

**From:** [PF-Mailbox-01](#)  
**To:** [Norio, Ann-Marie](#); [Trennum, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 7:03:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Expansion Brief Regional Council.pdf](#)

---

**From:** Niagara Region Website  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 October 2020 19:03:29 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Clerks  
**Subject:** Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee

## Request to Speak at a Standing Committee

To reply, copy the email address from below and put into 'To'. (if resident entered their email address)

Name

Carol Nagy

Address

403 Ontario Street, Unit 2

City

St. Catharines

Postal

L2N 1L5

Phone

905 984 8766 Ext. 225

Email

[cnagy@hospiceniagara.ca](mailto:cnagy@hospiceniagara.ca)

Organization

Hospice Niagara

standing committee

Regional Council

Presentation Topic

Hospice Niagara Expansion Brief to Regional Council

---

Presentation includes slides

No

---

Previously presented topic

No

---

Presentation Details

Region is being asked, on a one-time basis, to contribute \$4,000,000, (to be distributed over a number of specified years), toward this expansion that would bring 20 additional hospice beds and expanded community palliative care services throughout the Niagara Region.

---

Video Consent

Yes

---

Support\_File\_1

Expansion Brief Regional Council.pdf

---





## **Briefing Note: Hospice Palliative Care Expansion in Niagara Region**

Hospice Niagara is currently in the planning phase with the Ministry of Health for expansion of hospice care, with 20 new hospice residence beds and community programming, to be located in Fort Erie and Welland. Both new hospices will expand service availability to Niagara residents and provide the same level of exceptional end-of-life care that Hospice Niagara delivers at the St. Catharines (Linhaven) site, along with expanding bereavement care, wellness programs and volunteer support opportunities across the region. This expansion will provide Niagara with three Centres of Excellence in Hospice Palliative Care, providing care, services and specialized health care education throughout the Region.

### **Hospice Niagara Statistics**

- Requests for Hospice Niagara programs and services increase 45% annually. Last year over 23,000 people were served cumulatively across all of our programs and services.
- Currently only one quarter of requests for a hospice bed can be accommodated.
- Last year, close to 50,000 service interactions, provided by staff and volunteers, helped people and families across Niagara. These services supported people to stay well at home through participation in our community and/or in-home programs. In any given year approximately:
  - 719 people living in Long-term Care had consultation to support improved pain and symptom management
  - 301 people were cared for in hospice at end of life
  - 18,139 people visited someone in hospice
  - 4,934 people participated in bereavement groups and individual sessions
  - 4,508 Professionals participated in 648 pain and symptom management consultations
  - 495 professionals participated 75 Palliative Care courses
  - 182 public awareness events were held to spread education and the Hospice - Live Well message

### **Why it's important for Niagara Region to Invest Now in Hospice Palliative Care**

This expansion is timely for Niagara Region. Our local hospitals and health care system are addressing current and future investments to ensure we have capacity to focus on acute care (Niagara Health) and rehabilitation services (Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital). As the new South Niagara hospital (Niagara Falls site) develops, Hospice Niagara's expansion will provide the necessary hospice beds to provide end-of-life care that South Niagara residents will rely on. This is vital given that these communities have the higher proportion of the region's aging population (in all age categories over 65 years old), with complex health issues (i.e. underserved communities). Going forward, Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital will specialize in rehabilitation, with no Ministry approval to expand end-of-life care. This decision will result in a shortage of 17 regional end-of-life beds for hospital-hospital transfers over the next five years. Hospice Niagara's much-needed expansion will help to address the shortage that will impact hundreds of Niagara residents, from every part of the region where the current demand outpaces the current 10 -beds in St. Catharines.

Hospice Niagara's expansion will provide certainty and security of hospice resources that provide expert care, exactly when it is needed and preferred for people and families in this region. With uncertainty of how existing

palliative care services and beds will be impacted by health system and facility transformations (from Port Colborne, Welland and Fort Erie to the South Niagara site), our expansion plans become even more essential for providing palliative and end of life care.

As stated above, requests for hospice care have outpaced the St. Catharines site capacity. Currently, the hospice residence bed count in Niagara is three beds per 100,000 residents. The Auditor General has recommended 7-10 beds per 100,000. Hospice Niagara's expansion will bring Niagara into the necessary range of beds to serve our community needs and provide geographically distributed hospice options to serve over 60% of clients/families who live outside of St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Capacity has also been maximized at the McNally House Hospice (6-bed facility) in Grimsby, serving communities in West Niagara and West Lincoln Hospital.

The Ministry of Health agrees that the first step to addressing the issue of hallway medicine is to build effective community solutions, rather than locate more beds within hospitals. As such, the ministry has approved operational funding for 20 additional Hospice Residence beds; 10 in Fort Erie and 10 in Welland. Hospice Niagara's expansion will improve hospice capacity, and equally exciting, it is being viewed as *Proof of Concept* for future hospice builds that integrate not-for-profit health care partners to better manage both build and infrastructure costs.

Hospice Niagara continues its discussions with the Ministry of Health, advocating for the capital grant portion eligible to approved hospice builds, representing \$200,000/bed. The leveraging of a potential Regional/Municipal contribution to this project would significantly support advocacy efforts by demonstrating local support and importance of community investment in this project.

## **Business Case**

### **Affordable Care**

Hospice care is delivered at a fraction of the cost of hospital care. The average cost of a hospice bed is \$465 per day. This compares to a hospital bed costs over \$1,100 per day. Diverting people from hospital to hospice care saves our health care system millions of dollars each year and frees beds for acute care needs. In fact, expanding access to quality palliative care across Ontario will have a projected savings of approximately \$247 million - \$2.1 billion by 2036. Locally, we estimate that providing hospice care to 250 people (the capacity of one 10-bed hospice) saves \$1.3 million in hospital acute care costs, and supporting 1,800 at home death saves \$7.2 million. While dying in hospital may be some people's preference, or due to necessity, hospices provide people and their families with specialized individual care, input into all care decisions and maintains dignity at end-of-life.

### **Sustainable Growth**

Hospice Niagara plans to manage increased operating costs of these two new facilities by potentially integrating and/or contracting most of its infrastructure and back-end operating costs through its Long-term care partners. In this way, the organization is ensuring that the services it provides today are financially sustainable and will be available to future generations.

Integration planning between Hospice Niagara and Long-term Care operators will provide:

- Opportunity for shared use amenities and services (where possible);
- Potential for shared services (laundry, housekeeping, grounds keeping, parking, utilities, building

- maintenance, etc.);
- Opportunity for back-end integration of administrative functions, such as Information Technology (IT), maintenance, payroll, communications, etc.

### **Growing Healthcare Resources and Local Economies**

The two new Centres of Excellence will:

- Offer hospice, community and/or in-home services to over 70,000 more people
- Provide close to 700 volunteer opportunities
- New job opportunities for 55-60 specially trained health care and other professionals
- Infuse over \$3.3 million into the economy in staff salaries, that are above living wage and an additional \$560,000 annually in building/operational maintenance/upkeep for local suppliers and contractors

### **Capital Campaign Contributions**

Hospice Niagara's capital campaign launched late September 2020, with a target of raising \$14M toward the capital building costs of both sites. Local support is essential to bring this to reality and early support continues to grow.

We are also actively advocating with the Ministry of Health to provide the total \$4M hospice capital grant toward this expansion project. A Regional matching contribution of up to \$4M, paid over a number of years, would help in our advocacy efforts. This, along with broad-based municipal commitments will send a very strong message to the province and our community that hospice palliative care is a basic healthcare necessity.

Early financial commitments and approvals would allow Hospice Niagara to open both sites as early as 2023.

### **Hospice Niagara's Background**

Hospice Niagara began as a vision of three forward-thinking nurses from the Niagara region, who recognized the growing need to specialized end-of-life care for individuals diagnosed with a terminal illness and their families. They also recognized the need to close the gap in the service delivery system when curative treatment was no longer recommended or desired at end-of-life.

In 1993, Hospice Niagara became incorporated as a non-profit, charitable organization. A Board of Directors was established. The Board's primary vision of developing a community outreach program was established. The Visiting Volunteer and Bereavement Programs were put in place, enabling Hospice Niagara to provide compassionate, supportive care in clients' homes and hospital.

In 2007, Niagara's first 10-bed hospice residence opened near the site of Linhaven Long-term Care Home in St. Catharines. This provided an opportunity to shift the care paradigm; offering expert whole-person care at the end of life in a hospice residence, instead of hospital, while growing the in-home and community programs and services.

### **Today – Hospice Niagara Centre of Excellence offers diverse programs and services**

Hospice Niagara's staff and volunteers help people and their families to live well, from diagnosis, through to end of life, and in bereavement. All programs and services are free of cost to our clients and they support people in their homes, in the community and in the hospice residence. Hospice Niagara provides its service primarily through fundraising and the generosity of our community, with only a portion of operational funding from the province.

**In-Home Hospice Care:** Working with primary care providers, medical, emotional and social supports help

people live well for as long as possible in their own home. As well, specially trained volunteers provide instrumental non-medical support.

**Community Hospice Residence Care:** Located in St. Catharines, this hospice residence provided a 10-bed home-like setting where compassion care and dignity is provided 24/7 for people at end of life and their families.

**Day Hospice:** This program provides a day away for caring companionship for people living at home with a terminal illness, while their caregivers have a day of respite. Currently is it provided in St. Catharines and Welland.

**Bereavement Support:** Provides children, teenagers and adults the opportunity to explore feelings of grief and loss at their own pace, in a safe and supportive space. Participation is not dependent on their loved one having been a Hospice Niagara client.

**Education and Consultation:** In association with the provincial Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultation Program, we educate and provide consultation to health care service providers in delivering best and leading practices in palliative care for their patients across Niagara

### Improved Care

Niagara's much needed Hospice expansion is important for our region. The expansion model creates a template for other communities in Niagara to plan alongside Hospice Niagara for other future hospice resource expansions.

Most importantly, expansion means:

- Increased access to hospice wellness programs, caregiver and bereavement support;
- Influx of palliative care professionals working throughout the region;
- Two new Centre of Excellence in Hospice Palliative Care with hospice and in-home services, expert volunteer support and educational resources reaching across the region;
- The expansion of francophone programs and services;
- Onsite expert consultations to help people living in Long-term Care homes avoid hospital admissions due to pain crisis and complex end-of-life care and;
- Better planning, transitions and improved quality of life for patients and families, who will have increased access to vital hospice and community palliative care services.

These projects are community and provincial investments that will maintain Hospice Niagara's proven record in providing exceptional care according to best practice standards, while ensuring sustainable expansion through partnerships and integration.