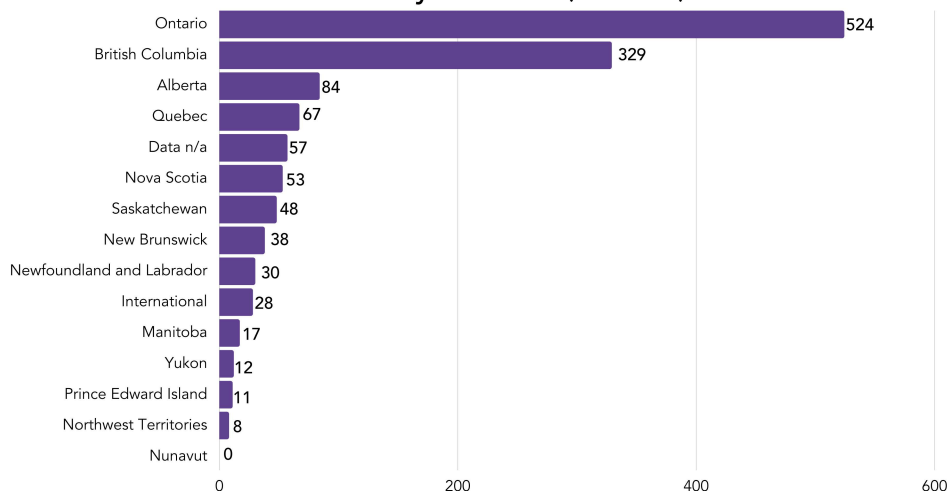
## Palliative Care ECHO Project Reach

Between Pallium and its hub partners, we have held 25 ECHO sessions to date on a variety of topics, which have reached 1,346 learners.

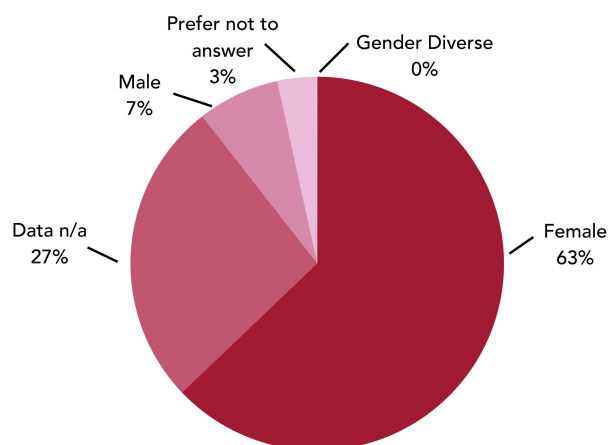
In the first six-months, the Palliative Care ECHO Project has reached:

- Health care providers from almost every province and territory
- Health care providers from many different professions and settings of care

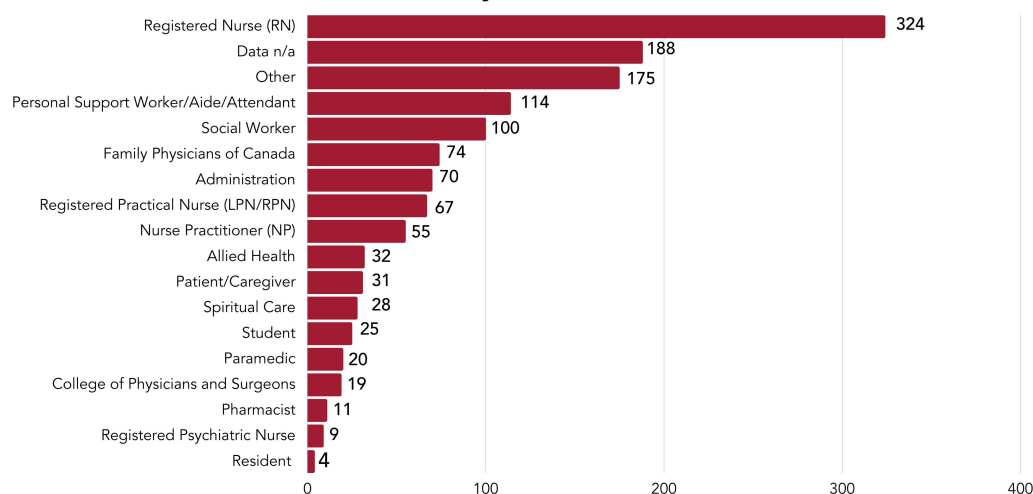
Learners by Province (n=1346)



Learners by Gender (N=1346)



Learners by Role (n=1346)



# Results and Impact

## Learner Experience

Based on what we've been hearing from learners so far, ECHO programs delivered by Pallium and its hub partners are being very well received. Below are results from our initial post session feedback surveys:

Question	n*	% agree or strongly agree
This session was relevant to my practice	231	95.7%
This session met my learning needs	243	95.1%
The overall format of this session was useful	237	95.8%
The presenters were knowledgeable	231	98.3%
There was ample opportunity for discussion	27	100%
I would recommend this session to my colleagues	289	96.2%
Overall, this session was a good learning experience	66	97%

These numbers are lower than our total number of learners as we do not have a 100% response rate; also, some questions were implemented in Q2.

**"Inspiring,  
reassuring,  
relevant..."**

**"Absolutely amazing.  
So informative and  
inspiring."**

**"Very informative—  
hated for it to end..."**

**"Truly wonderful and  
engaging! Thanks so  
much!"**



**"Excellent learning!"**



# Want to learn more?

Stay connected at [www.echopalliative.com](http://www.echopalliative.com) or contact us at [echo@pallium.ca](mailto:echo@pallium.ca)



## Funding

The Palliative Care ECHO Project and the production of this document is supported by a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

