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Nova Scotia Grief Alliance Announces Second Provincial Grief Symposium

Theme: Mobilizing Grief: Building Networks of Care

HALIFAX, NS – September 15, 2026 – The Nova Scotia Grief Alliance (NSGA), co-led by the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association (NSHPCA) and Nova Scotia Health, is pleased to announce its Second Nova Scotia Provincial Grief Symposium, taking place on Friday, November 20, 2026, at the Best Western Plus Dartmouth Hotel & Suites.

Building on the success of its inaugural symposium, which welcomed more than 140 participants from across Nova Scotia, this year's event will offer free registrations and provide even more opportunities for learning, collaboration, and networking. The symposium is intended for anyone who provides grief supports and services, or those who encounter grief in their work or volunteer roles. Supporting grief is a shared responsibility that extends beyond healthcare and beyond any single sector.

The 2026 symposium theme, "Mobilizing Grief: Building Networks of Care," recognizes that grief is a universal human experience and that meaningful support requires coordinated action across Nova Scotia. The symposium will bring together healthcare professionals, community organizations, educators, researchers, volunteers, policymakers, spiritual care providers, and people with lived experience to explore innovative approaches that strengthen grief support and build more connected, compassionate communities throughout Nova Scotia.

"Last year's symposium demonstrated the tremendous commitment that exists across Nova Scotia to improve how we respond to grief," said Tim Guest, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association. "The conversations, partnerships, and shared learning that emerged continue to influence our work today. This year's symposium will build on that momentum by bringing together even more voices and perspectives to strengthen networks of care that support Nova Scotians experiencing grief and loss."

"Grief is experienced differently by every individual and every community, which is why collaboration is so important," said Lindsay Sutherland, Director, Policy & Planning, Palliative Care Network, Nova Scotia Health. "The Nova Scotia Grief Alliance provides an

opportunity for organizations and professionals to learn from one another, share evidence-informed practices, and strengthen the supports available to people across the province."

The symposium will feature a full day of educational programming, including:

- A keynote presentation highlighting the importance of the care given before and after a referral is made for a family.
- Breakout sessions featuring community grass roots initiatives, implementing peer support in large organizations as well as building capacity in our school systems.
- Networking opportunities that encourage collaboration across sectors.
- Community exhibits showcasing organizations, programs, and resources from across Nova Scotia.

The complete agenda, including the keynote speaker and concurrent sessions will be released in the coming weeks.

The first provincial grief symposium, held in 2025, featured keynote speaker Andrea Currie, whose presentation, *Medicine Stories: Travels Through the Landscape of Grief*, explored the transformative role of storytelling in grief. Participants also engaged in a panel discussion featuring leaders from Nova Scotia Health, Wije'winen Health Centre, GriefMatters.ca, the Canadian Grief Alliance, and Valley Hospice, along with breakout sessions focused on community grief supports, newcomer and immigrant perspectives, and grief in our school system. Networking sessions, resource tables, and interactive discussions created valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships and share knowledge across the province.

Registration is now open. Attendance is free, registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis at nsgriefalliance.com/grief-symposium.

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About the Nova Scotia Grief Alliance

The Nova Scotia Grief Alliance is a province-wide initiative co-led by the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association and Nova Scotia Health that strengthens grief support through education, collaboration, resource sharing, and capacity building. By connecting

organizations, professionals, and communities, the Alliance advances grief literacy, promotes evidence-informed practices, and helps build compassionate, grief-aware communities across Nova Scotia.

