



Definition of the care provided by hospice societies in BC

Hospice societies provide support and care for people living with life-limiting illness and for people at the end of life, as well as family, friends and others affected by someone's life-limiting illness or death. These societies also provide support and care for people experiencing bereavement and those who are grieving. The support and care offered by hospice societies aims to enhance quality of life and provide comfort, while maintaining people's dignity. Hospice societies provide emotional, social, practical, spiritual, and grief and bereavement supports.

Hospice societies use a whole-person approach that is person and family-centered. Their support and care are provided with compassion and recognize and respect the diverse aspects of a person's identity and culture. Specially trained staff and volunteers deliver this support and care in a variety of settings, including the person's home, long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospice facilities or residences, hospitals, virtual platforms, or other community locations. Hospice societies are part of a broader system of formal and informal supports.

In British Columbia, the services hospice societies provide and the way they provide them can vary, depending on which community they serve. Hospice societies are not the same as a hospice facility or residence which provides 24-hour medical care for people with palliative and end-of-life care needs. Only a few hospice societies operate a facility or residence.

**Released by the BC Centre for Palliative Care
and the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association
January 2024**