**eiCOMPASS SPRINT Capstone Event Showcases Groundbreaking Advances in Home-Based Palliative Care**

June 15, 2024 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON—A bold step forward in home-based palliative care, the eiCOMPASS SPRINT Capstone Event brought together over 80 palliative care and home care stakeholders on June 11 and 12 to celebrate progress, share innovations, and solidify plans for sustaining competency-driven, emotionally intuitive care across Canada.

Hosted by the **Canadian Home Care Association** (CHCA), this event marked the culmination of a nine-month collaborative journey to enhance frontline providers' skills, knowledge, and attitudes. The Capstone event delivered an inspiring agenda packed with expert insights, real-world success stories, and strategic planning for the future. SPRINT teams from **Yukon, Interior Health (BC), Alberta Health Services – Edmonton Zone, Southern Health (MB), and Newfoundland Health Services** took center stage, sharing their real-world experiences in embedding the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework into practice.

A standout session featured teams from **CarePartners, ParaMed, SE Health, and VON**, who shared their success in implementing Emotional Intelligence (EI) training and shifting frontline providers’ attitudes toward emotionally intuitive palliative care. *“Our staff now approach emotionally complex situations with greater confidence and understanding, fundamentally transforming the way we deliver palliative care*,” said Rosyln Straw, SPRINT Team Lead, SE Health.

Sustainability and Future Planning Day two focused on planning for the long-term integration of the Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework and Emotional Intelligence (EI) training. Teams engaged in structured workshops using the Capstone Workbook, where they identified necessary resources, potential barriers, and strategies for sustaining their efforts.

A key discussion, Enhancing Palliative Care with Innovative Conversation Guides, showcased the impact of the BePrepared Conversation Guides developed by CHCA in collaboration with the Montreal Institute of Palliative Care. SPRINT teams from **Health PEI, Medavie Health Services (NB), Saskatchewan Health Authority, and VHA Home HealthCare** shared how these tools improved their frontline teams' ability to navigate palliative emergencies with patients and families.

“*The BePrepared Conversation Guides have been a game-changer for our teams,”* said Mallory Peters, SPRINT Team Lead, Provincial Home Care Program, Health PEI. “*They empower our frontline staff to confidently guide families through difficult moments, improving both care quality and emotional resilience.”*

**Key Outcomes and Achievements**

The SPRINT teams reported significant progress in competency development and emotional intelligence integration:

* **Increased Competency Levels:** Self-assessments across participating organizations showed a 30-40% increase in competency levels within priority domains such as communication, care planning, and symptom management.
* **Emotional Intelligence Training Success**: Over 1,600 home care providers completed EI microlearning courses, with 96% planning to apply these skills in their daily practice.
* **Practical Implementation of Conversation Guides:** The BePrepared Conversation Guides were adopted, with 90% of nurses finding them beneficial for navigating challenging conversations and managing palliative care emergencies.

Closing the event, CHCA CEO Nadine Henningsen issued a powerful call to action: “*This is more than a project—it's a movement. Our work together has set a new standard for home-based palliative care in Canada. It's up to us to carry this momentum forward, ensuring that competency-based, emotionally intuitive care becomes the norm, not the exception." P*articipants left energized and equipped, ready to amplify their impact and drive meaningful, lasting improvements in palliative care delivery.

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**About the Canadian Home Care Association**

The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing integrated, accessible, and sustainable home and community-based care across Canada. Through initiatives like the eiCOMPASS Project, CHCA empowers care providers with the knowledge, tools, and resources to enhance home-based palliative care across the country.