



BUDGET ASK:

For the province of Ontario to fund 100% of clinical costs at hospices, and increase support for in-home hospice visits and grief and bereavement services.

THE BENEFIT TO ONTARIO:

Lowering health care costs; diverting patients from hospital and emergency rooms and continuing to provide compassionate palliative care plus bereavement support for families.

Hospice Renfrew (HR) is among the Ontario hospices providing top-quality palliative care in a home-like setting for those facing their end-of-life journey, as well as grief and bereavement care for their loved ones, all at no cost to clients and families.

Hospices Including HR are often in a precarious financial position. That's because unlike hospitals, the province only funds about 60% of clinical costs at the hospice. HR needs to raise about \$600,000.00 each year just to stay in business and pay nurses and personal support workers. The province has recognized the plight of hospices by giving us a one-time infusion of funds last year. However, we urgently need this to be permanent.

That's why Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO) has the following budget "asks":

1. Fund 100% of clinical costs at hospices, as would be covered if the patient was in hospital. This would mean an extra \$285,000 for HR. The ask for the entire province is \$43.2 M in 2022-23 growing to \$55.8 M in 2025-26.
2. Improve funding for in-home hospice services, helping patients to stay home and out of hospital. Ask: \$4 million/year.
3. Support grief and bereavement services. Hospices are now the main provider of bereavement services in Ontario. Supporting people's well-being keeps them out of the health care system. Cost: \$10 million for 2022-23.

These strategic investments would actually save money. Dedicating these funds to our lower-cost community settings could reduce provincial spending by at least \$220 million/year or more than \$2.2 billion over the next decade.

Hospice Renfrew continues to advocate for these proposals so that our valued hospice can survive and thrive and better serve everyone in the Ottawa Valley.