

Local Palliative Care Program In National Spotlight

Dr. Marshall is in Montreal to accept national recognition for a local healthcare program

January 26, 2010 / Grimsby, Ontario – At a national health care summit in Montreal this week, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) will formally recognize west Niagara’s palliative care program as a Canadian “choice model” for end-of-life health care.

On its website, the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital has posted a comprehensive interview with Dr. Denise Marshall on the local palliative care program and its success. In this excerpt, Dr. Marshall comments on the significance of CPAC’s national recognition.

My understanding is that the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), which is a national health organization, is interested in understanding whether there are models of excellence across our country that should be held up and shared and, hopefully, replicated. CPAC has gone through a thorough process of identifying priority needs in our country. They then hired a firm to do fact-finding and investigative work on potential innovative models of care across the country.

We came to their attention through a publication about the Share Care Model. We had published the essence of the model in *Canadian Family Physicians* in late 2008. We were subsequently hooked up with this multi-staged process of detailing the model, interviewing me, gathering information, fact-finding, and then there was a discernment process by the organization. They had a precept template of different aspects of cancer care; so they were looking at models, everything from pre-detection to end-of-life care. After that discernment and vetting, they notified us to let us know that the Niagara West Shared Care Model had emerged as an innovative model of choice for end-of-life care.

The CPAC organization’s intent (in providing this national recognition) is to ensure that the medical community is communicating and connecting Provinces, other organizations, policy planners and systems people, so that we’re not all recreating the wheel and can learn from one another. The event in Montreal is to showcase innovation and our model has been chosen as one of them. The hope is that there will be some traction nationally from the discussion....

I was invited to make a presentation to approximately 4,500 delegates. This is not the first time we have had a chance to make a presentation about the Niagara West Share Care Model to a large audience. But this is probably the best-positioned audience to affect system-change. The delegates come from across the Nation. There will be policy planners, people who are in leadership roles of power and influence, those who can affect change.

Being recognized as one of the national choice models of care speaks volume with this audience. I particularly like the way the CPAC selection process was done. It was unsolicited. Nothing about this recognition was generated from us. We were sought and analyzed, dissected, and what emerged from the CPAC process that there is some merit to what our shared care model accomplishes. Other presentations we have made were driven by us; we submitted abstracts, posters, and offers to do workshops and presentations. In this case, a national organization has come to us and that is what is distinctly different about this presentation opportunity.

To read the full interview regarding the local palliative care program, visit www.wlmh.on.ca

For more information, visit www.wlmh.on.ca or contact:

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