



August 10, 2015

New Democratic Party  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Mulcair:

The way we die needs to change. Across Canada, we are seeing a wave of change in care for people faced with frailty and/or chronic life-threatening illnesses and choices at end of life. Palliative care services – once only offered in the last days or weeks of life to people designated as dying – need to be better integrated with treatment services to enhance people's quality of life throughout the course of their illness or the process of aging.

An integrated palliative approach to care focuses on meeting a person's and family's full range of needs – physical, psychosocial and spiritual – at all stages of a life-limiting illness, not just at the end of life. The majority of Canadians who can benefit from integrated palliative care do not receive it. Access depends on where you live, how old you are, and what you are dying from.

The Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) believes that the New Democratic Party will make many great strides in adopting policies that aim to improve health care for all Canadians. To this end, we are writing to inquire about the position of your party on integrated palliative approach to care and what actions you propose to ensure all Canadians have access to these services.

1. How would your party ensure that all Canadians understand and receive an integrated palliative approach to care across the country?
2. How would your party leader issue a proclamation recognizing the role and value of family caregivers?
3. Will your party support the establishment of federal funding to develop an integrated workforce plan for Canada?
4. Does your party recognize the value of Advance Care Planning ([www.advancecareplanning.ca](http://www.advancecareplanning.ca)) and would your party continue to support this important initiative?

The member organizations of the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada believe that all Canadians have the right to quality end-of-life care that allows them to die with dignity, free of pain, surrounded by their loved ones, in a setting of their choice. We look forward to receiving your response and are eager to discuss how we can work together on these issues. Please forward your response to Tamir Virani, Communications Officer, QELCCC secretariat at [Tvirani@chpca.net](mailto:Tvirani@chpca.net) or 613-241-3663 ext. 229.

If we do not receive a response, the QELCCC will presume that your party does not believe quality end-of-life care for Canadian citizens is a priority and subsequent has not included actions within your platform.

Thank you in advance for your response,

On behalf of the QELCCC Members

Nadine Henningsen  
Chair, Advocacy Committee