



BY  
 Pallium Canada

# The Palliative Care **ECHO Project**

## Semi-Annual Report

December 2025



## Palliative Care ECHO Project: Semi-Annual Report

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

### About the Palliative Care ECHO Project

The [Palliative Care ECHO Project](#) is a national initiative led by Pallium Canada in collaboration with its 14 Hub Partners located across Canada. It serves as a catalyst for cultivating communities of practice and fostering continuous professional development among health care providers dedicated to caring for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

The Palliative Care ECHO Project offers a wide variety of free ECHO programs on both a national, provincial, and regional level. Through this innovative program, participants gain access to specialized training, interdisciplinary support, and evidence-based resources, empowering them to deliver high-quality palliative care.

## Palliative Care ECHO Project Highlights

### Six years of continuous learning with the Palliative Care ECHO Project

Over the past six years, the Palliative Care ECHO Project has grown into a national community of learning, collaboration and shared expertise. This journey has been made possible thanks to the guidance and expertise of our subject matter experts, the dedication of our learners, and the incredible support of our partners in building local capacity across Canada to provide a palliative care approach to patients and their families.

Since its launch, the Palliative Care ECHO Project has brought together tens of thousands of learners in over 656 webinars, creating more than 40,624 learning encounters and drawing over 63,680 views of webinar recordings. Together with our partners, we have created a unique, national platform for continuous professional development, empowering health care professionals with practical knowledge that they can use to improve palliative care for their patients.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to this community of learning. Your engagement, curiosity and dedication have made this project a truly national effort and a lasting example of what is possible when we learn and grow together to strengthen palliative care across Canada.

## Hub Partners Updates

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 the needs of their learners. 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.



## Program updates

Over the past six months, Pallium and its Hub Partners have run several high-impact programs, including:

### Communities of Practice and Series

The Palliative Care ECHO Project delivers the majority of its content through national, provincial, and regional communities of practice and educational series. These bring together health care professionals with shared interests to foster continued knowledge exchange and interactive, case-based learning. The recordings of all Pallium-run communities of practice and series are available for viewing at [echopalliative.com](http://echopalliative.com).

Below are highlights from the past six months:

#### Pallium Canada

- **[McGill Palliative Care National Grand Rounds Programme](#)** – Hosted by McGill Palliative Care, in partnership with the Palliative Care ECHO Project, this programme provides universal access to the latest research, innovations, and strategies in palliative care. Held simultaneously online and in-person, each session addresses the urgent need for professionals to stay connected and up to date on emerging evidence and best practices.
- **[Community-Based Primary Palliative Care Community of Practice](#)** – This is the fourth series of the accredited community of practice geared toward interprofessional primary care clinicians across Canada who are looking to augment their primary-level palliative care skills and connect with and learn from colleagues providing a palliative care approach.
- **[Paediatric Palliative Care Community of Practice \(in French\)](#)** – In collaboration with Le Phare, Enfants et Familles, Pallium hosted the accredited French-language Community of Practice for paediatric palliative care professionals. Over six webinars, participants connected with French-speaking experts across Canada, engaging in case discussions and exploring essential topics like symptom management, pain approaches, and psychosocial support.

- **Spiritual Care Community of Practice** – In partnership with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care, this second series of this community of practice welcomed health care professionals, system leaders, spiritual care practitioners, and psychospiritual therapists to come together and deepen their understanding of spirituality in palliative and bereavement care.
- **Heart Disease Community of Practice** – Returning for a third series due to popular demand, this accredited community of practice was ideal for individuals with an interest in integrating a palliative care approach for individuals with advanced heart failure. For six sessions, participants explored topics ranging from non-ischemic causes of heart failure to de-prescribing cardiac and other medications.
- **Long-Term Care Quality Improvement Community of Practice (Ontario)** – An action-oriented Community of Practice (COP) geared toward interdisciplinary health care professionals in Ontario who work in long-term care settings and are actively involved in palliative care-related quality improvement initiatives. Members shared lessons learned, received expert advice, and co-developed resources through equity-focused, case-based discussions to enhance care practices and support successful QI project implementation.
- **Interprofessional Palliative Care Community of Practice** – This community of practice was established to meet a need identified by the Palliative Care Coalition of Canada's Education Committee to enhance and promote understanding of various roles of the interprofessional team in the provision of palliative care

## **BC Centre for Palliative Care**

- **Grief and Bereavement Literacy Series** – This series explores unique experiences of grief, including loss after substance use, children's grief, pregnancy and infant loss, and finding support during the holidays. It is designed for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of grief and bereavement, personally or professionally.
- **All Together ECHO Series** – As part of a compassionate communities initiative, this series is ideal for health care providers, volunteers, and community groups exploring Advance Care Planning, serious illness conversations, and fostering support through session topics like compassionate communities, social prescribing, and creating dementia-inclusive spaces.

- **Palliative Nurse Coordinators Series** – Recognizing the importance of supporting nurses' specialized consultant roles as Palliative Coordinators, this invitation-only series builds competency in their roles and increases connectedness between nurse clinicians to network, support and share resources.
- **Advanced Palliative Psychosocial BC Community of Practice: Grief & Bereavement** – A co-creation between Canuck Place Children's Hospice, BCCPC, Lumara Grief & Bereavement Care Society, and Victoria Hospice, this series is being developed by and for BC psychosocial palliative care providers working in clinical roles providing care to adults, children, and families who are affected by end-of-life issues, grief, loss and/or bereavement.
- **Flexing Your Core: The Palliative Workout ECHO Sessions** – Brought back by popular demand for a sixth time, this series optimized learning in a short amount of time. Eight Learning Hub modules take 15 minutes to complete and are complimented with a short session designed for those looking to incorporate the palliative approach to care into their daily practice.

### **Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA)**

- **CGNA Community of Practice** – This was the second series offered by the CGNA that covered topics such as altered physiological and psychological responses in serious illness, nutrition care at end-of-life, and strengthening a palliative approach in long-term care. These discussions were ideal for those looking to improve care for patients with complex needs and explore innovative approaches in aging and disease management.

### **Covenant Health Palliative Institute**

- **Psychosocial-Spiritual Series** – This series was developed with Alberta-specific content and is ideal for social workers, spiritual care providers, creative arts therapists, occupational therapists, counsellors, psychologists, and other clinicians providing direct emotional and spiritual support. The topics are relevant to emotional, spiritual, and grief support in palliative care and bereavement as well as self-care for clinicians.
- **Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Community of Practice** – This community of practice is ideal for clinicians, frontline champions, clinical educators, unit leaders and managers of hospices and palliative care units in Alberta and is open to any site that delivers care to

people with serious and life-threatening illnesses. Members of this community of practice will have the opportunity to meet every other month with other clinicians from the province to engage in discussions and explore topics such as continuing education, care delivery processes and best practice care.

- **Plan Ahead Alberta** – This second Plan Ahead education series covered the five steps of advance care planning, financial planning and estate planning. Participants reviewed the importance of having conversations about wishes and values, the key legal documents for planning ahead (personal directives, will, enduring power of attorney), and the resources and services that can help this planning process.

#### **L'Institut de soins palliatifs et de fin de vie Michel-Sarrazin - Université Laval**

- **Croquettes scientifiques (in French)** – This webinar series brought together experts in palliative and end-of-life care. Experts summarized recently published scientific articles, sparking discussions on new scientific findings and innovative practices in the field of palliative and end-of-life care.
- **Conférences (in French)** – This series offered a virtual platform for learning, exchange, and dialogue on a wide range of topics in palliative and end-of-life care. Featuring presentations from health care professionals, researchers, and subject-matter experts, the series provided diverse perspectives and insights to deepen understanding and foster collaboration.

#### **Médecins francophones du Canada**

- **Fin de vie Webinaire en soins palliatifs (in French)** – This French accredited series, co-hosted with Palli-Science, covered topics including home care, gynecological cancer and melanoma. It was highly attended by health care professionals in Quebec.

#### **Montreal Institute for Palliative Care**

- **Community of Practice Series for Home Healthcare Professionals** – Developed in partnership with the Palliative Home-Care Society of Greater Montreal, this bilingual community of practice returned for its third series focusing on providing relevant palliative care knowledge to home health care professionals in Quebec.

## Standalone Sessions

Pallium Canada and its Hub Partners have hosted a number of standalone ECHO webinars, inviting subject matter experts to present on topics relevant to palliative care.

These sessions include:

### **Pallium Canada**

- Exploring the British Columbia Atlas of Palliative Care: Key Findings and Insights (held twice)
- Exploring the Ontario Atlas of Palliative Care: Key Findings and Insights

### **BC Centre for Palliative Care**

- Planetary Health in Hospice Palliative Care: Building Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Health Systems
- Frailty and Dementia: Essential Conversations with Families

### **Canadian Home Care Association**

- Holistic Spiritual Care at End of Life: Supporting Patients, Families, and Caregivers
- Anticipating End of Life: Competencies for Compassionate, Person-Centered Care

### **Covenant Health Palliative Care Institute**

- Supporting Albertans in Advance Care Planning: Empowering Organizations with the Plan Ahead Toolkit
- How to improve your planning for future health care: Tips from a physician, lawyer and the office of the public guardian and trustee

### **North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network**

- Palliative Wound Care
- "No Right Place to Die" A Palliative Approach to Care for those with Mental Illness

## Palliative Care Journal Watch

The [Palliative Care Journal Watch](#) is a regular series of webinars that keeps audiences up to date on the latest peer-reviewed palliative care literature.

Led by subject matter experts from McMaster University, Queen's University and Pallium Canada, the program features contributions from institutions such as McGill University, the University of Toronto, the University of Manitoba, the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, and Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Israel. These contributors monitor over 35 journals to highlight key papers that challenge conventional thinking or validate current practices, offering valuable insights to advance palliative care.

The Palliative Care Journal Watch program is accessible in multiple formats, including as a live ECHO webinar, video recordings, slides, and the Palliative Care Journal Watch Podcast. The podcast has published 18 episodes to date, with over 10,429 downloads, reaching listeners from more than 44 countries (see map below).



# Evaluation and Research

## Evaluation Results to Date

Research and evaluation are integral to the Palliative Care ECHO Project and all that we do. It's critical to ensure we have the intended reach and impact and are delivering high-quality programs that meet the needs of our target audiences.

### **Activity 1 (complete):**

- [Spread, participant experience, and implementation of Pallium Canada's Palliative Care ECHO project: a mixed methods study](#): This year, a formative evaluation of the Palliative Care ECHO Project was published in BMC Palliative Care. Led by Dr. José Pereira, the evaluation analyzed the impact and value add that this project has had for Pallium and its Hub Partners. It also included an initial assessment of the quality and impact of programming, including Communities of Practice.

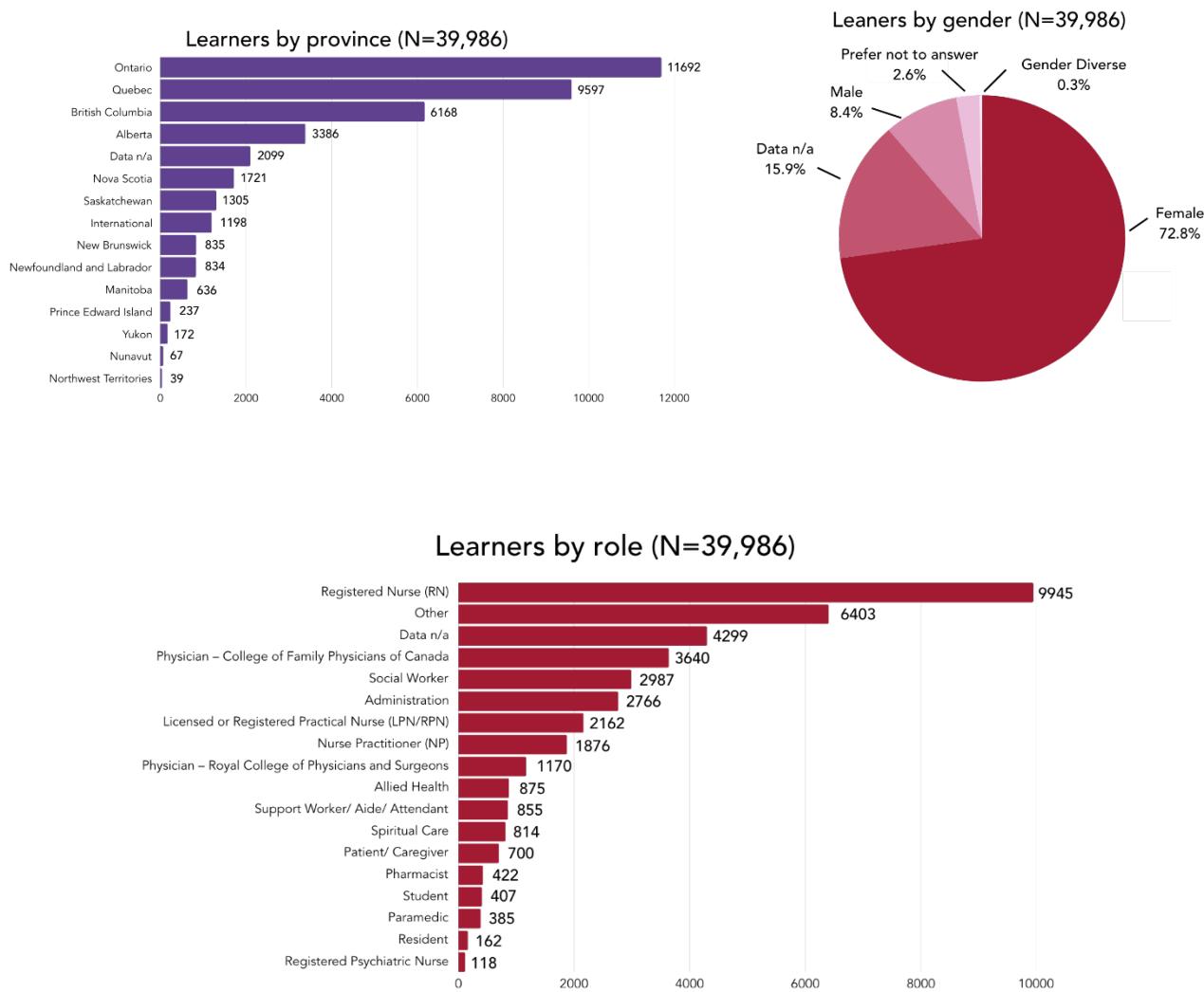
### **Activity 2 (in progress):**

- The evaluation of the impact of the Communities of Practice (CoP) is nearing completion. Data collection is complete, with interviews conducted with CoP leads and members across the country and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data is complete. The research team is making final edits to the report and manuscript in preparation for publication in early 2026.

# Results and Impact

## Palliative Care ECHO Project Reach

The Palliative Care ECHO Project has continued to reach health care providers from almost every province and territory across Canada and providers from many different professions and settings of care.

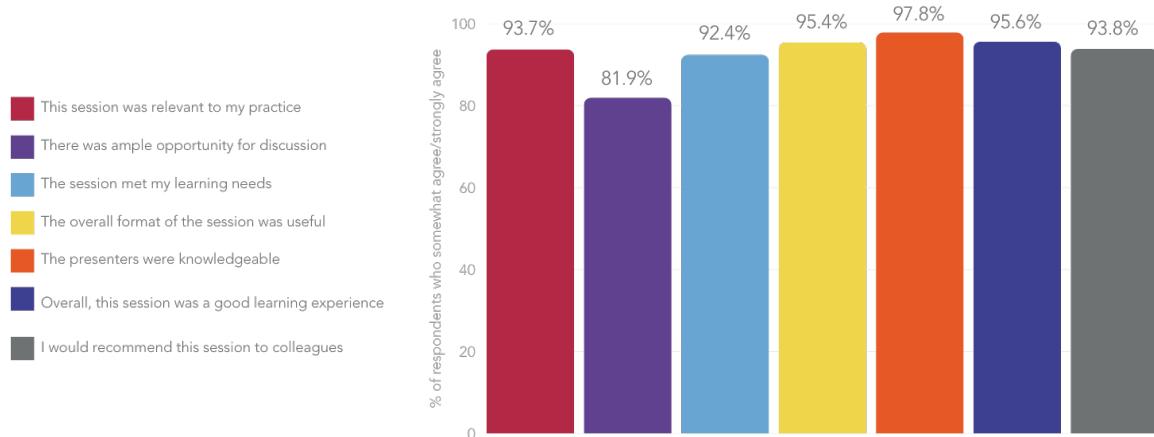


\*As of December 18, 2025.

## Learner Experience

The ECHO programs continue to be well received by learners. Below are results from the initial post-session feedback surveys:

### To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



Here's what some of our learners have had to say about our ECHO programs over the past year:



## Funding

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



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## Want to learn more?

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



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