



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Introducing Heron Hospice Society of Delta**

Delta, BC - Newly formed Heron Hospice Society of Delta launches to support hospice care in our community, for our community. The Society will offer compassionate end-of-life programs for individuals and families experiencing grief and loss and aims to support the Irene Thomas Hospice, managed by Fraser Health Authority.

‘Heron Hospice Society of Delta will embrace all end-of-life choices and ensure individuals and families feel supported throughout this precious time with their loved ones. We are very pleased to offer hospice support because we believe in taking care of our community and we will work to support end-of-life care needs for our local citizens’ says Chris Pettypiece, Society President. ‘The Take Back Delta Hospice advocacy efforts demonstrated the tremendous support in Delta for hospice care. This new Society is led by a volunteer board of eleven directors, all residing in Delta, who are committed to restoring supportive and inclusive care in our community.’

Mayor George Harvie has been a supporter of the Take Back Delta Hospice initiative and is supportive of the newly formed Heron Hospice Society of Delta. ‘The return of the Irene Thomas Hospice to the people of Delta under the leadership of Fraser Health has been a long time coming. This would not have been possible without the perseverance of so many Deltans, particularly those involved with the new Heron Hospice Society. We look forward to seeing the good work of this new organization as it helps support people and families in their time of grief. We will continue our support of the Heron Hospice Society and Fraser Health to ensure the Irene Thomas Hospice always provides the compassionate care that the community expects and deserves.’ says Mayor Harvie.

The diagnosis of a serious or life-limiting illness can have profound effects on a person, as well as on the person’s surrounding family and friends. Grief and loss can result from unexpected death, diagnosis of cancer or other illness, and more. Loss can often bring on a variety of emotions that can be overwhelming and leave one feeling helpless or without hope. With skilled professionals and trained volunteers, Heron Hospice Society of Delta will offer support to patients and loved ones at this sensitive time and provide comfort and care throughout the end-of-life journey.

While our initial services are limited due to public health orders, we are pleased to announce our first program; an online Grief Circle. Delta residents struggling with grief and loss are invited to join these small group sessions, which will be led by a registered counsellor and held online over six weeks, with two additional follow-up sessions. Whether your personal encounter with grief is due to the loss of a loved one, caring for others or caring for yourself, you are welcome to join.

'We recognize that suffering the loss of a loved one during the COVID-19 Pandemic adds additional stress and pain because some may suffer through a grieving process with little human contact. The ability to connect with others to grieve is so important and we felt it was necessary to address this need in our current environment' says Pettypiece.

Additional services will include therapeutic touch, vigils, hospice residence support, remembrance ceremonies, educational opportunities and more. In order to allow for individual sharing, there are a limited number of spaces available for the Grief Circle.

Heron Hospice is a volunteer-based organization that would not exist without the goodwill of the community. Membership in the Society is limited to residents of Delta aged nineteen or older. Please consider joining Heron Hospice Society of Delta and/or making a donation to help maintain quality end of life support that all Delta citizens deserve.

To register for the Grief Circle, to make a donation or for more information, please email [info@heronhospice.org](mailto:info@heronhospice.org) or visit [www.heronhospice.org](http://www.heronhospice.org)

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