*NHPCW 2021*

**CHPCA’s Letter Advocacy Toolkit**

National Hospice Palliative Care Week (NHPCW) is a time to celebrate and share achievements of hospice palliative care (HPC) throughout the nation, but it also provides a platform to look at shortcomings and create bridges for these gaps.

This year, CHPCA will be taking a moment to memorialize those who have passed, as well as appreciate those who have made this hard year a little brighter by shining a light on those who matter to us most. In addition, CHPCA is bringing HPC to light with the help of their 2019–2022 Strategic Plan.

**How Can You Get Involved?**

Write a letter! Writing a personal letter to a Member of Parliament (MP) or a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) is a direct way to make a change in your community, province, or country.

Although we have provided a [letter template](https://www.chpca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Letter-to-MP-NHPCW-2021-1.docx) for you to use, we highly suggest personalizing your message. An original letter is usually more effective, which is why we encourage you to use your own words.

**Letter Writing Tips**

* **Tell your story.** Have you or a loved one been personally affected by HPC in Canada? Let your MP know about it! Include your own relevant experiences and explain how they relate to the issues you are writing about.
* **Be concise.** Limiting yourself to one or two pages is most effective when writing a letter.
* **Be specific.** What would you like to see change when it comes to issues surrounding HPC? Request for a commitment to a specific action and explain why. The best way to communicate these calls to action is through a bulleted list.
* **Thank the MP.** At the end of the day, the MP is taking the time to read your letter. Thank them for doing so and always request that they respond.
* **Save your stamps.** No postage is required when you send a letter to an MP.
* **Keep a copy.** It’s always a good idea to keep a copy of your letter to refer back to upon response.

Thank you for joining us this NHPWC in bringing HPC issues to light. Alone we can light up a room—together we can light up the whole nation.