

Dear <name>,

We write to thank you for your previous contributions supporting palliative care in Ontario. Due to your support, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HCPO) was able to help terminally ill Ontarians face the end-of-life in the best circumstances possible. You can read about our achievements this year in our annual report, available at our website, <http://hcpo.ca>, but we would like to highlight two achievements here:

First, on 22 October 2012, we held our first Day at Queen's Park. At this event, HCPO members from across the province met with MPPs to discuss palliative care, thus bringing our mutual concerns directly to our elected representatives. Second, in April 2013, the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, moved on our Certification of Death initiatives recommendation to allow nurses to certify death in cases of death anticipated due to terminal illness. Should the government move forward with this, households living with terminal illnesses will face one fewer burden during their most difficult times.

Thank you again for your contributions. You allow us to continue our work of helping Ontarians reach the end of their lives in comfort and dignity. You also provide the means by which we advocate for this fundamental consideration at all levels of government. While not everyone can face this difficult subject, you have, and your voice matters.

Here at HPCO, we have ourselves recently seen the benefits of palliative care in the life and death of one of our own, Dr. Larry Librach. Dr. Librach, who was the principal architect and long-time director of the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mount Sinai Hospital, died at home this past August of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Librach was an early advocate for palliative care and helped Canada develop approaches to palliative care. Over his career, Dr. Librach worked with many palliative-care education groups, notably serving as physician leader of the national Educating Future Physicians for Palliative and End of Life Care Project (EFPPEC), which introduced curriculum in palliative and end-of-life care to Canada's 17 medical schools.

Dr. Librach was able to spend his last days in his home with his family. He left us a video describing his end-of-life experience, which can be found on the HCPO website's front page (<http://hcpo.ca>) or directly at <http://goo.gl/GTkgfH>.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season. We ask that in the contemplative spirit of the upcoming new year that you consider making a donation to Hospice Palliative Care Ontario. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-349-3111 or at <http://hcpo.ca>.

Sincerely,