



## **National Workshop Showcases Collaborative Progress in Palliative Care**

*CHCA and McMaster University highlight provider competencies, emotional intelligence, and care transformation through Health Canada-funded initiatives*

Toronto, ON – On April 1, 2025, the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) and McMaster University's The Waiting Room Revolution co-hosted a national knowledge translation event, bringing together over 85 healthcare stakeholders in Toronto and hundreds more virtually. This landmark workshop celebrated National Caregiver Day under the theme "Caring with Compassion... Planning with Confidence", showcasing the culmination of two Health Canada-funded initiatives—the CHCA's eiCOMPASS Project and McMaster's The Seven Keys Roadmap.

Through compelling plenaries, interactive workshops, and practical demonstrations, the workshop emphasized the critical role of competencies, structured communication tools, and emotional awareness in delivering high-quality palliative care at home.

The closing plenary, Advancing Home-Based Palliative Care, featured eiCOMPASS SPRINT™ Collaborative teams from British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. They shared powerful stories of system change, including increased provider confidence, stronger care planning, and improved patient outcomes. Speakers from Newfoundland and Ontario highlighted the benefits of aligning provincial training strategies with national standards to sustain progress beyond project funding.

Dr. Sammy Winemaker and Dr. Hsien Seow of McMaster University introduced the Seven Keys Roadmap, a guide for helping patients and families engage in meaningful early conversations about care goals. Their insights, combined with real-world SPRINT team experiences, offered practical models for integrating emotional intelligence and communication strategies across the care continuum.

"The collaborative knowledge translation event between CHCA and McMaster has demonstrated what's possible when we work together to bridge policy, research, and frontline care to improve how Canadians experience palliative care," said Nadine Henningsen, CHCA CEO. "Together, we are bridging.

This national event affirmed the importance of standardized palliative care competencies and reinforced the value of collaborative implementation. As both CHCA and McMaster look to the future, this partnership sets a strong foundation for continued improvements in compassionate, home-based palliative care.

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### **About the Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA)**

The CHCA is a national non-profit membership association representing home care stakeholders across Canada. Through advocacy, collaboration, and knowledge sharing, the CHCA champions a vision of an accessible, integrated, accountable, and evidence-informed health care system that prioritizes patients and their families while ensuring long-term sustainability.

### **About The Waiting Room Revolution (McMaster University)**

Led by Dr. Hsien Seow and Dr. Sammy Winemaker, The Waiting Room Revolution is a research and public engagement initiative that aims to empower patients and caregivers with the tools to have better conversations and experiences throughout the palliative care journey.

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