

## NEWS LOCAL

### Local hospices receive provincial funding



By Andrea Tingey, Standard Staff  
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As detailed in the 2016 budget, the Ontario government is improving palliative care across the province with an additional \$75 million dollar commitment over three years.

Of the \$75 million, \$13.9 million is going directly to hospice services across the province, with each adult bed getting an additional \$15,000 and each pediatric bed receiving \$22,400.

Hospice Niagara in St. Catharines, which has 10 beds, will receive \$150,000 and McNally House in Grimsby, which has six beds, will receive \$90,000. They are just two of the 39 facilities receiving funding increases from the province.

Jim Bradley, MPP for St. Catharines, delivered the news Friday morning.

“We all know the important role hospices play in provided support that respects the wishes of patients to receive community care in their local community,” he said. “This additional funding will strengthen the quality of care by more fully covering nursing and personal support costs.”

Pamela Blackwood, executive director of McNally House Hospice, was also there for the announcement.

“We’re looking forward to in the future a greater partnership with the government and moving forward a compassionate community model that brings the community into more partnership with the government, making it everyone’s responsibility to caring for those at end of life,” she said.

The province is also hoping to increase access for end-of-life care in their own homes.

“In Niagara we are extremely fortunate that our community has available to them ... many community outreach programs that support people living and dying,” said Carol Nagy, Executive Director Hospice Niagara.

John Fraser, parliamentary assistant to the minister of health and long-term care, was a key member of the initiative. He conducted 16 roundtable discussions on the issue and drafted the Palliative and End-of-Life Care Provincial Roundtable Report.

“Hospices are special places that provide compassionate care to patients and families at a challenging time in their lives,” he said in a statement. “They are a critical part of Ontario’s plan to ensure access to high quality palliative care across the province.”

Although Nagy says this won’t end the need for fundraising, the money is welcome.

“This is a wonderful step in meeting this need and being able to provide hospice palliative care services to everyone, everywhere, every tir in Niagara,” she said. “Government support is crucial to help meet the need for care.”

Ontario is looking to support 20 additional hospices in the future.

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