

Yee Hong, Central East LHIN and Pallium Canada partner to increase capacity in Long-Term Care Homes

*Pallium Canada's LEAP Long-Term Care course fills
palliative care education gap in the Long-Term Care setting*

TORONTO, ON (May 9, 2016) – On June 14 and 21, Pallium Canada and the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) are hosting a two-day Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) Long-Term Care (LTC) workshop at Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, training 25 of Yee Hong's long-term care home staff in palliative care.

LEAP LTC is an inter-professional palliative care course that is targeted to physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, personal support workers (PSWs), and health care aids (HCAs) in long-term care home settings. LEAP LTC supports best practice to include the full inter-professional care team, including champion PSWs and HCAs in formalized training.

Yee Hong, with four long-term care centres in the GTA, will be only the third long-term care home organization in Canada where this training has been offered.

The LEAP training session in June, which includes dedicated components specifically for PSWs, will be delivered exclusively to Yee Hong staff at its Scarborough location. Pallium Canada anticipates rapid expansion of LEAP LTC training across the country as currently only 16% to 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative and end-of-life services.

“PSWs are the health care workers most often in contact with people with palliative and end-of-life care needs, but with the least access to such training,” said Eric Hong, CEO of Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care. “Yee Hong is dedicated to offering our staff practical and specialized training. We believe the LEAP workshop will further strengthen our capacity to provide high quality and dignified care to our seniors during their end-of-life journey.”

Pallium Canada's National LEAP Advisory Committee and Long-Term Care Working Group began reviewing the LEAP Core materials and delivery for adaptation to the care needs of the long-term care setting in 2012. Evaluations have shown that LEAP learners demonstrate significant improvements in knowledge, comfort and attitudes post training. With this added training, long-term care staff in the Central East LHIN will be better equipped to meet the needs of their residents and improve their quality of life.

“Across the Central East LHIN, health service providers – including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, personal support workers and others – are working together to ensure palliative patients are better supported if they choose to die at home rather than in a hospital,” said Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN. “This new training for staff in long-term care homes builds on the ongoing investments that the LHIN has made to ensure people are able to live the highest quality of life until time of death and we look forward to the learnings being shared throughout the LHIN's 68 long-term care homes.”

The June workshops also further complement the enhanced palliative and end-of-life program, piloted at one of the Yee Hong long term care homes since September 2014, which has embedded within it numerous components of the Quality Palliative Care in Long Term Care Tool Kit originating from the work of Dr Mary Lou Kelley, Chair for Palliative Care at Lakehead University.

By working collaboratively this dedicated inter-professional team, along with the Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultant from Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities is advancing the development of individualized care, including pain and symptom management, psychosocial and spiritual support and more, to help achieve the [LHIN's Strategic Aim of supporting palliative patients to die at home by choice](#).

Pallium Canada's LEAP Courseware suite includes additional care-settings, including: LEAP Core, LEAP Mini, LEAP Oncology, LEAP Paramedic, LEAP Undergrad and LEAP Essential Conversations. For more information of Pallium Canada's LEAP courseware, please visit www.pallium.ca.

About Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care

Yee Hong is a non-profit senior care organization. It delivers high quality culturally appropriate services to enable seniors to live their lives to the fullest - in the healthiest, most independent and dignified ways. Operating 805 long-term care home beds and a continuum of community support services, Yee Hong annually serves over 15,000 individuals of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds across the Greater Toronto Area.

About the Central East LHIN:

The Central East LHIN is one of 14 LHINs, established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 2006 with a legislated mandate to provide an integrated health system to improve the health of Ontarians through better access to health services, coordinated health care and effective and efficient management of the health system at the local level. For more information, please visit: www.centraleastlhin.on.ca.

About Pallium Canada:

Pallium Canada is a partner in the Ontario Palliative Care Network launched by the ministry to drive consistent, quality palliative care programs across the province through regional coordination and leadership. Since 2001, Pallium Canada has been developing inter-professional palliative care education for all care providers. Their mission is to educate health care professionals and carers about palliative care and to accelerate the integration of palliative care in Canadians communities and health care systems. Their palliative care educational products includes the LEAP courseware suite, Pallium Palliative Pocketbook (2nd Edition) and eBook, Pallium App, LEAP Facilitator Training and eLearning resources.

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