

## **Palliative Approach to Care for Workers who Support People who are Homeless in Canada**

### **About this Course**

This course was developed with and for workers across Canada who support people who are homeless and have chronic or life-limiting illnesses. It is intended to provide useable and practical information about integrating a palliative approach to care with the existing knowledge and expertise workers have regarding a harm reduction approach, relationship development, and meeting people “where they’re at.”

These workers are in a unique position when it comes to providing a palliative approach to care. Every day they work in shelters, drop-in centres, or on the streets, to build trusting relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness. Workers have a clear understanding of the life circumstances and difficulties that people who are homeless face when accessing health care. Some workers also have lived experience with homelessness.

Workers often use a harm reduction approach to care when building a relationship with individuals experiencing homelessness. Their goal is to develop trust with the individual and to assist them in getting better access to care, including end-of-life care. However, this can be frustrating and daunting for workers when they lack certain skills or knowledge related to dying and death, palliative care, and a palliative approach.

This course consists of three parts. The first part is an eLearning introduction to the concepts of a palliative approach to care for workers who support people who are homeless. This workshop is Part 2 of the course and involves a more in-depth exploration of the concepts, and includes participation in related activities to reinforce the learning from Part 1. Part 3 is a website that contains practical and useable information that can be accessed as an on-the-job resource.