

MAY 2014

Improving-End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities

Equitable Access to Culturally Relevant End-of-Life Care

About the Project

Peguis First Nation, Naotkamegwaning First Nation, Fort William First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory are working with a Lakehead University research team to improve end-of-life care in First Nations communities. Funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (2010-2015), the goal is to develop a local Palliative Care program for each community that meets their unique needs and allows them to care for very sick community members until the end of their lives when that is their choice. Desired outcomes are culturally relevant home care at the end of life and better care for Elders in the community. Community capacity development is being documented and evaluated to share nationally.

Fall 2010—Summer 2012

Each community established a local Project Advisory Committee to ensure local control and oversee all aspects of the research, including data collection, analysis and dissemination activities. A community needs assessment, specific to developing palliative care, was completed in each community. Overall findings indicated that almost 90% of survey participants and the majority of interview and focus group participants felt that if services were available and adequate, more community members would choose to die at home. Barriers identified to dying at home were: jurisdictional issues, lack of services and funding, communication barriers and the overall health and well-being of the community.

Summer 2012—Fall 2013

Each of the communities developed a Leadership Team of elders, local health care providers and community members to be responsible for the overall planning, implementation and evaluation of their palliative care program. The results and recommendations of each Community Needs Assessment were locally approved and then disseminated during spring and summer of 2013. Using local recommendations, the leadership team prioritized specific community initiatives to implement in partnership with the research team.

Fall 2013—Spring 2014

Each of the four First Nations communities are now developing and evaluating their own initiatives to establish and sustain their respective palliative care program within their community. Project strategies include enhancing service delivery, delivering education, and creating partnerships. These initiatives are ongoing and some are listed on the following page.

For more information,
please contact:

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley

Principal Investigator

Phone (807) 766-7270

mlkelley@lakeheadu.ca

CERAH

Lakehead University

955 Oliver Road

Thunder Bay, Ontario

P7B 5E1

www.eolfn.lakeheadu.ca

eolfn@lakeheadu.ca

Twitter: @eolfn



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Education and Research
on Aging & Health



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of
Health Research Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada

Community Based Initiatives

Each of the First Nations communities chose different initiatives to implement , as prioritized by their Advisory Committee and Leadership Team.

Peguis First Nation:

- Implementing a Palliative Care Home Visitor Program to provide support and education
- Delivering a 2 day Grief & Bereavement Workshop for health care providers
- Creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the regional health authority
- Implementing Physician home visits, in partnership with Percy Moore Hospital

Naotkamegwanning First Nation:

- Implementing a 2 day training program for local health care providers: Palliative Care for Front Line Workers in First Nations Communities
- Engaging local and regional health care providers in a 2 day workshop to organize a care pathway for clients who want to be cared for at home for the rest of their lives.
- Engaging with the regional Hospice Volunteer Visiting Program to create a partnership

Fort William First Nation:

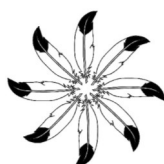
- Developing and implementing a 23 hour Community Care Volunteers training program for community members
- Working with the regional hospital to improve discharge planning protocols
- Conducting Advanced Care Planning community Information Sessions

Six Nations of the Grand River Territory:

- Collaborating with HNHB LHIN and Stedman Hospice to create a Six Nations Palliative Care Outreach Team—physician, nurse, and psychosocial/spiritual worker
- Implementing a Health Care Providers Healing Ceremony to provide grief support
- Implementing Advanced Care Planning information sessions and an educational video

Research Team Members

- Disseminating research results locally provincially and nationally
- Organizing meetings with key decision makers to create linkages and address gaps
- Evaluating all initiatives that communities choose to implement



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Education and Research
on Aging & Health



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Links and Resources

Canadian Virtual Hospice First Nations, Inuit, Metis Palliative Care videos:

- http://www.virtualhospice.ca/en_US/Main+Site+Navigation/Home/Support/Support/The+Gallery.aspx?type=cat&cid=5af3d2bf-e28f-4aa4-807d-238db141d7db#video_content_index

End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities, Shaw Cable report:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S3-CmBaedk>

End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities, website:

www.eolfn.lakeheadu.ca

- Community Profiles
- Project Reports and Results
- Project Communications
- Collaborator Resources

GET INVOLVED!!

- Become a member of the First Nations Palliative Care Alliance, email: eolfn@lakeheadu.ca
- First Nations Palliative Care Alliance based at the Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health, Lakehead University, will officially launch with a webinar on May 13, 2014 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.
- Follow us on Twitter: @eolfn



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Education and Research
on Aging & Health



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of
Health Research Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada